

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



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Question

Question about the interpretation of the word 'purpose' in rule 43.1(a): *'Competitors shall not wear or carry clothing or equipment for the purpose of increasing their weight.'*

If somebody chooses to use a lead trapeze harness strap buckle that is also a dive weight, is that not a breach of this rule? Even if a buckle is required to hold the harness in place, the choice of a dive weight to do so would appear to be for the purpose of increasing weight. But I see a problem with that argument: pushed to its conclusion, you would have to wear the lightest available gear in order to comply with the rule.

Answer

Using a dive weight as a strap buckle would normally be seen as being used for the purpose of increasing weight and would then be a breach of rule 43.1(a). The protest committee will decide on each individual case brought to them. Rule 43.1(a) applies to all clothing and equipment. However, rule 43.1(b)'s trapeze default harness weight limit of 2 kilograms, coupled with the requirement for the harness to have positive buoyancy, means that the question will not normally arise. If, as permitted by that rule, a class has specified a higher permitted weight for a trapeze harness (maximum 4 kilograms), a protest committee may determine that there is some purpose other than increasing weight, and that doing so does not break rule 43.1(a).