

Class Rule Change Submission

International Melges 24 Class Rules – Section H.2 Purchase Systems and Mainsail Sheet Blocks

Rules affected: H.2.28, H.2.46 and H.2.71

Edition amended: International Melges 24 Class Rules 2026

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Purpose

To allow the option of a 6:1 mainsail sheet purchase as well as the current 5:1, and to amend the block specifications that go with it. This will make the boat easier and safer to handle for a wider range of crew. The 5:1 system stays legal, so no owner has to change anything.

Proposal

In the proposed rules below, **new text is shown in bold and underlined**. No existing text is deleted. Block dimensions are sheave diameters, as stated in the H.2 introduction.

H.2.46 Mainsail sheet

Current rule

H.2	Standard fitting	Minimum	Maximum	Permitted modifications or specification
.46	Mainsail sheet	5:1		Shall not be modified

Proposed rule

H.2	Standard fitting	Minimum	Maximum	Permitted modifications or specification
.46	Mainsail sheet	5:1 <u>or 6:1</u>		Shall not be modified, <u>except that a 6:1 purchase is permitted, using the blocks specified in H.2.28 and H.2.71</u>

H.2.28 Mainsail sheet double block on car

Current rule

H.2	Standard fitting	Minimum	Maximum	Permitted modifications or specification
.28	Mainsail sheet double block on car	Dia 48 mm	Dia 58 mm	

Proposed rule

H.2	Standard fitting	Minimum	Maximum	Permitted modifications or specification
.28	Mainsail sheet double block on car	Dia 48 mm	Dia 58 mm	<u>When a 6:1 purchase is used (H.2.46), this shall be a double block with becket.</u>

H.2.71 Two mainsail sheet blocks

Current rule

H.2	Standard fitting	Minimum	Maximum	Permitted modifications or specification
.71	Two mainsail sheet blocks	Dia 48 mm	Dia 58 mm	The two single blocks may be combined into a double block.

Proposed rule

H.2	Standard fitting	Minimum	Maximum	Permitted modifications or specification
.71	Two mainsail sheet blocks	Dia 48 mm	Dia 58 mm	The two single blocks may be combined into a double block. <u>When a 6:1 purchase is used (H.2.46), one single block and one double block shall be used.</u>

Rules not changed

- H.2.29 Mainsail sheet ratchet block on deck mount with cleat: no change.
- H.2.70 Two mainsail sheet block attachments: no change. The existing boom pad eyes and optional pennants are used for both systems.

Current Position

Rule H.2.46 currently allows only a 5:1 mainsail sheet purchase and says it shall not be modified. The 5:1 system uses four blocks:

- On the boom: 1 single block and 1 single block with becket
- On the traveller car: 1 double block
- On the deck: 1 single ratchet block with cleat

Reasons

The Melges 24 class is actively encouraging more women, youth and older sailors to join its crews. An optional 6:1 mainsail sheet purchase supports this in two ways:

1. **Trimming load.** Mainsails made from high-modulus, very low-stretch materials such as 3Di and Fusion take much more force to trim properly. A 6:1 purchase would let smaller or less physically strong crew trim the mainsail effectively in strong winds.
2. **Safety when releasing the sheet.** Getting a heavily loaded mainsheet out of its cleat can be hard even for the strongest sailors. This makes the boat harder to handle in very strong winds. It is also a serious safety hazard, because releasing the mainsheet quickly is essential for the boat to bear away easily and predictably.

How to convert from 5:1 to 6:1

Position	5:1 (current)	6:1 (proposed option)
Boom (H.2.70, H.2.71)	1 single block and 1 single block with becket	1 single block and 1 double block (the double block can be the one taken off the traveller car)
Traveller car (H.2.28)	1 double block	1 double block with becket (new)
Deck (H.2.29)	1 ratchet block with cleat	No change
Mainsheet	Existing line	Existing line, or a longer one if needed (the class rules do not limit mainsheet length)

To convert, replace the single block with becket on the boom with a double block (this can be the double block taken off the traveller car), then fit a new double block with becket on the traveller car. No other fitting changes.

Cost

Changing to 6:1 costs very little. Usually it means buying one double block with becket and possibly a longer mainsheet. The change is optional, so owners who keep 5:1 have no cost and no competitive disadvantage.

Reference

International Melges 24 Class Rules 2026, Section H.2