



World Sailing  
Class Association

# HOBIE WILD CAT CLASS RULES



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Wild Cat  
Made by Hobie Cat Europe  
Mention Obligatoire : Pierrick Contin

**Pierrick CONTIN**

The Hobie Wild Cat was designed in 2009 by Hobie Cat Europe

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# INTRODUCTION

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*The Hobie Wild Cat Class has been created as a strict one-design catamaran where the true test when raced is between crews and not boats and equipment. The fundamental objective of these class rules is to ensure that this concept is maintained.*

*Hobie Wild Cat hulls, hull appendages, tillers, rig and sails shall only be manufactured by the licensed manufacturers. Equipment is required to comply with the Hobie Wild Cat Building Specification.*

*Hobie Wild Cat hulls, hull appendages, rig and sails may, after having left the manufacturer, only be altered to the extent permitted in Section C of the class rules.*

*Owners and crews should be aware that compliance with rules in Section C is NOT checked as part of the manufacturing process.*

*Rules regulating the use of equipment during a race are contained in Section C of these class rules, in ERS Part I and in the Racing Rules of Sailing.*

*This introduction is intended to provide a non-binding overview. The Hobie Wild Cat Class Rules proper begin on the next page.*

*(Changes compared to the previous issue are marked with yellow)*

# PART I – ADMINISTRATION

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## Section A – General

### A.1 LANGUAGE

- A.1.1 The official language of the class is English and in case of dispute over translation the English text shall prevail.
- A.1.2 The word “shall” is mandatory and the word “may” is permissive.

### A.2 ABBREVIATIONS

- A.2.1 WS World Sailing
- MNA WS Member National Authority
- HOBIE CAT CO Hobie Cat USA, Hobie Cat Europe and their licensees
- IHCA International Hobie Class Association
- NCA National Hobie Wild Cat Association
- ERS Equipment Rules of Sailing
- RRS Racing Rules of Sailing

### A.3 AUTHORITIES

- A.3.1 The international authority of the class is the WS which shall co-operate with the HOBIE CAT CO and the IHCA in all matters concerning these **class rules**.
- A.3.2 The IHCA may declare ineligible any Hobie Wild Cat, which does not conform to the letter of these rules and the official drawings and specifications held by the IHCA.

### A.4 ADMINISTRATION OF THE CLASS

- A.4.1 The class is administered by the IHCA which shall co-operate with the HOBIE CAT CO. The IHCA may delegate part or all of its administrative functions to an NCA.
- A.4.2 In countries where there is no NCA, or the NCA does not wish to administrate the class, its administrative functions shall be carried out by the IHCA in co-operation with the MNA, or by the MNA in co-operation with the IHCA.

### A.5 WS RULES

- A.5.1 These **class rules** shall be read in conjunction with the ERS.
- A.5.2 Except where used in headings, when a term is printed in “**bold**” the definition in the ERS applies and when a term is printed in “*italics*” the definition in the RRS applies.

### A.6 CLASS RULES VARIATIONS

- A.6.1 At Class Events – see RRS 89.1– WS Regulation 10.5(f) applies. At all other events RRS 87 applies.

## **A.7 CLASS RULES AMENDMENTS**

- A.7.1 Submissions for rule changes may be made in writing by the IHCA after consultation with the IHCA Rules Committee.
- A.7.2 Amendments to these **class rules** shall only be made subject to approval of WS in accordance with the WS Regulations.

## **A.8 CLASS RULES INTERPRETATIONS**

- A.8.1 Interpretations of **class rules** shall be made in accordance with the WS Regulations.

## **A.9 INTERNATIONAL CLASS FEE AND WS BUILDING PLAQUE**

- A.9.1 The licensed hull builder shall pay the International Class Fee.
- A.9.2 WS shall, after having received the International Class Fee for the hull, send the WS Building Plaque to the licensed hull builder.

## **A.10 SAIL NUMBERS**

- A.10.1 Sail numbers shall be issued by the HOBIE CAT CO.
- A.10.2 Sail numbers shall be issued in consecutive order.

# **Section B – Boat Eligibility**

For a **boat** to be eligible for *racing*, it shall comply with the rules in this section.

## **B.1 CLASS RULES COMPLIANCE**

- B.1.1 The boat shall be in compliance with the **class rules**.
- B.1.2 In the event of a dispute alleging non-compliance with **class rules** where specific dimensions are not stated, the following procedure shall be adopted:
  - a) A sample of the measurements for the disputed item shall be obtained by taking the identical measurement from five boats or items of equipment, which are not the subject of the dispute.
  - b) The measurement of the disputed boat or items of its equipment taken using the same technique as above shall be compared to the sample.
  - c) If any of the measurements obtained from the disputed boat or item of equipment lie outside the corresponding range of measurements found in the sample, the matter together with the details of the measurement methods and any other relevant information shall be referred to the protest committee.

# PART II – REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

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The **crew** and the **boat** shall comply with the rules in Part II when *racing*. In case of conflict Section C shall prevail.

The rules in Part II are **closed class rules**, where anything not specifically permitted by the **class rules** is prohibited. Any **equipment inspection** shall be carried out in accordance with the ERS except where varied by Part II of these **class rules**.

## Section C – Conditions for Racing

### C.1 GENERAL

#### C.1.1 RULES

- (a) RRS 55.4 shall not apply.
- (b) RRS Appendix G1.3 (c) shall not apply.
- (c) RRS 42.2 is deleted.  
RRS 42.3 is deleted and replaced with:  
42.3 Exceptions
  - (a) To initiate or maintain surfing or planing, the crew may use sudden forward body movement, stopping abruptly (ooching).
  - (b) To initiate or maintain surfing or planing, the crew may fan any sail by pulling in and releasing the sheet or boom or by vertical or athwartship body movement (pumping).
  - (c) After a tack or gybe when the battens are not parallel with the sail, the crew may pull in and release the mainsheet or boom to invert the battens.
  - (d) The crew may roll the boat by use of body movement, repeated adjustment of the sails, or steering (rocking).
  - (e) The crew may make repeated forceful rudder movements to turn the boat (sculling).
  - (f) A boat may reduce speed by repeatedly moving her helm.
  - (g) Any means of propulsion may be used to help a person or another vessel in danger.
  - (h) To get clear after grounding or colliding with another boat or object, a boat may use force applied by the crew of either boat and any equipment.
- (d) The ERS Part I – Use of Equipment shall apply.
- (e) RRS 49.1 is changed to say: Competitors shall use no device designed to position their bodies outboard, other than a trapeze system, hiking straps and stiffeners worn under the thighs.

- (f) RRS Appendix G 1.1 (b) is changed so national letters are not required, if a boat races with her unique Hobie Co. supplied sail number.

## C.1.2 LIMITATIONS

- (a) The Hobie Wild Cat shall only be raced with original or replacement equipment supplied by HOBIE CAT CO, for the Hobie Wild Cat, except where otherwise authorized by these **class rules**.
- (b) Where replacement equipment other than from HOBIE CAT CO is authorized, it may be obtained from any supplier provided that the replacement is of a similar weight, size and type and performs the same function.

## C.2 ADVERTISING

### C.2.1 LIMITATIONS

Advertising shall only be displayed in accordance with the WS Advertising Code. (See WS Regulation 20)

## C.3 CREW

### C.3.1 LIMITATIONS

- (a) The **crew** shall consist of 2 persons.
- (b) No **crew** member shall be substituted during an event without prior written permission from the Race Committee.
- (c) In the event of crew substitution, the total **crew** weight shall be within 5kg over the original weight, unless approved by the Race Committee.
- (d) All **crew** on a **boat** competing at IHCA World or Regional Championships shall be members of the IHCA. At all other events at least one **crew** member on board a competing **boat** shall be a member of the IHCA unless prescribed otherwise in the Notice of Race.

### C.3.2 WEIGHTS

	minimum	maximum
The total weight of the <b>crew</b> dressed in lightweight clothing (such as swim-wear, light underwear or t-shirt (or similar) and shorts) without shoes.	140 kg	-
the total weight carried on the boat to bring <b>crew</b> weight up to the minimum. Corrective weight shall be fixed to the outside of the forward crossbeam and shall be removable for control checking.	-	22.7 kg

### C.3.3 DIVISIONS

- (a) Junior – the **crew** shall be under 16 years of age on 31 December of the year of the event.
- (b) Youth – the **crew** shall be under 21 years of age on 31 December of the year of the event.



- (c) Master – the helmsperson shall be over 45 years of age on 31 December of the year of the event. There are no restrictions on the age of the crew.
- (d) Grand Master – the helmsperson shall be over 55 years of age on 31 December of the year of the event. The crew shall be over 40 years of age on 31 December of the year of the event.

## **C.4 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT**

### **C.4.1 MANDATORY**

- (a) The boat shall be equipped with a **personal flotation device** (PFD)/life jacket at the correct weight category for each crew member to the minimum standard ISO 12402-5 (CE 50 Newtons), or USCG Type III, or Level 50 (previously AUS PFD 2) or Level 50S (previously AUS PFD 3).

### **C.4.2 TOTAL WEIGHT**

In accordance with RRS 50.1(b), the total weight of worn equipment shall not exceed 10 kg.

### **C.4.3 TRAPEZE HARNESS**

- (a) The weight shall not exceed 3.0 kg, as allowed by RRS 50.1
- (b) RRS 50.1(c) is changed as permitted by the rule itself, to allow the use of trapeze harnesses that are not of the quick release variety.

## **C.5 EQUIPMENT**

Replacement or addition of the following items is permitted. Parts may be obtained from any supplier unless otherwise stated.

### **C.5.1 MANDATORY**

#### **(a) FOR USE**

- (1) A righting line of minimum diameter 9.5mm and minimum length 4.9m of line or webbing, or two 2.45m lengths of line or webbing shall be securely attached and readily accessible from each side of the boat. The righting lines or webbing shall be in addition to all other required equipment.

### **C.5.2 OPTIONAL**

#### **(a) FOR USE**

- (1) Compasses or electronic devices that provide timing, heading and heading memory but which do not calculate, transmit, transfer or receive data are permitted including brackets or other ways of attachments. The use of navigation and speed metering equipment is not permitted.
- (2) Water Bottle Holders
- (3) Wind Indicators



## C.6 BOAT

### C.6.1 WEIGHT

	minimum	maximum
The weight of the <b>boat</b> in dry condition excluding optional equipment detailed in C.5.2.	180 kg	-

### C.6.2 CORRECTOR WEIGHTS

- (a) **Corrector weights** of lead shall be permanently fastened while racing to the outside of the forward beam when the **boat** weight is less than the minimum requirement. These correctors shall be removable for the purposes of measurement.

### C.6.3 FLOTATION

- (a) Hull flotation blocks as supplied by the HOBIE CAT CO. shall not be removed or altered in any way.

### C.6.4 ALTERATIONS

No performance advantage shall be obtained from any replacement, addition or repair permitted by these **class rules**.

- (a) Replacements for any **boat** equipment, including but not limited to **hull appendages, rig, sails**, battens, tiller, spinnaker bag frame or fittings, whether original or replacements shall be only those produced by the HOBIE CAT CO except where otherwise authorised by this section.

#### (b) REPLACEMENTS

Replacement of the following items is permitted. Parts shall be of similar specification and may be obtained from any supplier

- (1) Blocks
- (2) Cleats
- (3) Mainsheet swivel base
- (4) Shackles, pins, bobbles
- (5) Inspection hatches
- (6) Tiller extensions
- (7) Rope and lines

Maintenance may include the replacement of fastenings with alternatives from any supplier, provided that the equipment is replaced in the original position.

## C.7 TRAMPOLINE

### C.7.1 LIMITATIONS

- (a) Only mesh and canvas trampolines as manufactured and supplied by the HOBIE CAT CO are permitted.

### C.7.2 CONSTRUCTION

- (a) Storage pockets with closable flaps may be added
- (b) A second set of hiking straps may be added.

- (c) A maximum of four grommets may be added to the trampoline as shown in Appendix 1.

## **C.8 HULL**

### **C.8.1 MODIFICATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

- (a) Repairs and maintenance including but not limited to painting and sanding may be carried out provided repairs are made in such a way that the essential shape, characteristics or function of the original are not affected.
- (b) Waxing and polishing of the **hull** is permitted.
- (c) Repairs are permitted; however, an **official measurer** may verify that the external shape is the same as before the repair and that no substantial stiffness, or other, advantage has been gained as a result of the repair.
- (d) Any work intended or with the effect of lightening the **hull** or improving, shape or performance beyond the original is not permitted.

### **C.8.2 FITTINGS**

- (a) USE
  - (1) All inspection hatch covers shall be kept closed on the water.
  - (2) Fittings shall be arranged as supplied by HOBIE CAT CO.

### **C.8.3 ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO HULL**

The following additions and alterations are permitted. Parts may be obtained from any supplier:

- (a) Non slip material of any kind (maximum thickness 5mm) may be added to the deck.
- (b) Wedges or angled pieces may be fitted under cleats
- (c) Calibration marks,
- (d) Not more than four foot Straps

## **C.9 HULL APPENDAGES**

### **C.9.1 MODIFICATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

- (a) HOBIE CAT CO. supplied **rudder** assemblies, **rudder** blades and **daggerboards** shall not be modified except for minimum filing to improve fit and function.
- (b) Waxing and polishing of the **hull appendages** is permitted.
- (c) Repairs are permitted; however, an **official measurer** may verify that the external shape is the same as before the repair and that no substantial stiffness, or other, advantage has been gained as a result of the repair.
- (d) Anti-chafing and shimming pads may be added to the **daggerboard** trunk and **rudder** assemblies to improve fit and reduce wear.

### **C.9.2 LIMITATIONS**

- (a) **Rudder** blades, **rudder** assemblies and **daggerboards** shall be as supplied by the HOBIE CAT CO.

- (b) Only two **daggerboards** and two **rudder** blades shall be used during an event.

### C.9.3 DAGGERBOARDS

- (a) USE
  - (1) Top edge of the **daggerboard** in the down position shall not extend below the level of the deck into **daggerboard** trunk.

## C.10 RIG

### C.10.1 MODIFICATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Replacement of the following items is permitted. Parts shall be of similar specification and may be obtained from any supplier:

- (a) Cleats
- (b) Sheave blocks

### C.10.2 FITTINGS

The following may be added to the **rig**. Parts may be obtained from any supplier:

- (a) A mechanical wind indication device may be fitted to the top of the **mast** or to the bowsprit.

### C.10.3 LIMITATIONS

- (a) Only one set of **spars** and standing **rigging** shall be used.
- (b) The **mast** shall not be altered in any way except for the attachment of fittings and equipment for flying open class third sails or reefing.

### C.10.4 MAST

- (a) USE
  - (1) A preventer or otherwise known as a positive mast rotator, may be added to keep the mast in rotation, and may be rigged in any manner.
  - (2) Additional mast rotation devices and related control equipment may be installed. Design shall be left open provided it does not structurally weaken the boat.

### C.10.5 BOWSPRIT

Only **bowsprits** supplied by a HOBIE CAT CO are class legal. The **bowsprit** shall be fixed on the longitudinal centreline of the **boat** as provided by the manufacturer. Supporting wires/lines may be shortened, lengthened, mounted and/or rigged in any manner. Additional blocks/cleats for spinnaker running gear and jib luff control as well as snuffer type systems may be mounted on the **bowsprit**.

### C.10.6 STANDING RIGGING

Replacement of the standing **rigging** is permitted. Parts shall be obtained from the HOBIE CAT CO.

- (a) USE

Standing **rigging** shall be arranged as supplied by HOBIE CAT CO.

(b) DIMENSIONS

	minimum	maximum
Forestay bridle wire lengths, measured from bearing point to bearing point.	1200 mm	-

(c) Trapeze wires may have adjustable height.

### C.10.7 RUNNING RIGGING

Replacement of the running **rigging** is permitted. Parts shall be of similar specification and may be obtained from any supplier provided it is of equal strength or better than HOBIE CAT CO supplied components.

(a) USE

- (1) Running **rigging** shall be arranged as supplied by HOBIE CAT CO
- (2) Spinnaker sheet blocks and mounting is open and additional blocks may be added. Additions of snuffer type retrievable systems of any design are allowed.

### C.11 SAILS

#### C.11.1 MODIFICATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

- (a) **Sails** shall not be altered in any way except as permitted by these **class rules**.
- (b) Routine maintenance and repairs are permitted provided the size and shape are not altered.
- (c) Logos may be inserted into spinnakers provided this process does not alter the size or shape.
- (d) Additional stiffening as supplied by the licensed manufacturer may be added to the leech of the mainsail as shown in Appendix 2.

#### C.11.2 LIMITATIONS

- (a) Not more than 1 **mainsail**, 1 **jib**, and 1 spinnaker shall be carried aboard.
- (b) 1 **mainsail**, 1 **jib** and 1 gennaker shall be used during an event except when a **sail** has been lost or damaged beyond repair. A replacement may be made, only with the approval of the Race Committee.
- (c) Tell tales are permitted.

#### C.11.3 DIMENSIONS

	minimum	maximum
<b>Headsail</b> area		4.15m <sup>2</sup>

	minimum	maximum
Gennaker area		21m <sup>2</sup>

#### **C.11.4 MAINSAIL IDENTIFICATION**

- (a) The sail number shall be displayed on each side of the mainsail in accordance with the RRS Appendix G.
- (b) The Class Insignia shall be the Hobie logo as prescribed by the HOBIE CAT CO, and shall be displayed near the head.

## **Section D – Hull**

### **D.1 PARTS**

#### **D.1.1 MANDATORY**

- (a) **Hulls**
- (b) Cross Beams

### **D.2 GENERAL**

#### **D.2.1 RULES**

- (a) The **hull** shall comply with the **class rules** in force at the time of manufacture.

#### **D.2.2 MODIFICATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

- (a) The **hulls** and beams shall not be altered in any way except as permitted by Section C of these **class rules**.
- (b) If any **hull** moulding is repaired in a way other than that described in Section C, it shall be carried out by a licensed builder. The external shape shall remain the same as before the repair and no substantial stiffness, or other advantage shall be gained as a result of the repair.

#### **D.2.3 IDENTIFICATION**

- (a) The **hull** shall carry the WS Plaque permanently placed on the transom.

#### **D.2.4 BUILDERS**

- (a) The **hull** shall be built by a manufacturer licensed by the HOBIE CAT CO to produce hulls.
- (b) All production moulds used for **hull** manufacture shall be approved by the HOBIE CAT CO.

### **D.3 HULLS**

- D.3.1** The **hulls** shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.

### **D.4 TRAMPOLINE**

#### **D.4.1 MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION**

- (a) The trampoline shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.

## **D.5 ASSEMBLED HULL**

### **D.5.1 FITTINGS**

- (a) Hull fittings shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture except when altered, added or replaced as permitted by Section C of these **class rules**.

## **Section E – Hull Appendages**

### **E.1 PARTS**

#### **E.1.1 MANDATORY**

- (a) **Daggerboards**
- (b) **Rudders**

### **E.2 GENERAL**

#### **E.2.1 RULES**

- (a) **Hull appendages** shall comply with the **class rules** in force at the time of **certification**.

#### **E.2.2 MODIFICATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

- (a) Hull appendages shall not be altered in any way except as permitted by Section C of these class rules.

#### **E.2.3 MANUFACTURERS**

- (a) The **daggerboards**, **rudder** blades and **rudder** stock/tiller shall be made only by a manufacturer licensed by the HOBIE CAT CO to produce these.

### **E.3 DAGGERBOARDS**

- E.3.1** The **daggerboards** shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.

### **E.4 RUDDER BLADE, RUDDER STOCK AND TILLER**

- E.4.1** The rudder blades and rudder stock/tiller assembly shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.

## **Section F – Rig**

### **F.1 PARTS**

#### **F.1.1 MANDATORY**

- (a) **Mast**
- (b) **Boom**
- (c) **Standing rigging**
- (d) **Running rigging**
- (e) **Bowsprit**

## F.2 GENERAL

### F.2.1 RULES

- (a) The **spars** and their fittings shall comply with the **class rules** in force at the time of manufacture of the **spar**.
- (b) The standing and running **rigging** shall comply with the current **class rules**.

### F.2.2 MODIFICATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

- (a) **Spars** shall not be altered in any way except as permitted by Section C of these **class rules**.

### F.2.3 DEFINITIONS

- (a) MAST DATUM POINT

The **mast datum point** is the point on the centreline of the **mast** spar on the aft face at the bottom of the mast extrusion.

### F.2.4 MANUFACTURER

- (a) **Spars** and their fittings shall be made only by a manufacturer licensed by the HOBIE CAT CO to produce spars.

## F.3 MAST

- F.3.1 The **mast spar** and its fittings shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture of the **spar**.

### F.3.2 DIMENSIONS

	minimum	maximum
<b>Spinnaker hoist height</b>		8150 mm
<b>Spinnaker halyard bearing surface distance from mast spar</b>		70 mm



## **F.4 BOOM**

**F.4.1** The **boom spar** and its fittings shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.

## **F.5 BOWSPRIT**

**F.5.1** The **bowsprit** and its fittings shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.

## **F.6 STANDING RIGGING**

**F.6.1** The **standing rigging** and its fittings shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.

### **F.6.2 MATERIALS**

- (a) The standing rigging shall be of stranded stainless steel with the exception of bowsprit bridles and trapeze, which may be line of any material.

### **F.6.3 CONSTRUCTION**

#### **(a) MANDATORY**

- (1) Trapeze wires of stranded stainless steel wire or line of any material, of minimum diameter of 2.5 mm.

#### **(b) OPTIONAL**

- (1) The bowsprit bridles may be line of any material and of minimum diameter of 2.5 mm.

## **F.7 RUNNING RIGGING**

**F.7.1** The **running rigging** and its fittings shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.

# **Section G – Sails**

## **G.1 PARTS**

### **G.1.1 MANDATORY**

- (a) **Mainsail**
- (b) **Headsail**
- (c) Gennaker

## **G.2 GENERAL**

### **G.2.1 RULES**

- (a) **Sails** shall comply with the **class rules** in force at the time of manufacture.

## **G.2.2 SAILMAKER**

- (a) The **sails** shall be made only by a manufacturer licensed by the HOBIE CAT CO to produce sails.

## **G.3 MAINSAIL**

### **G.3.1 CONSTRUCTION**

The **mainsail** shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.

## **G.4 HEADSAIL**

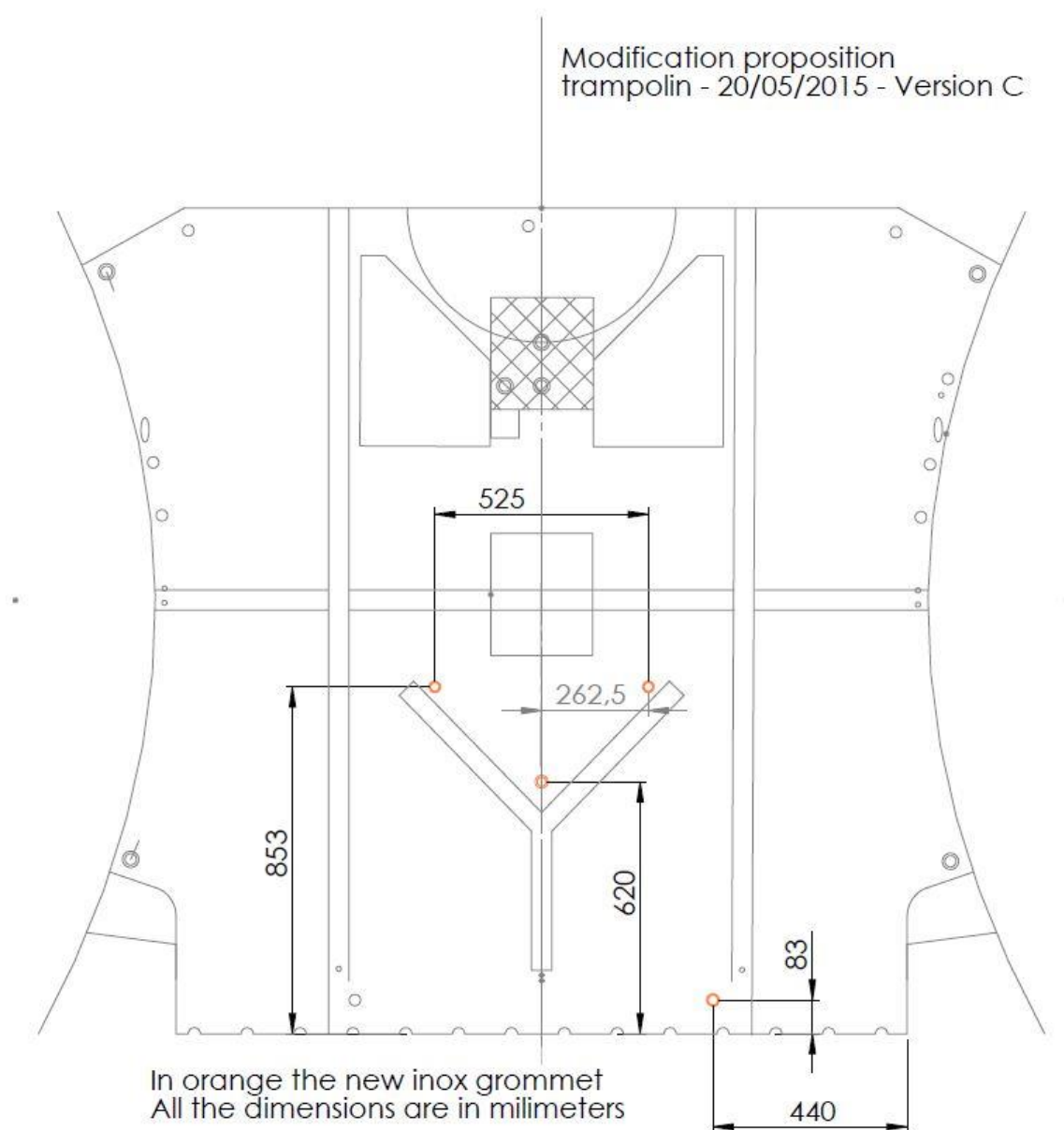
### **G.4.1 CONSTRUCTION**

The **headsail** shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.

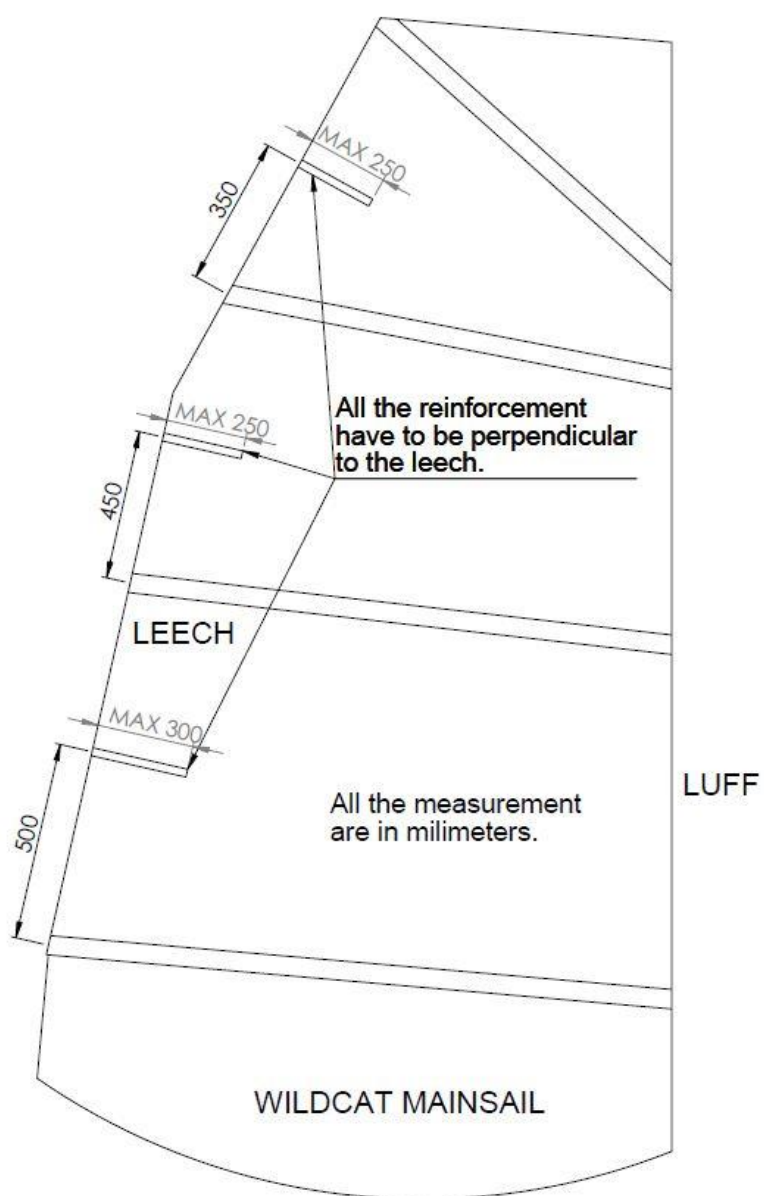
## **G.5 GENNAKER**

### **G.5.1 CONSTRUCTION**

The gennaker shall comply with the Building Specification in force at the time of manufacture.



Appendix 2 to the Hobie Wildcat Class Rules.



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