

# Fireball Open Forum of Sept 16, 2024; Maccagno, Italy

## Agenda

1. Future Worlds
2. Building a Strong Class
3. Changes to the Boat

## Notes

### 1. Future Worlds:

#### 2025: Lake Garda, Italy

- NOR should be out in a few weeks; it will be out on the official website, in WhatsApp groups, on Facebook.
- We should try to get charter boats for out-of-Europe teams. Every NCA is asked to provide some charter boats.
- There will be a presentation on Tuesday after dinner.

#### 2026: Torquay, UK.

#### 2027: possibly Kenya or Japan

### 2. How to Build the Class

- New boat shape is not the essential part, we should try to promote the class itself and events so that we find enthusiastic sailors.
- We have a boat that is great to sail and a great community.
- Make potential newcomers welcome, give them trial rides, provide training.
- FI would like to have one person in each NCA to join in a committee to collect ideas on promoting the class.

### 3. Proposed Changes to the Boat

- The idea of a double floor / self-draining hull has been abandoned. Trials have had mixed reviews, the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.
- There is a number of other suggestions, most of them meant to make professional production easier and therefore less expensive:
  1. Removing the ledges on the inside of the side-deck would make for a simpler building process, but the edge should still be flattened to provide better comfort to helms and more space for crews. At the same time, side-decks could be flattened so as to prevent helms from sliding off the boat.
- No objections raised
- 2. Shorten aft-deck or get rid of aft-deck altogether. This might change performance because there might be less stiffness/more traction in the boat, and in very strong winds because the helm could sit further back.

Questions and objections raised:

  - What would the impact on the weight be? > Any loss of weight would have to be counteracted, certainly for the time being.
  - The aft-tank is iconic for the Fireball, without the aft-tank more water could accumulate there.

- Aft-tank to be shortened enough to store sails in the cockpit without having to fold or crumple them.
  - Would it make sense to keep only the aft deck but not the tank?
  - Shortening the aft-tank to accommodate sails got a good show of hands – general consent.
3. Leave out aft tank altogether
- Most of the sailor's present would like to keep some sort of aft-tank at least.
4. Jib cleats set back into the side tanks. > This would make building a lot easier.
- No objections raised, general consent.
5. Channels for spinnaker sheets on aft-decks – replace them with tubes. This would make it easier to build and there would be less gel coat work.
- No objections, general consent.
6. Remove thickness of the thwart edges rule
- Small technical change, no discussion, but clear consent.
7. Chute for spinnaker, but higher than before. This would need to be looked into in great detail. It would be a major change to the boat design and there is a risk that also older boats would not be able to get it. On the other hand, it would make spinnaker setting and lowering easier.
- Thoughts and objections:
- A chute is clearly better when used with twin poles.
  - Those who have had chutes were not happy and don't think it works, changing the foredeck would really change the character of the boat.
- The idea is generally disliked and got no show of hands in favour.
8. Allow carbon in the foils whilst keeping the weight.
- Objections and worries: Characteristics of the foils might change
- Mostly consent with a few votes against.
9. Allow carbon in hull. One problem is that other fibers are not readily available any more and Kevlar is difficult to work with.
- Considerations:
- Don't forget amateur builders!
- General consent. As for amateur builders: We should digitize the boat plans.
10. Larger drain tubes
- general consent.
11. Twin poles
- Considerations:
- This would deduct from the skills a crew needs to master in a Fireball.
  - It still takes a lot of skill, timing is crucial.

- A real benefit is only had in combination with a chute.
  - Twin poles used to be allowed but weren't widely used.
  - It should be an option.
  - Possibly allow twin poles but no twin sheets
- mostly consent for allowing twin poles if wanted, with a few votes against.

#### 12. Longer poles

- no consent

#### 13. No numbers on spinnakers

- for race officers it will make life more difficult when there is a run to the finish line.
- Clear consent

#### 14. Shrouds adjustable from the cockpit,

- both shrouds could be adjusted at the same time.
  - This would be beneficial especially for teams further back in the fleet (top teams can rake down while racing at the moment, but this is difficult for other teams).
- consent with several votes against.

#### 15. Carbon boom

- would only make sense with a loose-footed sail.
- no consent.

Maccagno, 18 September, 2024

Mianne Erne