



SABRE SAILING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)

17 Regent St, Brighton East Vic Australia 3187

7 August 2014

The Secretary

Sabre Sailing Associations of NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA
Committee of Management, Sabre Sailing Association of Australia
Presidents, State Sabre Associations.

At a forum of Measurers in April there was discussion on a range of ideas to protect the class from radical design departures and use of exotic materials. There was also much discussion on ways of making timber boats stiffer and possibly enabling them to compete more favourably with FRP Sabres.

There were two ideas that had unanimous support.

1. The need to separate Rules of Measurement from the building notes/guide. We don't conform to ISAF as it stands.
2. The need to prefix the Rules of Measurement with a 'Spirit and Intent of the Rules ("Charter")' which among others would be a catch all for any attempts at radical shapes or construction materials.

The first item is complex and is still being looked at.

National Measurer, Nick Mouat had done preliminary work on a 'spirit and intent of the rules' and it was agreed that his work be refined and then put to State Associations for vote ASAP. The final proposal has been checked by solicitors. Target date was end of June but unfortunately two immediate family deaths diverted my attention from Sabre matters.

In the interest of clarity, the following is an extract from the SSAA rules of incorporation and Statement of Purposes pertaining to changing building notes and measurement rules.

Alteration of Rules and Statement of Purposes

31. These rules and the statement of purposes of the Association shall not be altered except in accordance with the Act and :-(4)
 - 31.1.a) Amendments to the Rules (including rules of measurement and construction) may only be proposed by a member State Association and must be submitted in writing under the hand of the State Secretary and forwarded to the Secretary of the Association.
 - 31.1.b) Proposed amendments to the Rules shall be prepared as an amending motion and shall be circulated by the Secretary of the Association to each member State Association.
 - 31.1.c) State Associations shall vote on the motion and to be carried, the motion must receive support from a majority of the member State Associations, to be adopted.

31.1.d) Member State Associations shall advise the Secretary of the result of the voting of the motion by their Association.

(4) Section 22 of the Act provides that an incorporated association may, by special resolution, alter its statement of purposes or its rules. Section 29 of the Act defines a special resolution.

Accordingly, I have received a proposal from Sabre Sailing Association of Victoria to be put to a Special General Meeting. Our rules allow for a special general meeting to be conducted by mail or email.

Notice of the Special General Meeting follows.

NOTICE of SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the SABRE SAILING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED.

Date of Meeting: 31 August 2014 at 7:00pm AEST

Venue: The proceedings of this meeting will be conducted by email or post.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider a proposal from Sabre Sailing Association of Victoria to amend the Rules of Measurement of the Sabre Dinghy.

Each member association is entitled to two votes (per nominated delegates).

The Voting form is attached and State Secretaries must return their Delegate votes by email or mail to the Secretary by 7:00pm AEST 31 August 2014.

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The effective date for the amendment if passed is 7 August 2014 (date of this notice).

Information in support of the motion:

The design of the Sabre is based on traditional construction and manufacturing techniques and materials. Current manufacturing techniques, methods and materials may lead to an exploitation of the rules that is against the intent and spirit of the rules.

This would be to the long term detriment of the Sabre Class. SSAV has the expectation that the measurement rules will eventually be re-written to ensure a consistent approach to manufacture of the Sabre. This task may take some time and at a recent forum of measurers, it was agreed that there is an urgent need to include a 'Spirit and Intent of the Rules' as a prefix to the Rules of Measurement. The forum recommended that if any measurement dispute cannot be resolved by reference to the Rules of Measurement, the 'Sabre Charter' should have precedence.

Motion to amend the Rules of Measurement for the Sabre Dinghy.

The Sabre Sailing Association of Victoria proposes that Section E of the Rules of Measurement and Construction be amended by inserting the following before item 1. General.

“SABRE CHARTER

This Charter sets out that the intent and spirit of the Sabre Class is:

- 1) To provide good close racing where results are determined by skill rather than having a design advantage over other competitors.*
- 2) To ensure that competition remains affordable to a broad cross section of competitors.*
- 3) To provide enjoyment for all competitors.*
- 4) To encourage new members of State Sabre Associations and to encourage the building of the Sabre dinghy by individuals residing outside Australia.*
- 5) To protect the class from radical changes to the design of the boat and the use of exotic and radical materials in construction.*
- 6) That all new boats must comply with the current measurement rules at the time of measurement and maintain the “visual appearance” of a traditional Sabre dinghy.*
- 7) To ensure that all FRP/Composite boats emulate the design characteristics of a timber Sabre.*
- 8) To help maintain the value of a professionally made boat by ensuring that only professional builders can build/produce a FRP/Composite hull which has originated from a mould. The*

definition of 'professional' in this clause means 'a person whose main paid occupation is building boats'.

- 9) That all new moulds must be approved by the National Measurer; in terms of the intent of the rules.*
- 10) That anything considered radical or materially performance enhancing which has come about through intentionally or otherwise finding a loophole in, or exploiting the class rules will not be allowed.*
- 11) That the Sabre Sailing Association of Australia Inc Committee of Management as final arbiter of the rules, on the recommendation of the National Measurer, may allow an amateur built boat to gain an A-Class measurement certificate despite not having passed measurement. That this would only apply in the instance of a genuine mistake in construction that can be deemed to be of no competitive advantage.*
- 12) That each member of a State Sabre Sailing Association that is a member of the Sabre Sailing Association of Australia Inc is bound by this Charter and acknowledges that any decision in relation to this Charter by the Committee of Management of the Sabre Sailing Association of Australia Inc is final and not subject to appeal."*

Barry Eastgate
Secretary/Treasurer, SSAA