Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 49.2

A submission from the Chairmen of the Racing Rules Committee and the Oceanic and Offshore Committee

Purpose or Objective

To amend rule 49.2 to bring it into alignment with modern materials that boats are using for lifelines and to use the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations criteria for lifelines, and in particular for how taut a lifeline must be.

Proposal

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. Lifelines shall comply with the rules in the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations that specify the material, minimum diameter and tautness of lifelines.

Note: The ISAF Offshore Special Regulations are available at the ISAF website (www.sailing.org).

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Boats now often use Dyneema® or Spectra® rope, instead of wire, for their lifelines. The deletion of the words “of wire” would permit crew positions to be the same whichever material is used.

2. The current rule is not precise with respect to the degree of tautness required for lifelines, and therefore the rule is difficult to apply and enforce on a consistent basis. The ISAF Offshore Special Regulations are precise. Therefore, the proposed new last sentence for rule 49.2 will enable the tautness requirement in rule 49.2 to be applied and enforced consistently.