

OFFICIAL SPECIFICATIONS

June 1953

MERCURY CLASS YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1 - EXPLANATIONS

Requirements. A yacht, its spars, hull rigging, and sails must conform strictly throughout with respect to design, dimensions, construction, and material, to official plans and specifications of the Mercury Class Racing Association. A yacht, its spars, hull or rigging, which was constructed before January 25, 1947, may continue to use its equipment if doing so does not conflict with the restrictions placed on the use of such equipment in the following articles.

The Association's measurements certificate is the only recognized proof of eligibility to the Mercury Class and infringement of the following specifications subjects a boat to remeasurement and voiding of the original certificate. In case of variance between the specifications and the plans of the Mercury Class, the specifications shall be supreme.

ARTICLE 11 - HULL

A. Dimensions

1. Length over all	18' 1" maximum	--- 17' 11" minimum
2. Beam at deck	5' 5" maximum	--- 5' 3" minimum
3. Waterline	13'	Approx.
4. Draft	3' 1"	Approx.

B. Construction

1. Keelson - of hardwood 1 1/4" as per plan
2. Deadwood - douglas fir as per plan
3. Planking - 3/8" plywood
4. Transon - 3/4" plywood or hardwood
5. Stem - suitable hardwood
6. Frames - 3/4" plywood
The boat must have chine pieces, clamps, frames, deck beams, knees, etc., as specified in the plans and of the dimensions therein specified. Frames may not be lightened by boring holes or by any other means.
7. Filletes on keel not allowed.

C. Deck

1. The deck must be planked with plywood at least 3/8" in thickness. Beams must be 1 3/4" throughout.
2. King plank and covering board optional and deck may be canvas covered.
3. The deck at its narrowest point opposite the cockpit shall not be less than 12" nor more than 15".

C. Deck - continued

4. Crown of the deck at the mast partner shall be as per plan.
5. Deck beams may not be altered to lighten boat.

D. Cabin, Optional

E. Fastenings

1. Any type metal, excluding aluminum or magnesium.

F. Mast Step

1. Mast may be stepped on Keelson or on Block between Frame 3 & 4, forward Face of mast to be aft of after edge of #3 Frame. Block cannot be more than 2" higher than center of Frame #3 at the step.

G. Lead Keel

1. Must be cast of lead and from the master mold of the designer, Ernest Nuses, or from a pattern taken directly therefrom. The weight of keel shall not exceed 620#.
2. No inside ballast permitted.

H. Tiller - to have metal jaw, to be fitted and fastened securely to rudder post, diameter as per plan.

I. Rudder Post - Metal 1" O.D.

1. Rudder to be shaped as per plan. Rudder must be made of wood only. Built up hollow rudders may be filled with pitch if desired. No leading of rudders shall be allowed.

ARTICLE 111 - SPARS

A. Spars - as per sails plan.

B. Mast

1. Height from deck to top of halyard sheave not more than 24' 2-1/2".
2. Mast must be solid and made of wood.
3. No mast shall be stepped on deck.
4. No revolving masts.
5. No mechanical devices for moving the mast step or mast partner shall be allowed.
6. Mast may be slotted to take sail bolt rope and slot is not to exceed 5/8" in diameter.
7. The mast shall have at least one pair, but not more than three pair of painted or varnished horizontal bands, the distance between the lower edge of the upper band and the upper edge of the lower band of the same pair shall not exceed 21 feet 11 inches.

C. Boom

1. Length shall not exceed 9' 3" from after face or mast. Maximum depth of boom, no matter what type, shall not exceed 3" at any point. The boom shall not be less than 1-1/8" thick throughout and not more than 3" deep at its maximum point. Round boom shall not be less than 1-3/4" in diameter, slot not to exceed 5/8". Loose footed mainsail not permitted.
2. The boom shall have one vertical painted or varnished band the forward edge of which shall not be more than 9 feet 1 inch from the after face of the mast.

The bands mentioned in Sections B and C of this Article must be of the color contrasting materially with the color of the mast and boom.

D. Whisker Pole - No restriction on length.

When in use, the inboard end must be held to mast.

ARTICLE IV

- A. Jib Stay - Jib stay shall intersect mast at a point 17' 5" ~~± 4"~~ above deck. Jib stay shall intersect deck at a point from forward part of stem to a point 8" aft on the center line. Center of Halyard sheave pin may not be farther than two inches from face of mast.
- B. Turnbuckles - Must be fastened to fixed chain plates either above or below deck.
- C. Stays - All boast must be rigged as per plan.
Size - Minimum sizes:

Jib Stay	3/32"
Back Stay	1/16"
Jumper Shroud	1/16"
Lower Shroud	3/32"
Spreader Shroud	1/16"

All stays must be fastened permanently to chain plates or eye bolts and tangs or through bolts on mast.

ARTICLE V

- A. Sails - standard mainsail and jib only.

To be of 3 oz. minimum cotton, orlon, or equivalent material. Nylon sails made before 8/1/53, accepted.

- B. Mainsail -

1. Foot 8' 10" Maximum
Luff 21' 5" Maximum
Leach 22' 6" Maximum

B. 1. continued.

Roach - Limitation 5' 11", from a point one-half the length of the luff to a point one-half the length of the leach, the distance along these two points to the outer edge of the sail shall not exceed 5' 11".

Headboard in mainsail shall not exceed 6" at its greatest width.

2. The entire mainsail at all times must be between the lower edge of one of the upper mast bands and the upper edge of the corresponding lower mast band and, in addition, must not be aft of the forward edge of the band on the boom.

Battens - these only shall be allowed.

Top batten	1' 10"	Maximum
Center batten	2' 6"	Maximum
Lower batten	2' 2"	Maximum

C. Jib

Foot	7'	6"	Maximum
Luff	15'	7"	Maximum
Leach	14'	7"	Maximum

No headboard allowed in Jib.

No battens allowed in Jib.

All sails shall be stretched at 3 lbs. pull on all three corners at the same time to measure. Sails must be dry to touch at time of measuring.

ARTICLE VI - OPTIONALS

1. Rudder post may be such that tiller is above or below deck as desired.
2. Water tight bulkheads optional.

ARTICLE VII

1. There shall not be more nor less than two persons aboard during a race.
2. An anchor with 50' of 3/8" (minimum) line shall be carried. Anchor - 4½ lbs. Minimum; 30 lbs. Maximum.
3. Life preservers - each boat shall have a life preserver or buoyant cushion for each person aboard.
4. One paddle or oar shall be carried.
5. One adequate bailing can or pump.