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.