Race Committee Clarification - Note 1

QUESTION

I would like to get a clarification regarding the use of an outriggers? The question is whether an outrigger that is normally permitted under class rules (IMOCA 60) can be used for boats racing under the IRC rules?

ANSWER

IRC Rule 21.3.2 and 21.3.3 states:

21.3.2 All **sails** shall be set and sheeted in accordance with RRS 50, Setting and Sheeting Sails, with the following additions:

21.3.3 RRS 50.3(a) is amended to the extent that a spinnaker or a headsail may be tacked to a bowsprit.

RRS 50.3 states:

(a)   No sail shall be sheeted over or through an outrigger, except as permitted in rule 50.3(b) or 50.3(c). An outrigger is any fitting or other device so placed that it could exert outward pressure on a sheet or sail at a point from which, with the boat upright, a vertical line would fall outside the hull or deck. For the purpose of this rule, bulwarks, rails and rubbing strakes are not part of the hull or deck and the following are not outriggers: a bowsprit used to secure the tack of a sail, a bumkin used to sheet the boom of a sail, or a boom of a boomed headsail that requires no adjustment when tacking.

(b)   Any sail may be sheeted to or led above a boom that is regularly used for a sail and is permanently attached to the mast from which the head of the sail is set

(c)   A headsail may be sheeted or attached at its clew to a spinnaker pole or whisker pole, provided that a spinnaker is not set.

ERS definitions

As per F1.4 Spar Types - OTHER SPARS Other spar types include their rigging, but not running rigging.

Other Spar Types:

1. (i) SPINNAKER POLE - A spar attached to the mast spar to set a spinnaker.
2. (ii) WHISKER POLE - A spar attached to the mast spar and a headsail clew.

Therefore in accordance with the RRS & IRC rules the use of outriggers is not permitted and a headsail may only be sheeted through a spinnaker pole or whisker pole provided the pole is attached to the mast.

Race Committee
Rolex Fastnet Race
2nd August 2019