

Judging Hiking for the J/70 Class – Questions and Answers

The text of the rules applicable to crew position are printed at the end of this document.

Question 1

Is the J/70 'cockpit safety line' the same as the 'lifeline' in RRS 49?

Answer

Yes

Question 2

What in RRS 49 is changed by the class rules?

Answer

Class rule C.3.3 extends RRS 49 by limiting the placement of the crew, the number of crew who can have their legs outboard of the sheerline, and what can be touched or grasped while tacking or gybing. The class rules have not changed RRS 49.1 or the first sentence in RRS 49.2.

Question 3

CR C.3.3(A)(i) states that crew shall remain aft of the mast. Does 'crew' mean 'torso' of the crew, so the legs can be forward of the mast?

Answer

No. 'Crew' means the entire body, including legs and feet.

Question 4

What does "base of their spine on deck" mean in CR C.3.3(A)(iii)?

Answer

While seated, the base of the spine is directly over an area of the upper part of the buttocks. When that part of the buttocks is in contact with the deck, clothing excepted, the crew has the base of their spine on deck.

Question 5

When a crew is sitting on deck with their legs outboard of the sheerline, is it permissible under the rules for the crew to lean out?

Answer

For a crew sitting on the deck facing outboard, there are two limiting factors in leaning out. First, as the crew leans forward with his or her back straight, there is a point when the base of the spine lifts off the deck. Second, there is a point when the upper part of the torso becomes outside the lifeline. When either of those points occur, the boat is breaking RRS 49 as changed by CR C.3.3.

Question 6

When the boat heels, can a crew lean forward to remain upright?

Answer

In RRS 49.2, an imaginary line extending above the lifeline defines the boundary between something being inside or outside of the lifeline. That imaginary line is always

vertical with respect to the horizon, so a crew can lean forward when the boat heels provided no part of their torso is outside the lifeline.

Question 7

Is it legal to use a bungee to hold otherwise slack lifelines taut?

Answer

No. The use of a bungee breaks CR C.7.2 because the lifeline would not pass the deflection test. The use of a bungee to intentionally disguise a slack lifeline would also break RRS 2, Fair Sailing or RRS 69, Gross Misconduct.

Rules

RRS Rule 49 (Only RRS 49.1 and the first sentence of RRS 49.2 apply to the J/70 Class)

49 CREW POSITION; LIFELINES

49.1 Competitors shall use no device designed to position their bodies outboard, other than hiking straps and stiffeners worn under the thighs.

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.

J/70 Class Rules (CR)

C.3.3 USE

(A) CREW POSITIONING

(i) Except for momentary sail handling and/or repair needs, crew shall remain aft of the mast while on deck.

(ii) Crew shall not stand and lean out over the cockpit safety lines or stern rails to promote roll tacking, roll gybing or to increase hiking leverage.

(iii) While seated on deck, crew shall have the base of their spine on the deck and inboard of the cockpit safety lines at all times.

(iv) Not more than two crew may have their legs outboard of the sheerline.

(v) When tacking or gybing, crew shall not hang, push or pull on the shrouds, mast, cockpit safety lines, stanchions or any other item to promote the maneuver.

C.7.2 FITTINGS

(a) The cockpit safety lines shall not deflect more than 25mm from a straight line between two points of support when a force of 4kg is applied at the point of maximum deflection. Pads may be added to the safety lines.

J/70 North American Championship Sailing Instructions

1.4(b) CR C.3.3 is changed by adding "This changes RRS 49."

Jim Capron, Chairman

2013 J/70 North American Championship Protest Committee

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