Offshore Special Regulations

OSR 3.25 - Halyards

A submission from US Sailing

Safe Operation of Halyards to Lower Sails

Purpose or Objective

To protect the safety of the crew by not requiring a crewmember to go aloft to reduce or lower a sail.

Proposal

Amend the regulation as follows:
Change Offshore Special Regulations Rule 3.25 to 3.25 a)
Add new rule Offshore Special Regulations 3.25 b):

** 3.25 (a) Halyards. A minimum of two halyards, each capable of hoisting a sail, on each mast

3.25 (b) No halyard shall be locked, lashed or otherwise secured to the mast in a way that requires a person to go aloft in order to lower a sail, except for a headsail in use with a furling device.

Current Position

As above, this issue is not currently addressed in the Offshore Special Regulations

Reasons

1. Sending a person aloft to lower a sail endangers the safety of the crew unnecessarily
2. Lowering or reefing a sail often occurs in conditions that are unsafe to send someone aloft, including COB, hull damage, fire, etc., further endangering crew members.
3. The need to reduce or lower a sail is often time-sensitive and sending someone aloft to lower a sail delays the action.