



2023

Class Rule Changes

Class rule changes - the process from idea/problem to implementation.

1. Introduction to the rules governing the class rule change process etc.

GENERAL CLASS RULE 23 & 24

23. RULE INTERPRETATIONS

Valid questions regarding the design or the specifications of the boats and these rules may be ruled on an interim basis by the IHCA Rules Committee Chair or the IHCA Rules Committee Chair designee.

Interim rulings, as needed, shall be accepted, rejected or modified by the IHCA Rules Committee and ratified by the IHCA International Council and approved by the WORLD SAILING before achieving permanent status in the IHCA Class Rules.

24. RULE AMENDMENTS

24.1 Suggestions, recommendations, or requests for changes to design or specifications of the boats, rule additions, deletions or amendments, shall be submitted in writing to the IHCA Rules Committee. The proposals will be reviewed by the Rules Committee, and if found to have merit, be distributed for comment to: Hobie Cat sailors; IHCA International Council members; IHCA Regional Associations; and other interested parties. Following the comment period, the IHCA Rules Committee will make a rule recommendation and submit it to the IHCA International Council for consideration. The Council shall accept or reject the Rules Committee recommendation and submit IHCA approved changes to the WORLD SAILING for approval. Interim or emergency rulings made by the Rules Committee Chair or Rules Committee as a whole will use the same approval procedure as outlined herein before they receive approved rule status.

24.2 Any proposed changes to design or specifications of the boats, new class rules, rule changes or amendments requesting comments, and all new rules and interpretations shall be announced in one or more of the following ways:



- a) *An international mailing or individual Email to all IHCA members for General Rule changes, or international mailings or individual Email to individual boat class owners for rules only impacting the individual class.*
- b) *Prominent display on the IHCA web page requesting comment from Hobie Cat sailors and other interested parties.*

2. Getting the idea or facing a problem.

Define what it is about and what class rules it may involve.

3. How to make a class rule change request/submission (content)

If a matter of interpretation send the question to the IHCA Rules Committee, who will try to answer it as soon as possible.

If a change request, submit it in writing to the IHCA Rules Committee. A change request should as a minimum include the following items:

- Proposal
- Reason for change

4. Rules Committee review

The Rules Committee reviews all submissions/requests and considers whether they have merit or not. Submissions requesting major changes (e.g., weight or upgrade issues) are normally required to have the support from at least one IHCA Region (e.g., EHCA) to have merit.

Submissions/requests found to have merit are prepared for comment period.

5. Comment period.

Submissions/requests considered to have merit are posted for comments on the IHCA website.

6. Comment review & Rules Committee recommendation to the IHCA Council

The Rules Committee reviews all comments and produces a recommendation to the Council.



7. IHCA Council decision

The Council considers the recommendation from the Rules Committee and decides whether the proposed change shall be accepted or rejected.

8. World Sailing approval (*applies to the World Sailing Hobie classes only*)

All changes to class rules and/or boat specifications prepared in common understanding between the manufacturers and the IHCA are subject to screening and approval by World Sailing before going into effect.

Click [here](#) for World Sailing Class Rule Change Procedure.

9. Notification to sailors/members

Approved changes shall be notified to sailors by web postings and/ or e-mail.

10. Implementation

Changes to rules or specifications are normally implemented either April or October as this is considered the best time in between Northern/Southern hemisphere seasons.

How to stay tuned on class rule matters?

Click [here](#) to sign up for the IHCA Newsletter and you will automatically receive an e-mail with IHCA news including updates on class rule matters.

Always feel free to send an e-mail to rules@hobieclass.com if any questions. We will then respond as soon as possible.

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