

CLARIFICATION OF GYA SAIL USE REGULATIONS VERSUS VIPER 640 CLASS RULE

The GYA regulation covering use of new sails for the Viper 640 is the same as it was when the Interclub Boat was the Flying Scot. Regulation 18(d) states:

“Only one new suit of sails (mainsail, jib and spinnaker, individually or in combination) shall be used on a hull during any twelve month period.”

A club must wait 12 months after first using a new sail before it can use another new sail. The Racing Regulations Committee has interpreted “first use” of a sail, within the context of this GYA regulation, to be the first time that sail is used in a GYA Sanctioned Event. See Regulation 3.3 for a listing of GYA Sanctioned Events.

The GYA regulations further require that clubs comply with the Viper 640 Class Rules.

The Viper 640 Class Rules (7.8.1.a) restrict a Viper 640 owner to acquiring only one complete new set of sails each calendar year. A sail is considered acquired the first time it is used in a race by the owner. The class regulates this by requiring sails to display a registration sticker obtained from the Class Administrator. The registration stickers are marked with the hull number and the year of first use. The year of first use marked on the sticker will be the calendar year in which the sticker was acquired from the Class Administrator, no matter when within the year that the sticker is acquired, or when the sail is actually first used. The owner applies the sticker.

As an example, the following scenario is consistent with both GYA Regulations and Viper 640 Class Rules:

A club acquires a new set of sails for hull number 101 in June of 2017 and is issued stickers from the Class Administrator marked with hull number 101 and the year 2017. Sailors from that club use those sails for the first time in October, 2017 at a Viper 640 event which is not a GYA sanctioned event. Sailors from that club use the sails again for the first time in a GYA sanctioned event in May, 2018 at the GYA Opening Regatta starting a 12 month clock that stops in May, 2019. The club purchases a new set of sails in July of 2018 and is issued registration stickers marked with hull number 101 and the year 2018. At the Liptons in September, 2018 that club may use either set of sails, but if they use the set with the 2018 sticker, the 12 month GYA clock starts running on that set. The club may acquire and register with the class new sails again after January 1, 2019 but those sails may not be used in a GYA Sanctioned Event before the 2019 Liptons.

The Viper Class Rules do not mandate compliance verification of sail registration at individual events. The GYA regulations require sails to be measured by a GYA measurer within one year of their first use but do not provide for a method of compliance verification.

As a reminder, GYA sail numbers are optional for 2018 events. However clubs are encouraged to use GYA numbered sails at the 2018 Liptons.