

XOD MAST GATE ADJUSTMENT 2012 as amended at the 2011 AGM

Following agreement at the 2011 XOD AGM, it will be necessary for **all** owners to ensure that their mast gate corresponds to the new measurement before racing in 2012. For all those boats needing a five yearly check, I encourage our Technical Representatives to ensure compliance while they are checking everything else. If any other boats can be checked as well, that will be all to the good.

The new rule limits the forward position of the mast at any time to no less than 1880mm (6'2") aft of the stem measured at deck level. In practice this means the forward face of the mast gate which can be checked and set up without the mast needing to be present. The distance is measured from the forward face of the vertical wooden stem, any metal capping is to be ignored. Measuring from the top of the stem over the coaming and horizontally to above the gate will be sufficiently accurate. (Those boats with the stem post missing should set up a block 70mm (2.5") high at the bow to locate the end of the tape measure.) Stretch the tape aft and use a try square (or a book) to project up from the deck to meet the tape measure at 180mm (6'2"). Any gap that needs filling requires a suitable permanently fixed block inserted. Assuming that any beam that has been previously cut has already been strengthened on its forward side, there is no need to do anything more substantial.

The after limit of the aft face of the mast is at 2134mm (7'0") from the bow. I encourage all boats to have some permanent visible marker at each side of the gate to definite the aft limit of mast adjustment. Paint, copper nails, small screws or similar will do. That will help setting up the rig when afloat. Whilst you can block off the gate at 7'0" don't forget any halyards and the kicking strap that might be compromised.

This new requirement will limit the amount of mast rake variation whilst racing. Within that limit of adjustment, owners can chose the ratio of forward and aft movement to suit their preference. The chosen position for the heel of the mast must continue to be fixed after the optimum position has been selected. I trust this alteration to your boat will be simple and effective.

Tony Monks

XOD TAC Chairman
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21 Longmeadow Gardens
Birdham
Chichester
PO20 7HP

Tel: 01243. 512881
ahmonks@yahoo.co.uk