



INTERNATIONAL 420 CLASS ASSOCIATION

2021 Technical Committee Chairman's Report

This report covers the period between August 2019 and June 2021. Given the Covid19 disruption in the beginning of 2020 and the subsequent cancellation of all class events and class activities the report deals with actually 2 years of TC actions and includes the verbal report presented online in December 2020.

BUILDERS & PROTOTYPES

There is one new builder added, PERSSON MARINE JAPAN with the prototype approved in November 2020. Another builder, LTD SAILING CENTRE in Russia, is in the process of prototype approval, but with the travel restrictions still in effect it has not been possible to do anything. A third builder, Baranowski in Poland has requested and received approval to build a prototype (currently the builder of Sport Sails Center, wishing to start a new company). The prototype measurement has been delayed for a few months, and is expected to happen after September or October 2021.

At the same time, all builder inspections have been cancelled due to travel restrictions. As soon as the travel situation will return back to normal, a new plan for inspections will have to be put into effect –by the new TC which will be elected at the 2021 GA.

CLASS RULES

There is a set of class rule change proposals this year. This was meant for 2020 but with the cancellation of the GA, it was postponed for 2021. Given the fact that we have new Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) for 2021-2024, there are a number of changes referring to the new ERS definitions and rules which we have to use. In addition, we have a number of proposals which are based on experience gained in the last years from the application of the rules. Finally we have a set of proposals which are housekeeping changes to improve the language and clarify the contents of these rules.

INTERNATIONAL MEASURERS

After the WS conference in October 2020 our IM team lost Barry Johnson from AUS who did not renew his status. Barry had been a 420 IM since 1996 and member of the TC until 2014. The Class thanks Barry for his valuable contribution and help especially in Asia and Oceania. As we had increased the number of IMs in the region back in 2017, there are no plans for increasing the number of 420 IMs.

EVENT MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

For 2021 there will be an experimental simplification in the event measurement system, following the steps of the 470 Class, where the fleet will be divided in a so called 'full' measurement and a 'simple' measurement category, based on national rankings or national regatta results, to save time and effort. The equipment will still need to be marked for each event, but rigs and foils may be excluded from actual inspection for the 'simple' measurement option. Depending on the results of the measurement data analysis from 2021, the hull weighing may be also partially excluded in the future, if the data on the boat certificates is considered to be reliable.

As I am stepping down from the position of TC Chairman after 16 years, I would like to thank first of all the TC members and the Executive officers from all these years that have worked together in harmony, and of course all the 420 sailors, coaches and team leaders. I wish all the best to the next TC chairman.

Dimitris Dimou
Chairman,
Int. 420 Class Technical Committee