

The fastest growing ocean class in the world

Class 40 excites the international regatta scene

Modern and safe, innovative and ocean-going, in short: high-tech yachts with manageable budgets – that is the idea behind the Class 40.

And the results are something to be proud of: no compromises, but a successful class that was pioneering. 100 new vessels have already been launched since the first design in 2005! Class 40, like virtually no other boat class, pulls off the balancing act between the designer's freedom of development and compliance with budgetary restrictions, coping with the costly battle over material and exhausting the potential of modern yacht design.

The regulations applying to this class are both brilliant and simple and fit on three pages. Besides conforming with the generally applicable rules (OSR) of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) for ocean-going yachts, Class 40 designers have to remain within the class limits. The vessels are 12 metres long, 4.5 metres wide and have a draught of 3 metres. The mast height is 19 metres, the maximum sail area on the wind 115 m². The boats weigh a minimum of 4.5 tons and have 320 kg of righting moment at a roll angle of 90 degrees. Among other things, swing keels, rotating masts and carbon hulls are prohibited.

Class 40 is considered to be extremely fast and extremely safe. On the Beluga Racer Boris Herrmann and his crew recently logged a top speed of 24 knots and an average speed of 16 knots as well as day runs (distance over a period of 24 h) of 320 nautical miles with a fresh breeze of 30 knots and maximum sails (200 m² spinnaker and mainsail) at the Quebec - St Malo.

The best proof of the attractiveness of this class, which has been filling the gap between Mini-Transat and Vendee Globe since 2005: such sailing legends as Giovanni Soldini, Alex Pella, Alex Bennett and soon presumably Mike Golding as well honour the class with highly ambitious projects. Giovanni ("Jo") Soldini is clearly regarded as the figurehead. "Jo has become an important mentor and motivator for me. He dispelled my last doubts about going to the South Pacific with a Class 40," states Boris Herrmann.