

Review of Sabre Centrecase - 1st February 2016



Figure 1

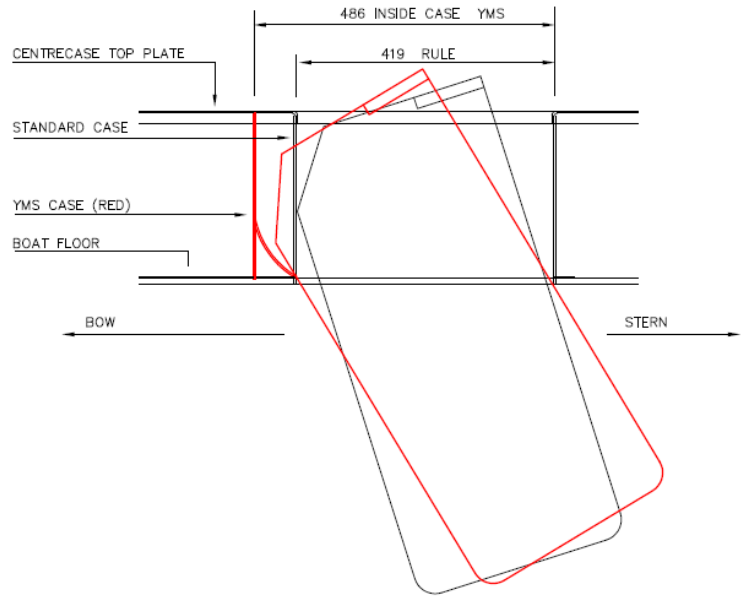


Figure 2

At the request of Harold Medd, the Sabre Class National Measurer, I have been asked to review the centre case as shown in figure 1 above. I have reviewed the Construction & Fitting out notes and Rules of Measurement & Construction for the Sabre Sailing Dinghy, dated Version 2011.1 (31st August 2011).

I was instructed that the centre case as shown has a triangular pocket in the front, which allows the centerboard to raked back more than on a standard sabre. My understanding is that the rules were created for plywood boats, and with the introduction of fiberglass boats, the rules have been modified. Under Section B, rules 3.2 it clearly states *the FRP Sabre must emulate, as nearly as possible, the construction, shape and performance characteristics of a fully complying plywood boat.*

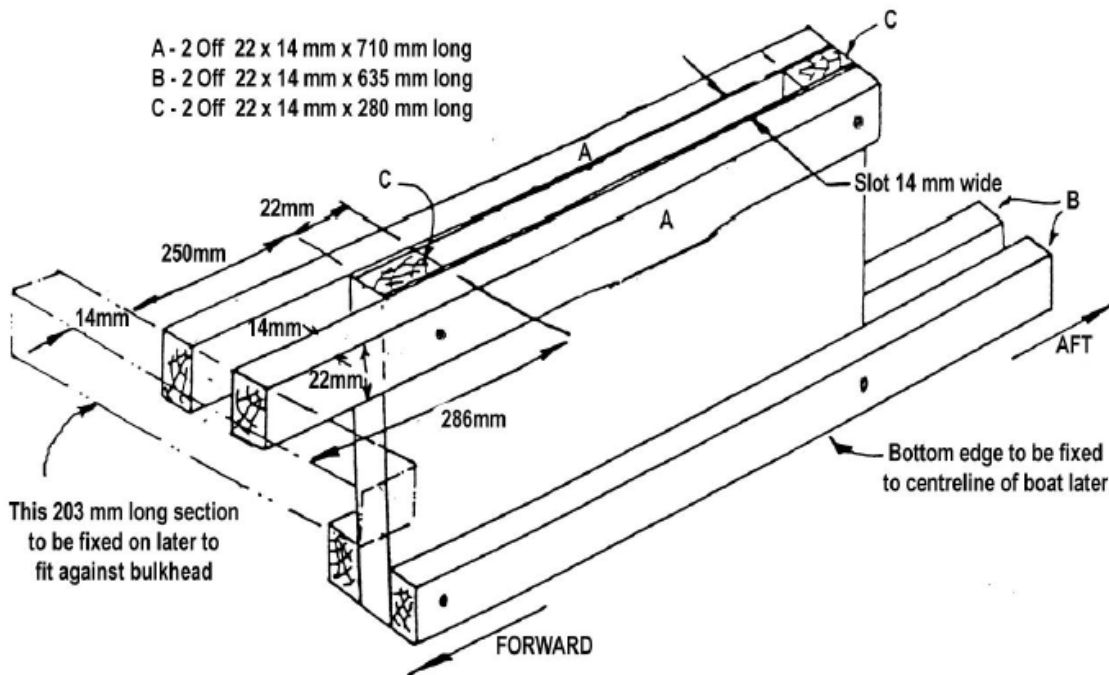
Rule 1.10 makes it clear that "*Unless a system, method, type or style of construction or control is indicated as permissible or acceptable in these Rules and/or the Construction & Fitting Out Notes, then that system, method, type or style of construction, fitting or control is prohibited*", and this must be the starting point when interpreting our Rules.

I have identified the following provisions that are relevant regarding the shape of the centre case:

1. Section A - Diagram #1A & #1D
2. Section A - Step 3 - Centre case - Ply Rectangles (Part No.8) 2 off 'etc' with all corners 90°;
3. Section A - Diagram #4A-Centre case General Arrangement;
4. Section B - Clause 3.2;
5. Section B - Clause 14;
6. Section B - Clause 17;
7. Section E - Clause 1.10;
8. Section E - Clause 2.4.

Diagram #1A, #1D & #4A, clearly show that the case is to be built as a rectangle.

Diag.#4A - Centrecase General Arrangement



From the Rules - Section B

I believe the following to be important, Clause 14 & 17 and from the **Table of Measurement** Meas. No. number 20

14. Thwart and Centrecase

The design of the thwart and centrecase shall be generally similar to the concepts specified for timber craft. However, in recognition of the differing properties of FRP, some variation in the design of thwart and centrecase may be permitted.

17. Thwart and Centrecase

Individual builders may vary their design but it is recommended that a specification be confirmed by the SSAA National Measurer before any boats are constructed. It is recommended that any subsequent design change also be confirmed by the SSAA National Measurer.

From the Table of Measurement

20	2.4(b) Centrecase slot - length	406	419
	Centrecase slot - width	14	16

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If we look at #4A, #1A & #1D

It clearly shows that the case is to be constructed as a rectangle. #4A also shows that the front of the case is made from a piece of timber 22x14x280, marked a "C". There is then a dimension show of 286mm from the centre case bulkhead to the back of this piece marked as C, which is the front of the centre case, at the top of the case. We then see item 19 rule 2.4a in the Table of Measurements, which requires the front inner edge of the slot to centre case bulkhead to be between 276 and 296mm, it is safe to assume that this is at the top, as it would be +/- 10mm of the 286 shown in #4A.

Diagram #1A & #1D clearly shows that the centre case is to be constructed from rectangular pieces. #4A also shows this. It is fair to assume after looking at the diagrams, that the case is to be built as a rectangle. From measurement table item 20, the slot is listed as being between 406 and 419mm in length.

We then have rule; Rule 2.4. It is clear then 2.4a talks about the centre case opening also defined in measurement table 19, which I believe is the top of the case opening, 2.4b then talk about the centerboard slot shall not exceed the dimensions as per measurement table 20. To me this shows that the slot is the full opening from top to bottom of the centerboard case.

2.4 Centre case

- a. The distance between the forward edge of the centre case opening & the aft face of the centre case bulkhead shall be within specified limits when measured along the centre case stiffener.*
- b. The length of centre case slot shall not exceed the maximum dimension specified at any point.*

Conclusion.

Diagram 1, show a non-rectangular case and slot, Diagram2, shows the inside of the case to be 486mm, which is great than 419mm, and does not comply with the rules.

I believe that this centerboard case is not within the current rules.

I note that clause 17, from Section B has been amended in 2014, this amendment has allowed the nonconforming centre case to be constructed without referring the change to the National Measurer which in my opinion is wrong. All changes to design should be approved by the National Measurer to avoid this situation and I recommend the old Rule 17 be reinstated. The amended Rule 17 does not affect the fact that the centre case does not comply with the Rules."

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