



19 November 2009

— Question 48:

#### REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION

Question: Under the TP52 Rule, whether 2009/2010, 2010/2011 or 2011 how to read the requirements for standing rigging as worded in 2009/2010 Rule 5.11 or 2010/2011 Rule I.4.21? Specifically can the backstays, bobstay and the lower pendant of the headstay be of any other shape than circular, like aerofoil shaped?

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#### CONSIDERATIONS

5.11 and I.4.21 read: Standing rigging except the backstays, the bobstay and the lower pendant of the forestay shall be steel (Nitronic 50) and circular in shape.

This is a 2009 and earlier Rule to which the bobstay is added for 2010 etc.

The intention was and is to allow a different choice of material for the backstay(s) and the lower pendant of the headstay. And now also for the bobstay. The intention was not to open up on the requirement of the circular shape.

The backstay and lower pendant in their function in combination with what was available on the market sofar never had any other market available option than a circular one. So the rule was never questioned, nor the need was felt to be more precise on this.

For 2010 we have opened up to allow carbon backstays and bobstays and the market independently has produced aerofoil carbon rods. Certainly not with the TP52 in its mind as possible market. But other creative minds have put the two together and asked the question.

I feel we should stick to the circular requirement:

- 1) It was / is the intention of the rule.
- 2) It allows choice between various materials where the aerofoil shape demands the carbon option. So it keeps cheaper or otherwise preferred options realistic choices.
- 3) Without having done any tests I feel the aerofoil shape bobstay in case of a collision will cut as a knife through butter. A circular shape probably is more like a blunt knife.
- 4) Cost efficiency.

#### NOTE

Reducing windage has growing attention in the TP52 community. In itself this is a good and interesting development. Nevertheless we should try to avoid solutions that are expensive. The gain in speed is so marginal that the first choice should be to keep things simple and cost efficient.

To be more specific. I have a lot of sympathy for the Artemis wind unit with the "aerofoil sock" around it, I consider the ETNZ stanchions as within the rule but possibly not very desirable as they are probably not cost efficient. I would hate to see "aerofoil socks" around standing rigging (other than the headstay foil). I consider that to go against the circular requirement. We have to keep things simple and concentrate on real improvements. Then it would be a wiser choice to go for carbon rigging.



— INTERPRETATION

TP52 Rules 5.11 (2009/2010) and I.4.21 (2010/2011) are to be read as:

Standing rigging except the backstays, the bobstay and the lower pendant of the forestay shall be steel (Nitronic 50). All shall be circular in shape.

NOTE: The way end fittings are fitted or made, especially on the carbon and PBO rigging varieties, might result in non circular shapes near the fitting. These oval shapes are acceptable as long as there is a clear relation with the purpose of producing the end fitting. As in contrast with achieving any other shape than circular for other purposes than making the end fitting.