

Clarification of Rule 5.6.1

Requests

The International Class Measurer Ian Gregg has requested a clarification of Class Measurement Rule 5.6.1. This request specifically requests clarification as to the legality of the following equipment:

- Foam Inserts
- Gybe Stoppers
- Lifting Pins
- Zipper gaskets
- Velcro Gaskets

On July 21 2022 the International Class President, Michael Quirk requested the international Rules Committee to make a clarification of rule 5.6.1 based on the Chief Measurers request.

Meeting

On July 22, 2022 , (July 23,2022 in Australia), the following members of the international Rules Committee gathered via Zoom conference to address the request of the International Measurer: Ian Gregg (International Measurer) (AUS); Nigel Lott (AUS); and Mike Martin (USA).

Relevant Previous Rulings

In 1999 there were several boats at the Quiberon World Championships with inserts in the centerboard trunks. Some of these inserts were foam and some were hollow carbon fiber structures. All of them filled a large majority of the volume of the centerboard case aft of the centerboard. These inserts served two purposes. First, to displace water in the centerboard trunk, making less mass to accelerate and decelerate. These devices are common in other classes, most notably the Flying Dutchman Class. The second purpose was to add structure to prevent the centerboard cases from deflecting under rig tension and thus preventing the centerboard from moving up and down. At the AGM that year the topic was raised as to whether the class wanted to permit these inserts. This discussion was led by Rob Napier who was in charge of the International Rules Committee at that time. The conclusion of the discussion was that the class did not want to allow these foam and carbon inserts. At no point in that discussion were there any objections to or discussion of banning gybe stoppers, or lifting pins. The Technical Committee was requested to draft a rule to ban these foam and carbon inserts and came up with the addition to the rule 5.6.1. "No temporary or moveable insert in the centerboard case is permitted" this was voted by postal ballot and added to the class rules. Since that time Inserts for the purpose of displacing water have not been permitted. However since that time, gybe stoppers and lifting pins have been permitted and frequently used in many boats at many championships. Banning gybe stoppers and lifting pins was never the intention of rule 5.6.1 and it has never previously been interpreted to do so.

With respect to Zipper and Velcro gaskets, in 2014 at the Kiel Worlds the concept for velcro gaskets was presented to the International Rules Committee, and determination was made that there was no rule restricting the number of parts that made up the gasket and that they were legal and did not violate rule 5.6.1 . It was however noted that if any of the components of the system were made to be unnecessarily voluminous for the purpose of displacing water then it would violate Class Rule 5.6.1.

Conclusions

The International Rules Committee has made the following interpretations of Class Measurement Rule 5.6.1.

General interpretation:

The term "Insert" in rule 5.6.1 originally referred to and has to date been understood to refer to objects placed in the centerboard case for the purpose of either displacing water in, or increasing the rigidity of the centerboard case. The term "Insert" was never intended to and has not been interpreted to refer to the centerboard, the construction of the centerboard gasket, or any device used to control the position of or trim of the centerboard. Nor does it refer to any control line to adjust such a device.

To address the items for which the International Measurer specifically requested clarification.

Foam Inserts:

The addition to class Measurement Rule 5.6.1 was made specifically to ban inserts made of foam or other materials whose primary purpose is to displace water. Therefore Foam inserts are not permitted.

Gybe Stoppers:

Rule 5.6.1 was not intended to nor has ever been interpreted to ban gybe stoppers. These devices have been knowingly used by many boats in many championships for the past 20+ years. Consistent with the general interpretation above, a gybe stopper is a device used to adjust the position of or trim of the centerboard, and is permitted. However if any part of this device is considered to be unnecessarily voluminous and in the centerboard case, then it would violate Class Measurement Rule 5.6.1.

Lifting Pins

Rule 5.6.1 was not intended to nor has ever been interpreted to ban lifting pins. These devices have been knowingly used by many boats in many championships for the past 20+ years. Consistent with the general interpretation above, a lifting pin is a device used to adjust the position of or trim of the centerboard, and is permitted. However if any part of this device is considered to be unnecessarily voluminous and in the centerboard case, then it would violate Class Measurement Rule 5.6.1.

Zipper Gaskets:

There are no Class Measurement Rules restricting the construction of the centerboard gasket. Therefore zipper gaskets and any control line used to adjust them are permitted. However if any part of this device is considered to be unnecessarily voluminous and in the centerboard case then it would violate Class Measurement Rule 5.6.1.

Velcro Gaskets:

There are no Class Measurement Rules restricting the construction of the centerboard gasket. Velcro gaskets have been knowingly used in many championships for the past 9 years. Therefore velcro gaskets and any control line used to adjust them are permitted. However if any part of this device is considered to be unnecessarily voluminous and in the centerboard case, then it would violate Class Measurement Rule 5.6.1. This is consistent with the 2014 ruling of the International Rules Committee.

Next Steps

The international Rules Committee considers these interpretations consistent with rulings of the past several years and that they be valid 2022 worlds. We also recommend that at the 2022 AGM that the topic is brought up for discussion and if the opinion of the fleet is different from these interpretations, that the International Rules Committee is requested to draft updated rules or interpretations to reflect the desires of the fleet.