



International J/70 Class Association (IJ70CA)

**Technical Bulletin 2019-08-01**

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At the 2019 J/70 European Championship the international measurement team observed some deviations in the length and configuration of the batten pockets on jibs presented for measurement. Although the European Championship measurement team determined that the differences were unlikely to impact performance, the IJ70CA Technical Committee undertook an inquiry into these deviations. The result of this inquiry is that the Technical Committee is publishing a new FAQ (FAQ 46) that reiterates and clarifies that the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) definition of “Batten Pocket Length (a) INSIDE” is incorporated into the J/70 Class Rules as per Class Rule A.1.3. New FAQ 46 is set forth below.

The Technical Committee has clarified with the Class sail manufacturers and designers and is confident that all jibs manufactured from July 15, 2019 forward will be using the correct ERS definition for the Class Rule’s specification of “Inside Batten Pocket Length.” Those jibs manufactured prior to July 15, 2019 using a slightly different analysis of “Inside Batten Pocket Length,” will remain legal for class use, except at Continental and World events. This decision is intended to avoid prematurely obsoleting jibs at the local and regional level—and is made with the recognition that the typical useful lifespan of J/70 jibs is fairly limited.

**FAQ 46. How is the inside length of the batten pockets measured?**

The J/70 Class Rules includes maximum dimensional limits on the inside length of batten pockets for the mainsail and headsail, as follows:

G.3.4 (table): Inside <b>batten pocket</b> length – battens #4 and #5	1280mm
G.4.3 (table): Inside <b>batten pocket</b> length	950mm

The clear intent of these provisions is to refer to the definition of “Batten Pocket Length” in the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) as per CR A.1.3. The relevant provision of the ERS is set forth below:

*G.8.1 Batten Pocket Length (a) INSIDE: The greatest distance between the sail edge and the internal extreme end of the batten pocket, measured parallel to the pocket centreline. The effect of any elastic or other retaining device and any local widening for batten insertion shall be ignored.*

Except in Continental or World events, unmodified jibs manufactured prior to July 15, 2019 may have an inside batten pocket length of up to 950mm, wherein the “inside batten pocket length” is measured parallel to the pocket centerline from the sail edge to the internal extreme end of the batten pocket.

Class members with questions or comments about this Technical Bulletin should contact the IJ70CA Technical Chair, Polk Wagner (polk@polkwagner.com) and/or the Class Executive, Chris Howell (howell@j70office.com).

**Related Documents**

See Class website for current versions: <http://www.j70ica.org/class-office-rules>

*International J/70 Class Rules*

*J/70 Building Specification*

*J/70 FAQ*