

REPORTING COMMITTEE – RACING RULES
OTHER COMMITTEE – OFFSHORE, EQUIPMENT

Submission: 130-06

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 49.2

A submission from the Chairman of the Offshore Committee

Proposal:

Delete second sentence:

- 49.2** When lifelines are required by the class rules or the sailing instructions they shall be taut, and competitors shall not position any part of their torsos outside them, except briefly to perform a necessary task. ~~On boats equipped with upper and lower lifelines of wire, a competitor sitting on the deck facing outboard with his waist inside the lower lifeline may have the upper part of his body outside the upper lifeline.~~

Current Position:

As above.

Reason

Lifelines are a logical and necessary safety requirement on offshore yachts. The common practice of literally hanging ones body from the waist, over the lower lifeline, with legs, torso and arms extended outboard makes a mockery of safe sailing practices. One broken wire and everyone except the afterguard is in the water. Comparing this "legal" practice with a crew standing at the rail of a heeled yacht, who may have part of his torso illegally outside the upward projection of the lifelines is totally inconsistent.

This practice also leads yachts to rely on human ballast rather than inherent stability.