

R350 – a new vision

A discussion emerged amongst the Technical Sub-committee (TSC) regarding the future development of Raceboard hulls and there came a suggestion that the class rules should include a minimum length for a production raceboard ie 350cm.

There has been an understanding for many years that racing hybrid boards (300cm or less) on the same course as a "longboard" was not practical or realistic; it therefore made sense to suggest a minimum length.

Youth racing in raceboard class, on longboards, has almost disappeared
There is a "void" perhaps last filled by the Mistral One-Design.

What is needed is a less expensive, more durable, widely available (built in many countries) longboard.

From FRA Raceboard Association

"To discuss the possibility to promote youth in raceboard by a 'tender' for a raceboard, with cheap price, robust, 270/300 litre, glass fibre / epoxy and 380, possibly 350 cm. 350 was already suggested in a mail discussion of TSC. That would be very favourable to attract youth. This alternative product is missing to direct a new dynamic in Raceboard by Youth toward clubs. We have hundreds of youth who race in Bic Techno, hundreds people who race in raceboard..... and only very few young people between 20-25 years old (excepted the one in RS:X).

This 20-25 range is very critical... and we must focus a maximum of resources to feed it with attractive solutions, firstly by a good board that Youth could enjoy and keep a long time to continue to sail and race.

Length and volume are critical parameters to have fun to sail everywhere by everybody. Only long boards with volume above 250/270L can contribute to this definition."

From ESP Raceboard Association

"In order to open the Raceboard Class to as many new sailors as possible, and mainly youth and young sailors, we suggest that the Technical Sub-Committee prepares a draft with the specifications for a competitive priced, robust, 270/300 Litre, glass fibre / epoxy, 350-380 length board. Once specifications are set, make them public so that any interested manufacturer can market this kind of product.

Reasoning: lack of youth and young Raceboard sailors, Bic Techno Plus is not an option for many of them, RSX will not be an Olympic class anymore in the near future, currently manufactured Raceboards are too expensive, fragile and complicated to repair. Thus this is a unique opportunity to promote Raceboard for younger sailors."

White Board an option

This new vision could also be open to the "white board" concept, where a major designer/producer, offers the board design/produced board to other brands.

Submissions

R350A - To support the introduction of a new R350 Class, and instruct the Committee to take action, on the basis of principles outlined by FRA/ESP RB Associations.

R350B - To instruct the Committee to bring forward to the next AGM proposals for the development of the R350 principles outlined by FRA/ESP RB Associations that may include the development of a new racing class.