Request for Interpretation No. 95

of

AC Class Rule Version 1.11: June 8th 2017

Rule References:

1.4 In interpreting this **AC Class Rule**, the definitions in Article 1 of the **Protocol** shall apply, and:

(a) **appendage** means any component that is wholly or partially submerged at any time during racing that is connected to and external to the **hull** canoe body, or a **rudder wing** that is connected to a **rudder**, and including integral components that extend from outside the **hull** into the **hull** (e.g**. daggerboard** head or **rudder** stock). **Appendage** does not include **cross structure**, **daggerboard** bearings, **rudder** bearings, **daggerboard** fairings, other fairings that are above 0.100 m above **MWP**, deck hardware and small fittings;

(ff) **rudder wing** means an **appendage** attached to a **rudder** and primarily used to affect pitch;

6.1 The **AC Class Yacht** shall be a vessel, generally known as a catamaran, which has two **hulls** that are connected by **cross structure** and arranged symmetrically about the **yacht centerplane**, with each **hull** having one **rudder** and one **rudder wing**, one **daggerboard**, and no other a**ppendages**. The **AC Class Yacht** shall have one **wing** and no more than one **jib**.

10.10 **Rudder wing** chords parallel to and offset 0.080 m from the **hull centerplane** shall be within 5.00 degrees of parallel to **MWP** while in **appendage measurement condition**.

Definition of “device” from the OED:

7. (in part)”…a mechanical contrivance (usually of a simple character) for some particular purpose.”

Questions:

1. Is it permitted to attach a device to a **rudder wing** section whose primary purpose or effect is to circumvent the measured **rudder wing** chord angle limits of Rule 10.10 when the **rudder** is in **appendage measurement condition**? An example is shown in Diagram 1.
2. Would such a device be considered an additional **appendage** attached to a **rudder** or **rudder wing**, or would it be considered part of a **rudder wing**?
3. If a device as described above is permitted as part of a **rudder wing**, must its primary function be to affect pitch of the platform?
4. If the answer to question 3 above is “yes”, what test will the **Measurement Committee** apply to determine compliance?
5. Is it permitted to locally modify the **rudder wing** at the 80 mm section, the purpose or effect would be to circumvent the measured **rudder wing** chord angle limits of Rule 10.10 when the **rudder** is in **appendage measurement condition**? An example is shown in Diagram 2 where a “saw cut” (dotted line) modifies the local trailing edge and therefore the local chord.

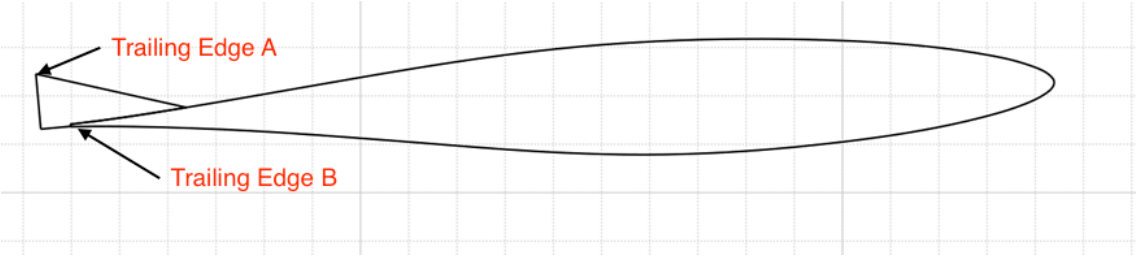

Diagram 1

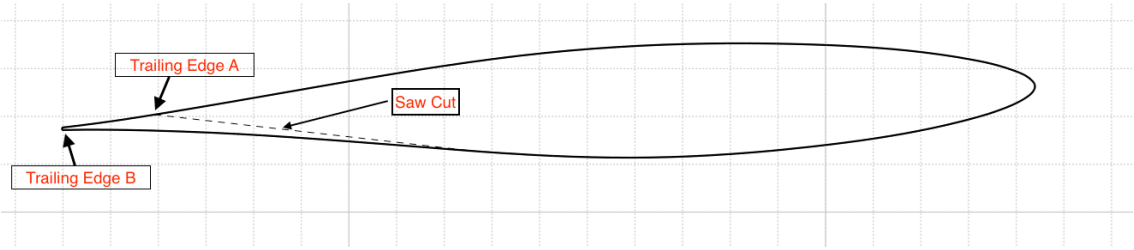

Diagram 2

Interpretation:

1. The **AC Class Rule** does not limit the geometry of the **rudder wings** other than as specified in Rules 10.2, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10. and 10.11(c). There is not enough information in Diagram 1 to determine if the arrangement complies with all **AC Class Rule**s, but it would be possible to design a **rudder wing** with the section shape shown and have it comply with the **AC Class Rule**.
2. The **rudder wing** component would be considered part of the **rudder wing** provided it complies with Rule 10.7.
3. No. Rule 1.4 (ee) defines a **rudder wing** as “an appendage attached to a rudder and primarily used to affect pitch”. Not every component of a **rudder wing** is mandated to affect pitch as its primary use.
4. Not applicable.
5. Within the limits set out in Rule 10, local modifications to the **rudder wing** geometry to achieve **AC Class Rule** compliance are not prohibited.

END

Issued by the America’s Cup Measurement Committee on June 16, 2017