

Merlin Rocket Class Rule Interpretation – March 2018

The following interpretation is supplement to the 2017 Merlin Rocket Class Rules (Effective 1 September 2017) and shall remain in force until a subsequent version of the class rules are approved and published on the RYA website.

Question: Is it possible to add a fairing on to a Merlin Rocket to fill the gap between the kicker, boom and mast, with the aim to reduce turbulence?

Answer: No.

- The RYA Technical Committee have agreed that the addition of fairing around the mast/boom/kicker constitutes an additional sail (that is not included in the measured area of the mainsail).
- The additional fairing is not included as part of the mainsail, it is not a headsail or spinnaker, but it would fall into the category of another sail not permitted (see below rules) and so would be prohibited.
- The Class Rules specifically limit the sails that may be used, and specifically prohibit **double luff sails** (sails passing round a stay or spar and attaching back on itself). If made from soft material (sailcloth) it could be considered as an additional **double luff sail** that would not be permitted by the class rules.

The Equipment Rules of Sailing define ‘**Sail**’ as:

“An item of equipment, used to propel the **boat**. It includes any of the following added parts:

Sail reinforcements

Batten pockets and associated fittings

Windows

Stiffening

Tabling

Sail edge ropes and wires

Attachments

Other parts as permitted by **class rules**.”

Furthermore, the Merlin Rocket Class Rules state the following:

G.1 PARTS

G.1.1 MANDATORY

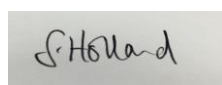
(a) **Mainsail**

(b) **Headsail**

G.1.2 OPTIONAL

(a) Spinnaker

Sails other than those permitted above are prohibited.



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