

Equipment Rules of Sailing

H.4.2 Outer Point Distance

A submission from IRC

Purpose or Objective

To amend the definition of Outer Point Distance to reflect current practice on large yachts without affecting smaller boats.

Proposal

H.4.2 Fittings, local curvature, ~~and~~ local cutaway **and any increase in the fore/aft dimension of a sail track and/or sail track support**, shall be ignored when measuring a **spar** or dimensions taken to a **spar**.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

To facilitate hoisting large mainsails, it is common practice on large yachts for the mainsail luff track to flare and increase in fore/aft length for a considerable length (as much as 1/3 of mast length) towards the bottom of the mast. **Outer Point Distance** is measured from the aft edge of the mast **spar** which includes the luff track. H.4.2 requires that local curvature is ignored. Curvature of 1/3 of mast length cannot be taken as 'local'. In these cases therefore, Outer Point Distance is artificially reduced offering a rating advantage for these large yachts. Any boat of a class without controls on fore/aft mast dimension could also use this to advantage.
