

Zephyr Class Rule Interpretations

Updated 27 November 2025

Zephyr Class Rule

1.1

The Zephyr is a One Design Class. For hull shells, sails and spars, Closed Class rules apply and for these items, anything not specifically permitted by the class rules is prohibited.

Source: - Graeme Robinson ZOA Exec meeting October 2018 – quoted from World Sailing Measurers Manual.

Hulls

Part 2 and Part 3

No alteration to the hull as supplied shall be permitted except as provided for herein.

For the **Mackay Boats GRP** hulls the following initial purchase options are available: -

A choice of mainsheet traveller, rope bridle or hoop assembly.

Two stern scuppers may be installed during the build by Mackay Boats. Scuppers are not to be retro fitted by owners.

Rudder gudgeon fittings are optional, provided attachment is via bolt fastenings through the internal plywood re-enforcing. Gudgeons glued and moulded to the hull are not permitted.

Deck cleat brands are optional.

2.1.2

Minimum weight of the completed hull, including the following fittings, shall be 58kgs. Included fittings are: - chain plates, fixed rudder fittings, cleats, hiking straps, buoyancy bags, blocks, mainsheet take off system, control lines including vang, cunningham, outhaul, traveller and forestay control lines, compass, drink bottle holder. Excluded are: - mainsheet, centreboard, rudder and all items that rotate with the rudder, gear bags, loose bailers, sponges, drink bottles.

For the purposes of this rule 'fittings' includes the items that are specifically listed, even those not 'fixed'. Rudder fittings fastened to the hull (fixed with bolts, screws or rivets) or bonded to the hull (fixed with glues, resins etc.) are part of the hull when it is weighed. A pintle permanently fixed to its associated transom-mounted bracket is deemed to be a part of the hull for weighing purposes. A pintle that is not fixed to the associated bracket is not permitted to be included in the hull weight.

Source: - ZOA Exec Ruling 23 Aug 2021.

The gear bag is not considered a water bottle holder for the purposes of weighing.

Source: - ZOA Exec Ruling 20 Feb 2023.

Decorative carbon fibre and fittings made from carbon fibre

2.1.6

Clear-coated carbon cloth added for aesthetic enhancement is permitted. Examples: -

Deck rub pads, chain plate surrounds, centre thwart wrapping, gunwale wrapping, coaming sheathing, centre case capping and mast-hole trim-wraps.

Any carbon fitting, either fastened to or moulded into hulls is permitted. Examples: -

Rudder stocks, tillers, tiller extensions, fixed rudder fittings, transom venturi flaps, transom handles, chain plates, mounting brackets, mainsheet take off systems, block mountings, hiking strap fixtures, control line tubing and commercially available fittings with carbon content.

Rule ballot 2019

Other carbon usage

Existing carbon fitted to hulls not otherwise prescribed within the rules but deemed by the Chief Measurer and Exec to be non-performance enhancing may be eligible for dispensation.

Rule 1.10.14 provides a boat-by-boat assessment process.

Some existing examples - but not limited to: -

Patch repairs, side tank to hull joint taping, bulkhead to hull joint taping, mast step web taping and any carbon application similar to the decorative carbon as described above but painted.

Application for dispensation shall be submitted to the ZOA Secretary along with a description of the carbon usage.

Applications will be referred to the Chief Measurer who will assess each boat on its individual merits.

Side-stay chainplates

Originally, Zephyr side-stay chainplates were bolted through the cockpit front deck beam. By the late 1950s they were permitted 172 mm forward of this beam. In 1998 the measuring of chainplates transferred to the transom, but their maximum forward location remained the same.

2.8.1 and 3.1.3

The 2371 mm measurement from the aft face of the transom must be measured parallel to the waterline. For measuring purposes, the bow is approximately 140mm above the transom's deck centreline and this line is approximately parallel to the waterline.

Source: - 1956 Townson lines drawing.

Bulkheads

2.10.2 also 2.1.1 and 5.5.3

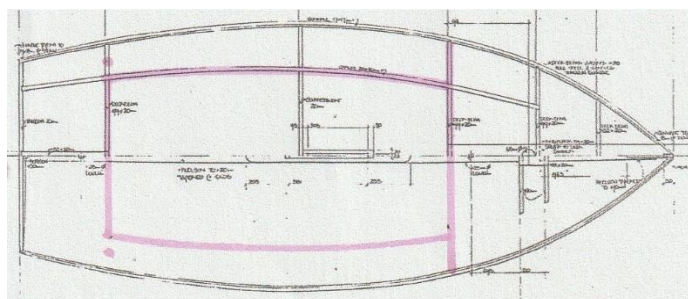
Bulkheads and buoyancy tanks are permitted and recommended and may enclose the whole or part of the area covered by the deck.

From 1956 to 2020 Zephyrs were fitted with plywood bulkheads, most being owner or boatbuilder installed. The 600 series hull bulkheads were fitted by Salthouse Boats to a configuration specified by the ZOA.

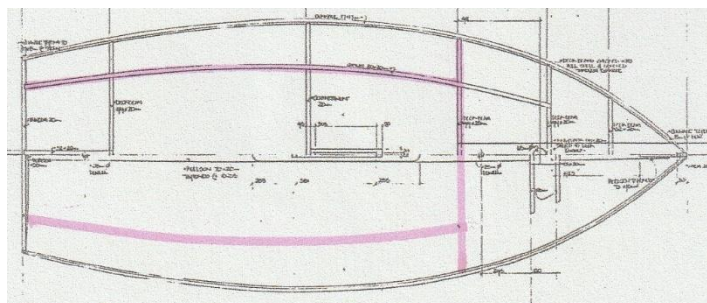
Class practice has been a combination of bulkhead configurations as detailed below. During refurbishment owners are permitted to reposition or reconfigure bulkheads to these combinations. Salthouse 600 series hulls may similarly be repositioned.

Mackay Boats 700 series hulls are covered by Rule 4.3.4 and reconfiguring bulkheads are not permitted.

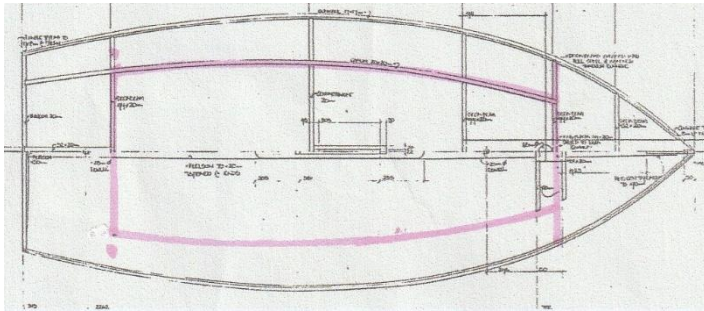
Source: ZOA Executive meeting Aug 2022



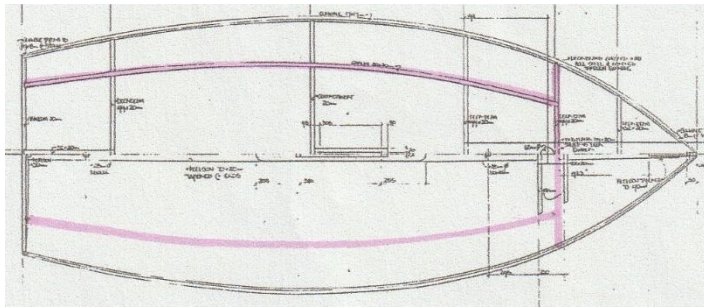
Full width bulkhead front of cockpit.
Full or partial width rear cockpit bulkhead.
Adjoining side tanks.



Full width bulkhead front of cockpit.
Side tanks from bulkhead to transom.



Full width bulkhead forward of mast
Full or partial width rear cockpit bulkhead.
Adjoining side tanks.



Full width bulkhead forward of mast
Side tanks from bulkhead to transom.

Masts

4.1.2

The maximum overall length of the mast shall be 5640mm, measured from the bearing surface of the halyard sheave to the point of contact with the mast step fitting.

The bearing surface of the halyard sheave is the lower edge of the halyard when elevated 90° to the spar. This is also described in World Sailing's procedure for determining the spinnaker hoist height as described in the Equipment Rules of Sailing.

4.1.3

Aluminium masts shall be supplied by a manufacturer to a specification approved by the ZOA Committee.

The masthead sheave box is welded to the top end of a tapered aluminium tube and therefore is part of the mast supplied under Class Rules, Part 7

The mast sheave box cannot be modified from that supplied by a manufacturer, other than to remove any surplus aluminium above the extrusion sail track that would otherwise prevent the sail from being fully raised to the underside of the halyard sheave.

Cutting the supplied mast to length off the bottom is permitted to ensure that the overall length complies with Class Rule 4.1.2.

Source: - Graeme Robinson and ZOA Exec, August 2021.

A sealant may be added between the mast sheave box and the top end of the tapered aluminium tube section if required to prevent water entry at this joint area.

Halyards

A Halyard complying with YNZ Safety regulations shall be fitted.

YNZ Centreboard Classes Safety Regulation Part 1

Yachts shall be fitted with a quick release mechanism (not a bolt, lashing or screw shackle), or a halyard, which allows the mainsail to be lowered from both the deck and the masthead, or, in the case of a pocket luff sail or rigid aerofoil, a mechanism which allows the entire rig to be lowered quickly and easily.

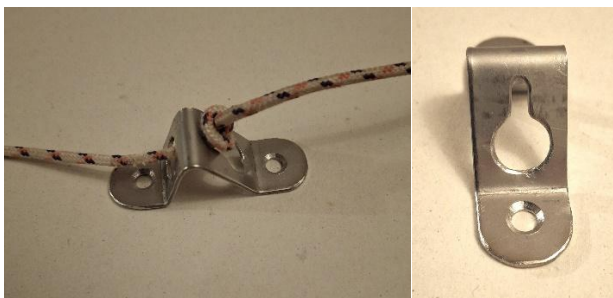
The overwhelming majority of Zephyrs are fitted with masthead halyard locks (Ronstan) that may be interpreted to comply or not comply depending on reader interpretation. ZOA policy is to accept the Ronstan style of lock is probably compliant.

The following are options for consideration that would enable sail lowering afloat from within the cockpit.



▲ Flick release halyard lock

This home-made fitting is capable of in-cockpit release with a quick pull-down and flick release. The sharp prong ends are shielded by either a stainless fitting or foam glued to the mast wall.



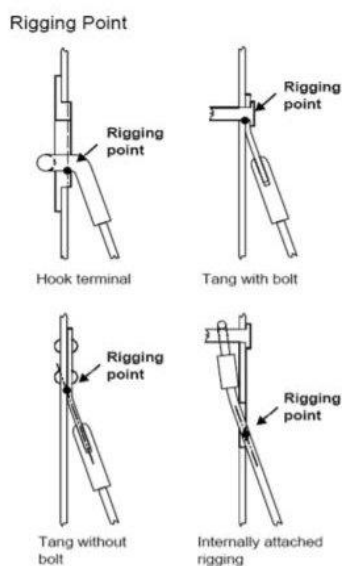
▲ Inverted Keyhole

Home-made with mounting screw holes at identical centres to the Ronstan fitting. Pulling down on halyard from inside the cockpit disengages halyard knot via keyhole, thus releasing halyard.

The halyard shall be wholly external to the mast. An internal halyard is not permitted. External halyards enable masts to be built watertight to assist recovery after capsizing.

Stays

For the purposes of establishing a stay intersection with the mast, a 'Rigging Point' is defined as: -



Rigging Point

For a hook terminal, the rigging point is the lower bearing surface where the hook rests on the mast cutout.

For a tang attached to the mast with a bolt, the rigging point is the lower face of the bolt.

For a tang without a bolt, the rigging point is the point where the stay extension intersects with the mast.

For internally attached stays, the rigging point is the location where the stay and the outside surface of the mast intersect.

World Sailing Measurers Manual, Section J, para 7

Booms

4.2.2

A sail that has been intentionally pulled from the remaining boom track violates class rules 1.1 and 3.2.2. The sail boltrope must remain within the adjacent sail track.

Source: - Graeme Robinson November 2020

Items Not Permitted

3.8

Carbon fibre sheathing of hulls is not permitted.

Ruling: - Prohibited by the ZOA Executive in June 2012 and reaffirmed at a ZOA Executive meeting in Oct 2018.

Incorporated in Class Rules, October 2019.

Electronic Aids

4.9.2

Watches, and fitness devices that incorporate other features such as position and course tracking etc., and cameras are permitted, provided that data from such devices cannot be accessed on board when racing or between racing. Establishing and accessing information on the starting line and locations of marks using electronic devices is prohibited while racing.

The Raymarine TO60 Tacktick Micro Compass complies with the Class Rules. It provides information on count-down and compass headings only. The tactical mode only provides heading information, and, while the tacking angle can be changed to suit the boat tacking angles in various wind speeds, that is no more than reading the lubber lines on an analogue compass, such as several in the Silva bulkhead and flush mount compass range.

Source: - Graeme Robinson, confirmed ZOA Exec Ruling 27 May 2024

Hull Shell

5.3.3

GRP Salthouse built hulls must have a not less than 9mm plywood transom doubler. Substitution with a composite doubler is not permitted. Glass fibre covering over wood or plywood is permitted.

Rule: 5.3.3 and 2.1.4

Framing Timbers

5.4

The transom can either be made from 19 mm clear timber or 18 mm plywood. No composite panel material or combination of plywood and clear timber is permitted.

Source: - Graeme Robinson May 2019, confirmed ZOA Exec email vote 2019

5.4

These items shall be made in accordance with the plans and patterns supplied by the ZOA but can be modified up to a 5 mm radius on the exposed edges.

Hole-saw lightening of deck beams, keelson or king planks is not permitted. These holes represent a modification to the 'as-supplied' status of a hull and contravene various clauses contained in class rules 5.4 and 5.5.

The non-compliant component can either be replaced or the holes filled with solid timber plugs.

Source: - Graeme Robinson Feb 2018 and July 2021.