

Racing Rules of Sailing RRS 50.1(b)

A submission from the Chair of the Classes Committee and the

420 Class

Purpose or Objective

To remove the requirement for a trapeze harness to comply with an ISO standard for quick release from the RRS. This can be specified in class rules.

Proposal 1

Amend 50.1(b) as follows:

50 COMPETITOR CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

50.1 ...

- (b) Furthermore, a competitor's clothing and equipment shall not weigh more than 8 kilograms, excluding a **crew harness (as defined in The Equipment Rules of Sailing)**~~hiking or trapeze harness~~ and clothing (including footwear) worn only below the knee. Class rules or the notice of race may specify a lower weight or a higher weight up to 10 kilograms. Class rules may include footwear and other clothing worn below the knee within that weight. A **crew harness**~~hiking or trapeze harness~~ shall have positive buoyancy **in fresh water** and shall not weigh more than 2 kilograms, except that class rules may specify a higher weight up to 4 kilograms. Weights shall be determined as required by Appendix H.

...

Proposal 2

As an alternative to Proposal 1, amend 50.1(b) as follows:

50 COMPETITOR CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

50.1 ...

- (b) Furthermore, a competitor's clothing and equipment shall not weigh more than 8 kilograms, excluding a hiking, ~~or trapeze~~, **windsurf, kite or wingfoil** harness and clothing (including footwear) worn only below the knee. Class rules or the notice of race may specify a lower weight or a higher weight up to 10 kilograms. Class rules may include footwear and other clothing worn below the knee within that weight. Such a ~~hiking or trapeze~~ harness shall have positive buoyancy **in fresh water** and shall not weigh more than 2 kilograms, except that class rules may specify a higher weight up to 4 kilograms. Weights shall be determined as required by Appendix H.

...

Proposal 3

If the terminology of the Equipment Rules of Sailing is adopted by the Racing Rules of Sailing, then the term “crew harness” shall be used in bold in RRS 50.1(b) and the sentence (as defined in The Equipment Rules of Sailing) shall be removed.

Current Position

As above

Reasons

1. Clarifies that this rule also applies to harnesses worn by sailors who windsurf, kiteboard and wingfoil, in addition to hiking and trapeze harnesses.
 2. Specifies that a harness shall have positive buoyancy in fresh water. This is because: (i) fresh water has standard properties and can be found everywhere for testing purposes, (ii) if a harness is buoyant in fresh water, it will be buoyant in any seawater while the opposite is not always true, and (iii) if the buoyancy is to be required and tested for example at the seawater of each venue instead, it will be almost impossible to test consistently and accurately because of the variation of the seawater properties around the whole area of the race course. Personal flotation device buoyancy tests are always specified by the relevant standards to be conducted in fresh water. The harness tests should be done in the same conditions for the same principle.
 3. Proposal 2 provides alternative language so it covers most of the proposed language suggested in the ERS but the rule can still apply if the proposed ERS amendments are not approved.
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