



REGATTA DIRECTOR NOTICE #42

Issued 19 April 2016

Re: Safety Equipment for AC Class Yachts

AC Class Rule, Appendix G refers to the development of a list of safety equipment for the AC Class Yacht. To do this I feel it is important to review the safety equipment on the yacht as well as the safety equipment carried by each member of the crew.

On the Yacht:

I have reviewed the equipment for the AC72 Yachts from AC34 and have created below a draft list of equipment for the yacht:

- (a) Handholds, restraints and tethers that the Competitor determines are needed may be added to the yacht;
- (b) Righting lines attached to the point(s) that are used to right the yacht and the righting lines accessible with the platform capsized at any orientation;
- (c) A knife securely mounted near each intersection of the forward and aft crossbeams with the hulls, in positions that are accessible with the yacht upright or inverted;
- (d) Four spare personal air supplies of at least 80 liters each securely mounted in locations which would be accessible when the yacht is capsized;
- (e) Aft cockpit buoyancy system of at least **x** liters each side; and
- (f) other safety equipment carried at a Competitor's discretion that shall not exceed 10kg.

My current thinking is that these items are not removed for weight and center of gravity (CG) calculations, but the class rule weight and CG modified to reflect the need to carry this equipment. By using accurate weights of the items the change to the class rule weight and CG will mean that there is little scope for Competitors to use the safety equipment to obtain performance advantage.

Additionally, have discussed with the Measurement Committee the proposal to exclude the 10 kg allowance for safety equipment from the yacht in measurement condition so that the 10kg allowance is used for safety equipment, rather than be simply incorporated into the weight and CG of the yacht. This equipment should be easily removed for measurement checks. I believe that AC Class Rule 4.1(a) would allow the Measurement Committee to amend Class Rule 27.1 and 27.3 to



exclude the discretionary safety equipment from the platform and the wing when they are in measurement condition.

Personal Equipment:

The Racing Rules of Sailing (America's Cup Edition) has a list of mandated crew gear. I have received a suggestion supported by at least 3 Competitors to delete Rule 40.1(f) from the Racing Rules. Rule 40.1 would therefore be:

"Each crew shall wear

- (a) a buoyancy aid that meets the flotation standard of ISO 12402-5 or ISO 12402-6 (CE 50 Newtons) and that is capable of being removed or deflated within 10 seconds;
- (b) a helmet to a minimum standard of CE EN 1077, ASTM 2040, or Snell S-98 and with at least 300 square centimeters of the exterior surface a high visibility color;
- (c) a cutting device with a blade length of no more than 150mm;
- (d) when sailing an AC Class Yacht, at least one personal air supply of at least 40 liters and not more than 85 liters which when in use does not require the use of hands;
- (e) a pocket for carrying media equipment with the minimum dimensions 80mm x 200mm x 30mm; and
- (f) ~~when sailing an AC Class Yacht, a harness with equipment capable of self-lowering 12 meters."~~

Please note that the equipment weight is not changed and this allows crew to wear a harness if they want to.

ACTIONS REQUESTED:

I request:

- (a) teams review the draft mandated safety equipment for the AC Class Yacht and respond to comments on what is suggested and what may be missing.
- (b) comments on how the weight of these items is proposed to be handled in the class rule.
- (c) suggestions on a suitable size of the aft cockpit buoyancy system.
- (d) teams review the proposal to delete 40.1(f) from the Racing Rules.

I would like comments to be returned to me by April 30, 2016.

Iain Murray
Regatta Director