

Executive Committee
c/o Tomi Hakola, Secretary
International Melges 24 Class Association
Kirkkoniementie 6 c 2
03400 Vihti
Finland

October 2, 2012

Subject: Builder's Recommendations

Dear Gentlemen

Over the years, I have sailed a great many boats and have been involved with a number of Classes, still the Melges 24 holds a special place in my heart. As a friend and fellow competitor, I would like to echo the recommendations of our Builder and encourage you to support their proposals; they are urgently needed to ensure the continued vitality of our Class, specifically:

- 1) Require that some part of the buttocks remain in contact with the deck or gunwale while hiking;
- 2) Set minimum hiking line deflection to 100mm, as we do with the Melges 32; and
- 3) Allow the Licensed Builders to provide optional shorter stanchions to owners who wish to make the boat more comfortable for their crew.

Like Harry Melges and Federico Michetti, I believe that the current situation with respect to hiking is not only unhealthy, but does little to encourage competition – let alone, enhance the quality of racing. As a two-time Melges 24 World Champion with a long sailing career in one design, I believe that when we select a champion, we should do so on the basis of their skill, their preparation, and tactical prowess on the water – not on how gladly they suffer on the rail. That is the true test of a sailor. The true test of a champion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Vince Brun

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