



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT AGM 2023

The IODA Technical Committee which has been elected by the members comprise of Jean Luc Gauthier from France, Curly Morris from Ireland, Ale Williman from Uruguay with Conxa our Prototype Measurer from Spain and chaired by myself, Olive Parker, from Ireland. The TC must acknowledge the support we have received from Fiona Kidd, IODA General Secretary and Susan Elliott Beatty, Regatta Secretary.

So what does the IODA TC do? We meet at least once a year in person, at least virtually bi-monthly and during the event season we meet using virtual communications on a regular basis. We are responsible for ensuring the class is a One Design Class and stays a One Design Class. We are all also involved in the Optimist Classes in our own regions, countries and clubs. We regularly review the class rules. We carry out Fundamental measurement at some of our non-charter events such as Worlds and Europeans. This we use as an indirect quality control to ensure builders are sticking to our class rules. Our Prototype measurer carries out inspections at our boat builders of which we have 33 active boat builders worldwide. We are fully active at all IODA events, inspecting each competitor's boat to ensure sailors sail safely, educating sailors and coaches, and ensuring all competitors compete on an equal footing. Such inspections result in approximately 1000 boat inspections yearly, without counting inspection at factors etc. We are constantly liaising with our stakeholders – boat builders, sail makers, spar and foil manufactures striving to give the competitors the best equipment available to drive the class forward.

Fundamental Measurement

We ensure we have measurers qualified to carry out detailed fundamental measurement at events such as Worlds and Europeans. This allows us to randomly check boats where we have not been able to visit at factories and ensuring boat builders are staying within our class rules. Since 2022 we have carried out these controls on approximately 30 boats from builders using 30 different moulds.

Since 2021 we have carried out inspections in 4 factories approved 1 set of new moulds.

The Technical Committee has been working alongside the Regatta Secretary in implementing a paperless measurement system and we are now working on a project to eliminate all paper such as Sail Measurement Forms, Registration and Measurement Books, and we will work together with builders and Sail Makers to have a central data system for all certificates. This is an exciting project which we hope to launch in early 2024 which will store all certificates digitally and all members, sail makers, builders and associations will be able to log into to retrieve the data. We hope to place RFID tags on all equipment and

hulls so this data can be accessed by all and therefore eliminate all paper at events from the measurement side of things.

The training of class measurers around the world is an important project the Technical Committee partakes in. This year we held a measurement clinic in Peru in SAMS and we are now in regular contact with the participants to support them and help measurement in their regions. We are planning more seminars with our VPs and working with them to ensure we can have a minimum of one measurer competent in each country to assist with the class rules. We ask if any country needs assistance with training measurers to contact either the Technical Committee or their VP's so we can communicate with them. We are starting to see progress with this project with Ale Williman working as Chief Measurer at this event and we are building on training measurers in North and South American where we have had a fall off of measurers in the past. Our attendance at events and streamlining our briefing to sailors at events and our presence in the boat park is aimed to help to educate sailors.

Another job which is important for the TC is the reviewing of our class measurement templates we bring with us to events. We have upgraded most of our templates which are now lighter to travel with and reduces the cost for organisers as we can now rent this equipment and reuse these at events. This also allows us to provide more efficient and cost effect support at events.

What is the plan for the TC? We will continue with the development of the Paperless Measurement System, which not only helps with measurement to enable us to control the spars and foil manufacturers with the new IODA sticker. We will continue to review the class rules and talk with coaches and builders to do this. We will continue with our measurement seminars. We have and will continue to improve communications with everyone with the introduction of our Question and Answer section on the IODA website. We are constantly looking are more cost effective and sustainable ways of boat building. And we will continue to develop communication between sailors/coaches and the TC. We would like to look at ways we can reduce plastic and waste with the class.

The future of the Optimist is all of our responsibility and we must constantly review the class to ensure we stay competitive with other classes. We are the largest one design class and the TC will continue to develop this and not assume we will survive without looking at all options. We are liaising with several builders to review the materials used to build the IODA95 Optimist and looking at sustainable options, improving materials together with keeping costs down and introducing new builders worldwide.



Olive Parker

Technical Committee Chairperson

June 2023