



Middelfart, DENMARK, January 16th, 2024

2023 IHCA Rules Committee Report



1. General summary

2023 gave us in December a new historic milestone. Hobie Cat Company II (HCC II) - Hobie Cat Sailboats (HCS) announced they would take back the production of Hobie Cat sailboats from Starting Line Sailing (SLS) who was licensed the production in November 2022. It meant another new beginning at more levels of the IHCA including the Rules Committee.

However, I am sure it will run smoothly as long time Hobie sailor and class member, Steve Fields, as Vice President of Hobie Cat Sailboats, is leading the way for the return of HCC II to the Hobie class and as manufacturer of Hobie Cat sailboats. As part of the transition Steve was also appointed by HCC II as new member of the Rules Committee replacing Michel Corigliano who represented SLS and before that represented Hobie Cat Europe. Altogether for more than 10 consecutive years.

2023 was a busy year for the Rules Committee. This with updates to the Wave class rules and to the trampoline rules for classes no longer being built.

Another hot topic was the question of whether a min. crew weight should be reinstated for the HC14 or not. It was triggered by a formal sailor request in combination with ongoing discussions around the world. To get a clearer picture of what the members and in particular the ones racing the Hobie Cat 14 thought would be most beneficial for the class, keeping continued growth in mind, the Rules Committee decided to undertake an on-line survey. The survey turned out to be successful and luckily it produced a clear picture. A picture showing a big majority in favor of maintaining the current rules as is i.e. no minimum crew weight. We were pleased to see the involvement and engagement of the sailors showcased here. Highly appreciated.

Time was finally spent on preparing the HC18 rule change package with outset in the "Reimagined Hobie 18" project. A package endorsed by the Hobie Cat Association of North America (HCANA) and the Australian National Hobie Class Association (ANHCA). The comment period for the package has deadline medio January 2024.

During the HC14 Worlds in Cesenatico some technical matters were brought up. These were supposed to be addressed and handled between the manufacturer and Rules Committee as soon as possible following the event. This did unfortunately not happen for reasons outside the control of the Rules Committee. However, Steve Fields, shortly after taking over, promised us to investigate and come back on the matters as soon as possible.

The way we have handled the role of the Technical Committee/Technical Inspector at our Worlds until now with the appointment of a class official is about to change. World Sailing (WS) Regulation 10.5 (f) (iii) has for a couple of years required us to work on having an International Measurer (IM) for our WS international classes. The transition period is over.

The WS requirement looks like an overkill for classes like ours. It will be adding extra costs etc. IHCA made a submission to the 2023 WS Annual Meeting in November proposing manufacturer one design classes should not be included in the IM requirement. The proposal was unfortunately not accepted.

Hence, efforts are ongoing in establishing a solution with an IM for our WS international classes. When this IM has qualified through two level 1 events (regional championships) or higher per



class, the IM will be the Technical Inspector at our future Worlds as well as the IM may be asked to do some of our regional championships.

2. Activities

Tasks carried out by the IHCA Rules Committee in 2023:

- a) Answering questions from sailors/event organizers on technical/class rule related matters.
- b) Supporting the 2023 Hobie Multi Worlds/Europeans by taking care of the Technical Committee duties.
- c) Preparation and processing of eight class rule changes related to the Hobie Wave and the trampoline rules for the classes no longer being produced.
- d) Submission of a change to General Class Rule 16.5 to World Sailing (WS). Approved by WS and implemented in our class rules December 11th, 2024.
- e) Analyzing the outcome of the Hobie Cat 14 Minimum Crew Weight Survey and concluding the result. The conclusion was subsequently endorsed by the IHCA Council.
- f) Preparing the HC18 rule change package with outset in the “Reimagined Hobie 18” project for the comment period. The comment period is still ongoing while this is written.

3. Rules Committee Composition

Composition of the Rules Committee until December 12, 2023:

- Jeff Alter (USA) – Alter Family representative.
- Michel Corigliano (FRA) - appointed by Starting Line Sailing.
- Pat Porter (USA) – appointed by IHCA Council.
- Erik Olsen (DEN) - appointed by IHCA Council. (*Chairman*)

Composition of the Rules Committee after December 12, 2023, where Hobie Cat Company II took over from Starting Line Sailing:

- Jeff Alter (USA) – Alter Family representative.
- Steve Fields (USA) - appointed by Hobie Cat Company II.
- Pat Porter (USA) – appointed by IHCA Council.
- Erik Olsen (DEN) - appointed by IHCA Council. (*Chairman*)



4. Final words

Entering the new era with HCC II I would like to take the opportunity to thank SLS for an excellent, fruitful, and always constructive cooperation. Although our time together didn't last that long we nevertheless managed to implement important changes to the benefit of our classes and sailors.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my fellow Rules Committee colleagues who once again contributed greatly to our work and mission. A very special thank you goes to Michel Corigliano, who after more than 10 years on the Rules Committee had to leave us in December because of the reorganization following the HCC II takeover from SLS. Michel has over the years been a highly valued member of the Rules Committee and his knowledge, great understanding of class needs combined with his well-developed cooperative approach will be missed for sure.

In Michel's chair we welcomed Steve Fields. Steve is well acquainted with the work of the Rules Committee as he was a member from 2017 to 2022. Steve's great expertise, knowledge and class dedication is well known and will for sure be an asset for us. Hence, I'm very much looking forward to working with Steve again.

Finally, and not least, and as said many times before a big-big thank you to IHCA Executive Director, David Brookes. David's work and role is fundamental for the daily operation of the IHCA as is his help and support to the work of the Rules Committee including the essential liaison and coordination with World Sailing for our international classes. So, as also said last year then I sincerely hope IHCA through partnerships will be able to find the necessary funding to keep David onboard as the alternative doesn't look good.

Respectfully submitted

Erik Olsen/IHCA Rules Committee Chair