Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 49.2

A submission from the IRC and ORC Rating Systems

Purpose or Objective

To change RRS 49.2 to represent the crew position when sailors are facing outboard sitting on boats with lifelines.

Proposal

49.2 When lifelines are required by the class rules or any other rule, 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, 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. Unless a class rule or any other rule specifies a maximum deflection, lifelines shall be taut. If the class rules do not specify the material or minimum diameter of lifelines, they shall comply with the corresponding specifications in the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. It is not unusual for crew sitting on the rail to be supported only at their upper legs when hiking facing outboard. The term “sitting on the deck” is difficult to define which part of the competitor’s body needs to be in contact. The deck is difficult to define where the sheerline and where the hull becomes the deck. To avoid unnecessary and difficult protests a simple and effective solution is to remove this requirement from RRS 49.2 while maintaining the original intention of:
   a. When there are two lifelines, competitor facing outboard with their waist inside the lower lifeline may have the upper part of his body outside the upper lifeline.
   b. Lifelines shall be taut (by the OSR definition)

2. Both ORC and IRC have already made this change via their respective class rules and there have been no issues as a result.