

Swallow Class Rules

The Swallow Class Rules have been revised to comply with the ISAF standard class rules format. They are effective from 1 February 2008 and they are published by the RYA at <http://www.rya.org.uk/KnowledgeBase/technical/classrules.htm>.

Changes compared to previous April 2005 rules:

- (a) Most important, boats manufactured from approved moulds no longer require long, expensive and detailed measurement; the assembled hull does not have to be turned upside down for measurement. Subject to check measurements, a boat from an approved mould is assumed to measure.
- (b) Several clarifications have been made where the rules were either unenforceable or imprecise. For example, the confusion between fins, keels and ballast has been resolved.
- (c) Omissions are corrected. Previously tiller extensions were not allowed!!
- (d) Minor construction details changed to improve building techniques. For example, the internal cockpit corners at deck level can now have a small radius.
- (e) The changes approved at our January 2006 and 2007 AGMs are included, including the longer spinnaker pole.
- (f) The rule about boats being on their mooring 24 hours before an open meeting deleted as both wrong and unenforceable.
- (g) The requirement for the owner(s) of a new boat to pay a mould fee to the Class Association is made explicit.
- (h) Class Association rules are deleted. This is an ISAF requirement. New class association rules were approved at the recent AGM (see below).

The manufacture and measurement benefits could not have been achieved without the parallel investment by the Class Association in new and improved moulds. Today, the only approved builder for new Swallows is Composite Craft in Cowes.

The rewrite was agreed in principle by the committee in autumn 2005, so it has taken an inordinately long time to complete. However, it has turned out that the Swallow Class have been the pathfinder for conversion of class rules in the UK and I am grateful to Andrew Yates, our class measurer, to David Chivers, the senior RYA measurer appointed to help us and to the RYA Technical Department for all their help and their understanding of the requirements of the Swallow Class.

Rules of the National Swallow Class Association

It is important to distinguish between the Class Rules, which concern the specification and measurement of the boat and its equipment, and the rules of the Class Association, which govern the administration of the class nationally.

Previously the rules of the Class Association were buried within the Class Rules. They are now separate and have been expanded both to provide for good governance and to clarify many issues which either have caused or might cause difficulty.

The addenda to the rules of the Class Association contain rules and information, much of which has not previously been available to the membership as a whole.

These rules are published on the Swallow pages on the Itchenor SC and Aldeburgh YC web sites.

Richard Thompson
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