

## Rules Specialist Group 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing

### RRS 50.3 use of Outriggers

Issued 20 October 2017

#### 1. [Rule 50.3](#)

At the request of Glen Stanaway (Australian Sailing) the group was requested to review the relevance of rule 50.3 in relation to current practices.

#### 2. [Background](#)

Rule 50.3 reads

##### **50.3 Use of Outriggers**

- (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.

The rule has remained pretty much unchanged since it first appeared in the RRS way back in the 1960's.

The group does not feel the rule has much relevance to current sailing.

Deleting the rule will have some effects.

Classes and rating rules that are not 'closed' will have to address what happens if the rule is removed.

It is not considered by the group that there will be any consequences to one design classes with 'Closed' rules which are generally based on the principal that 'if it is not specifically permitted in the rules then it is not allowed'

#### 3. [Recommendation](#)

As it is too late to make any submissions this year we recommend that our rep on the RRC raises the issue during discussions at the WS conference and that, following any feedback, that a submission be made to remove the rule at the next revision of the RRS. Rules 50.4 and 54 may also be considered for removal.

**John Standley**  
On behalf of the Rules Specialist Group  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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