Technical Q&A

Royal Netherlands Watersports Association

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World Sailing Class Association

Introduction

As a certifying authority, we certify boats of many different classes. Sometimes, as part of the certification control, the fairness of the surface of the hull has to be checked. If the fairness of the surface of the hull has to be checked with a batten, the World Sailing guideline (Measurer's Manual 2017, chapter H.1.13) is used.

We have recently encountered a disagreement regarding the interpretation of WS guideline H.1.13 and would like to seek an expert opinion from World Sailing.

Question One

If the fairness of the surface of the hull of a dinghy is measured with a non-tapered GRP batten of 2 meters (mandatory in this specific case) of constant cross-section and bending stiffness, and the curve to be checked is complex:

- Is more than one gap between the batten and the hull allowed over the full length of the batten (2 meters), assuming that all these gaps can be closed completely by applying pressure to the batten over the centre of the gap, as described in chapter H.1.1.3? Is there a maximum to the number of gaps?
- If there is more than one gap found over the full length of the batten, should these gaps be investigated individually or in conjunction?

Response:

1. The example given in H.1.1.3 in the International Measurers Manual is only there to serve as an illustration of how it could be possible to ascertain if a curve may be considered as fair. There is no maximum number of gaps given in the IM manual.

2. The gap should be investigated individually, not in conjunction.

Question Two

Chapter H.1.13 describes the use of a flexible batten to check that the surface of the hull is fair.

- If a non-tapered GRP batten is used with constant cross-section over its full length, then what is meant by a flexible batten in terms of cross-section and/or bending stiffness?
- As the base curve for longitudinal and cross-sectional curves of the hull is different, should different battens be used to check the fairness of these curves?

Response:

1. The guidance is that the specifications of the batten (cross-section and bending stiffness) depend on the surface being analysed.

2. Different battens should be used.