

Greetings from your Technical Committee!

The following is an overview in preparation for the open Technical Committee Meeting scheduled for October 21. This is where we intend to review the rule change proposals with the membership and give the authors a chance to correct or edit their submissions before voting for the AGM occurs. Prior to this, the TC has met to discuss those rule change submissions that we have purview over and we have a few comments to share. There are also two additional submissions from the technical committee regarding a re-write of C.10.2.c which will end up being a new C.10.2 and a rewrite of C.11.3. There are also housekeeping changes to the logo as proposed by Paul Arntson of the US. New this year, World Sailing is allowing the class (Technical Committee) to conduct their own internal housekeeping changes. This means there is no need to vote on these at the AGM, but WS still has the final approval. As C.10.2 and C.11.3 are not actual rule changes but rather clarifications, they will fall under housekeeping and will not be presented at the AGM for voting. Still, we want to mention and discuss them here for full disclosure and input from the members.

C.10.2 – This rule was asked to be clarified by the jury at the North Americans this year in Toronto. Not being familiar with the class, they asked us to explain C.10.2(c) commenting the rule seems to contradict itself. We are allowed to change spinnakers during a race or race day while away from the dockside. All to suggest we should delete C.10.2(c) and while we are at it get rid of the “more than 8 days” part. This is what we came up with:

Original rule in **red** and changes highlighted in **blue**

C.10.2 LIMITATIONS

- (a) **Not more than 1 mainsail, 1 headsail and 2 spinnakers shall be carried aboard.**
- (b) **Not more than 1 mainsail, 1 headsail and 2 spinnakers shall be presented for registration and used during an event of less than 8 consecutive days, except when a sail has been lost or damaged beyond repair.**
- (c) **Sails (excluding gennakers) shall not be changed or substituted whilst underway or away from the dockside.**

C.11.3 – rewritten for clarification.

C.11 BOAT HANDLING RULES

The original rule in **red** and changes highlighted in **blue**

~~C.11.3. The crew shall not hike out by sitting facing outboard aft of the spinnaker turning block. The helmsperson shall not attempt to hike out in any manner.~~

C.11.3. The crew shall only hike out by sitting facing outboard between the foremost stanchion and the spinnaker turning block. The helmsperson shall not attempt to hike out in any manner.

We have 2 proposals from the USM24CA:

USA 2 proposes that Group 3s have to be paid members to sail in M24 events. This one is pretty straightforward. However, Chief Measurer Branko Parunov has pointed out that our Constitution states that only boat owners can vote which suggests that while Group 3's would be required to be members to sail in the class, they would not have voting rights unless they owned a boat.

USA 1 – delete the weight limit similar to the J70.

The TC will suggest the following edits:

Old rule: **C.2 CREW C.2.1 LIMITATIONS**

- (a) **The crew shall consist of a minimum of 3 persons.**
- (b) **No crew member shall be substituted during an event of less than 7 consecutive days unless prior written permission has been granted by the Race Committee.**
- (c) **RRS 50.2 applies with regard to clothing weight although the line tension may be modified.**

(d) The number of crew shall not change during a regatta unless written permission has been granted by the Race Committee.

C.2.2 WEIGHTS minimum Maximum The total weight of the crew dressed in underwear kg 375 kg Crews shall be weighed only during the registration period prior to racing.

changed to:

C.2 CREW C.2.1 LIMITATIONS

(a) The crew shall consist of a minimum of 3 persons to a maximum of 6.

(b) No crew member shall be substituted during an event of less than 7 consecutive days unless prior written permission has been granted by the Race Committee.

(c) RRS 50.2 applies with regard to clothing weight although the line tension may be modified.

(d) The number of crew shall not change during a regatta. ~~unless written permission has been granted by the Race Committee.~~

~~C.2.2 WEIGHTS minimum Maximum The total weight of the crew dressed in underwear kg 375 kg Crews shall be weighed only during the registration period prior to racing.~~

During our review, this proposal has raised another interesting concern which is the current rule itself. C.2.2 “**Crews** shall be weighed only during the registration period prior to racing”. It is clear that we currently have teams sailing in contravention to the first part of C.2.2 “The total weight of the crew dressed in underwear – 375kg” by as much as 40 to 50kg. This makes this particular class rule in conflict with itself. Without a method of enforcement, the threat of spot checks, how can the class enforce the first part of the rule? This conflict within the rule itself may be the strongest argument for the abolishment of the weight limit entirely. It is understood this rule was changed to increase the enjoyment, health and safety of the competitors... but it seems obvious the rule cannot stay as it is currently written. The technical committee has recognised this issue and is considering suggesting that the USM24CA edit their submission to read (paraphrase) “Delete C.2.2 or reinstate the previous version of C.2.2 to reinstate weight checks during the event”. The class might reject this at the AGM but I doubt World Sailing will once they recognise this conflict. I suspect they would mandate the class to correct it back to a previous version in much the same way they mandated the removal of all the modifications we made to the class rules to allow for the (failed) Selden mast experiment. This could be an important consideration for those members who might not be sure about how they feel about the USA 1 proposal.

It certainly looks like this is going to be an entertaining meeting and I invite you to consider attending. I look forward to seeing you there!

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