

ISAF Guide to Sail Measurement 2001-2004

INTRODUCTION

Where a term defined in the Equipment Rules is used in this guide in its defined sense it is printed in **bold blue** type.

Abbreviations

ISAF International Sailing Federation

MNA ISAF Member National Authority

ICA International Class Association

NCA National Class Association

ERS The Equipment Rules of Sailing

RRS The Racing Rules of Sailing

PART A - General

A.1 About this Guide

This guide is intended to help measurers and others understand the ISAF Equipment Rules of Sailing for sail measurement and associated racing rules and to assist in achieving correct, accurate and consistent measuring of sails. It is not part of any rules and has no such status. It should not be applied in conjunction with the IYRU Measurement Instructions.

This guide will be updated as and when considered necessary by the ISAF. The date of issue of this edition is: - **1 September 2001**

A.2 Responsibilities and Authorities

Should a measurer be in any doubt as to the application of or compliance with a rule or measurement instruction, the question should be referred to the measurer's MNA or its delegate (ERS H.1.2).

It is not a measurer's job to make rule interpretations.

Measurers are responsible for:

- a) Providing the measuring equipment and possessing complete and up to date copies of **class rules** and interpretations, racing rules, and any other relevant documents.
- b) Carrying out measurement so that the dimensions are taken accurately.
- c) Measuring as required by **class rules** and the relevant racing rules, and recording their findings, either on the class Measurement Form, if measuring at the request of the owner or manufacturer, or in a report to the appropriate race committee.
- d) Keeping a record of each completed Measurement Form or measurement report, giving the date of measurement, the effective date of the **class rules** used, the class of boat, sail and plaque number, actual measurements taken, and any relevant comments.
- e) Ensuring that they have the necessary authority to undertake the measurement.

The authority afforded to a measurer falls into three distinct categories (ERS C.4)

f) **Official Measurers**

Official measurers have the authority to measure new or replacement items, and to carry out **fundamental measurement**. This type of measurement is not normally undertaken at events. **Official measurers** also have the authority to certify certain items of equipment like sails. When acting in this capacity, the measurer is responsible to the owner, the MNA and to the **certification authority** to which the measurer should make all formal reports. With some classes and rating authorities an **official measurer** will also be required to be recognized by the class association or authority in addition to the MNA.

g) **Event Measurers**

Event measurers are afforded authority to measure at a specific event by the race committee. When acting in this capacity, the measurer is under the sole jurisdiction of the race committee, to which all formal reports should be made (RRS 78.3).

h) **International Measurers**

International measurers are appointed by the ISAF to act at international events. Their authority is the same as those of **event measurers**.

With the exception of adding sail or buoyancy endorsements or other items as permitted by the **class rules**, a measurer has no authority to add to or alter any of the details of a **certificate**. If it is brought to the attention of a measurer that the details of a **certificate** are in some way incorrect, then the measurer should tell the owner and the **certification authority**.

A.3 Fees

Measurers are recommended and encouraged to charge for their service. This is important as, unlike a jury member, the actions of a measurer might have long-term ramifications for a class. A measurer is also responsible for providing and ensuring the accuracy of measurement tools and equipment as well as being professionally responsible for the service they provide.

A.4 Fundamental Measurement

Fundamental measurement is the initial measurement of new (or replacement) sails prior to their being **certified** by a measurer. Except in the case of MNA approved "In-house certification", all the dimensions required to be taken by **class rules** should be checked, and a record kept of the measurements found. Where required by **class rules** or an MNA, the sail should also be inspected in relation to other **class rules** and with RRS 77 & RRS Appendix G, Identification On Sails and RRS 79 & RRS Appendix 1, ISAF Advertising Code.

When measuring a new sail, the measurer is acting on behalf of the owner and the MNA (or its delegate) and should, within the limits of the applicable rules, endeavour to safeguard the interests of that owner and MNA.

No sail should be **certified** until its full and complete compliance with the applicable rules has been established.

A.5 Event Measurement Checks

Event measurement is normally undertaken at an event prior to the first race, when the time available is usually at a premium. For this reason it is common for only partial measurement of all, or just some, sails to be undertaken. In addition, in an endeavour to speed up procedures, changes are often made to the way in which measurement is carried out. Sometimes this is merely visual inspection, verification of **fundamental measurement** or just the application of **event limitation marks**.

If, during **event measurement**, there is doubt as to the compliance of a sail, the measurer should use the fundamental measurement procedures.

When event measuring, a measurer is acting on behalf of or as part of the race committee and, as such, is bound by the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and RRS 78.3. Although there is good sense in a race committee appointing an **official measurer** to act at an event, this is not mandatory. Similarly, an MNA, ICA or NCA should beware of usurping a race committee's authority during **event measurement**.

A.6 Class Rules

Where a particular **class rule** and the ERS are in conflict, the **class rule** shall prevail. Where no limits for a particular dimension are given in **class rules** nor in the RRS, then the item is not controlled and need not be measured.

A.7 Headsail or Spinnaker

Neither the ERS nor this guide attempt to make a distinction as to whether a particular sail is a headsail or a spinnaker. The difference should normally be specified in **class rules** or by the owner, as, due to the close similarity in shape of some of these sails, the difference between the two types is purely a matter of usage rather than measurement. Regardless of the shape of a sail, if **class rules** or the owner call it a headsail, or where **class rules** require it to be measured as a headsail, the sail should be measured as a headsail. Similarly, if **class rules** or the owner call a sail a spinnaker, or require the sail to be measured as a spinnaker, it should be measured as a spinnaker. In cases where a visual distinction as to type is unclear the measurer should mark the measurement type use on the sail i.e. *measured as a headsail* or *measured as a spinnaker*. The ISAF recommended **certification mark** design has a box where this can be inserted. Where neither **class rules** nor the owner make a distinction as to whether the sail is headsail or spinnaker RRS 50.4 should be applied.
