Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 50.1

An urgent submission from the Chairman of the World Sailing Classes Committee

Purpose or Objective

To revoke an unintended change in the maximum weight of trapeze harnesses which is not anymore changeable by class rules, resulting in possible use as weight vests with associated health implications.

Proposal

Amend RRS 50.1.(b) as follows:

Furthermore, a competitor’s clothing and equipment shall not weigh more than 8 kilograms, excluding a 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 hiking or trapeze harness shall have positive buoyancy and shall not weigh more than 6 kilograms, except that class rules may specify a higher weight up to 4 kg. Weights shall be determined as required by Appendix H.

Current Position

As above

Reasons

1. The above re-introduced text of the RRS 2017-2020 specifies a maximum weight for trapeze harnesses of 2 kg with the possibility for classes to increase the weight up to 4kg through their class rules if required.

2. The weight of a quick release is not significant and can be managed through a weight increase in the class rules if required.

3. The weight of additional lumbar support, given as the reason for the weight increase in submission 164-18 is in the range of 200-300 gram (as verified during last year’s test event) and can be managed through a weight increase in the class rules if required.

4. The increase to 6kg applies to all classes regardless of quick release or lumbar support, and is not changeable through class rules. This potentially leads to re-introduction of weight vests through the backdoor (“light wind harness” vs “strong wind harness”).
5. The increase in weight applies from 01 January 2021 while the requirement for quick releases only applies from 01 January 2023 and therefore has a direct impact on the Tokyo Olympic Games.

6. Especially for Youth Classes an increased weight of 6kg not changeable by the class rules creates significant risk for the health of young sailors.