



20 October 2009

— Question 46:

#### REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION

Please clarify the 2009/2010 TP52 Rule under Part 1 General where it says that changing or modifying hull or deck is not allowed. We read this as that modifications bringing the boat out of the 2009 TP52 Rule and under the 2010/2011 or the 2011 TP52 Rule are not allowed.

The question is: Are we allowed for racing in 2010 under the 2009/2010 TP52 Rule to modify our 2008 boat so that our 2008 style deck complies with the 2009 TP52 Rule (2009 rules 6.11.1 and 6.11.2) ?

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#### CONSIDERATIONS

One of the intentions of the limits on modifications from 2009 to 2010 is to make it impossible for teams to upgrade the existing boats to what is allowed to new boats for 2010 without suffering from the restrictions imposed by that rule.

Similar it is forbidden to build new boats and use parts of old boats that are not allowed under the 2010/2011 and 2011 Rules anymore.

Clear cases that we aim to ban for 2010 are:

- 1) Building new boats to the 2009 construction limits.
- 2) Fit new (or existing) boats with new rigs build to the 2009 construction limits. Also we banned fitting pre 1 november 2009 rigs on new boats build after 1 november 2009.
- 3) Modify existing masttubes to the new rules by adding or removing laminate.
- 4) Fit a 2010 style deck (lower coachroof), whether modified or completely new, on a 2009 or earlier boat.
- 5) Modify hulls of existing boats or build new hulls for them.  
Note: This was mainly written to control people building hulls to the 2011 Rule, but using 2009 construction limits. This could also be controlled by refusing to grandfather such a hull for 2011, but once such a hull exists that would be less easy. Side effect is that this also bans a modification that is very expensive.
- 6) Expensive exercises like moving keels/keelfloors/rig/bulkheads to accommodate gains in longitudinal trim, etc.

For sure the aim also is to limit spending on modifications for 2010 and to have a cost efficient season before going into 2011 and consequently not open up to more modifications than the bowsprit, twin backstays, bulb and sails.

On the other hand to build a 2009 style coachroof on a boat from an earlier than 2009 date was not banned in 2009, in fact various teams had their boat optimised like this (Audi Q8, Pisco Sour). So from that point of view it does not seem reasonable to ban this for 2010. By altering the coachroof you do not create a "hybrid boat", picking the best of old and new rules, the complete boat remains within the 2009 Rule and as such can and will be grandfathered once going into 2011.

Further we have decided at the Annual Meeting that we do not like to see deck equipment like winches and jammers inside the boats anymore, but still allow halyards to run through the accommodation. I consider this mainly as a safety related issue.



- It is not wise to mount such highly loaded items at a level where you will find crew's heads or chests. It also disturbs the standing headroom area and it invites to keep the companion-way hatch open and for sure the washboard not fitted. Which sooner or later leads to a wave making its way downstairs.

This might all be not so significant yet at the level of maintenance and skill as well as the places where we sail for the MedCup, but in its afterlife the boats get taken to different conditions and are possibly being sailed by lesser qualified people.

In this light fitting winches, jammers and related deck equipment belowdecks from 1 november 2009 as part of reconstructing a deck to the 2009 TP52 Rule (or any other later rule) is not allowed.

Note: This will also be forbidden by ISAF in the future, possibly 2010 already. The issue is being discussed in their Annual Meeting, this november.

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*The interpretation of the 2009/2010 TP52 Rule under Part 1 General where it says that "changing or modifying hull or deck is not allowed" is that such a change or modification shall be judged on whether it creates a so-called "hybrid boat". Which in this case is a boat that has details in construction, lay-out, equipment, etc. which are not allowed anymore when building to the 2010/2011 or 2011 Rule. Even when the benefit of such a detail in reality only kicks in with the 2011 TP52 Rule it will not be accepted for 2010 to avoid problems going into 2011.*

*Furthermore it is not allowed from 1 november 2009 to install deck equipment like winches and jammers belowdecks other than is allowed in the 2011 TP52 Rule. Of course all existing layouts of such kind are grandfathered and do not need modifying.*

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So it is allowed to modify the coachroof/deck of pre 2009 boats according the 2009 rule as long as your deck equipment is positioned according the 2011 TP52 Rule. It is for instance also allowed to extend hull and deck to allow crew to sit further aft on boats that still are "2007 style" in this aspect.

Replacing hulls or modifying other parts than the hull/deck extension of 2009 or pre 2009 boats whether under the 2009 or later Rule Construction Limits will not be accepted.

You either have a complete 2009 Rule boat or one that is completely build to the 2010/2011 or later rules. The sole exception to this is that a pre 1 november 2009 rig may be used during 2010 on a 2010 new boat. That rig will not be grandfathered for 2011 however.

Rob Weiland  
Chief Measurer

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