

**Accountability of Sails in the ORCs rule**  
*A Preview of Likely Changes for 2020*



Since the debut of the ORCs rating system, both the rule and VPP have been modified annually as the ORC learned more about superyacht sailing characteristics. This email will serve as an early notification to SYRA members and other superyacht racing programs about meaningful changes to how the rule will account for sails next year.

In March the SYRA Fair Racing/Handicapping Committee formed a Working Party consisting of 15 individuals who collectively possess a significant amount of experience and expertise with superyacht racing and sails. This group looked very carefully at all aspects of sail accountability. They then met with the ORC and presented their suggestions on how to improve this component of the rule. The goal is to make the racing more fair, all the while keeping the needs and desires of the yacht owner at the forefront.

While this is not yet final, some of the more meaningful changes that the SYRA Working Party and ORC have agreed on will include:

- Yachts declaring to ORC the sails to be used for *an entire regatta*, as opposed to sails to be carried *aboard for any one race*. This will eliminate the practice of drawing from an unlimited number of headsails and spinnakers over the course of a regatta. All declared sails will not have to be onboard the yacht for all races in the series.
- Percentage penalties for the number of headsails and spinnakers declared is under revision starting from no penalties for 2 headsails and 2 spinnakers in the inventory. Penalties and credits will be as follows:

Headsails

No penalty for 2 headsails

0.5% penalty for each headsail in excess of 2

0.5% credit for yachts with furlers

Spinnakers

No penalty for 2 spinnakers

1.0% penalty for a 3<sup>rd</sup> spinnaker

0.5% penalty for each spinnaker in excess of 3

- The use of RIBS or support boats for transferring sails will be prohibited. Sails to be used for the day's racing must be onboard the racing yacht before it leaves the dock or mooring for the race course.
- Page 2 of the ORC Certificates will list all declared sails with maximum sail dimensions included.

Regardless of whether an organizer invokes Category 4 under their regatta rules, if a 'Heavy Weather Jib' is included in a yacht's inventory (surface  $<0.135 * IG^2$ ), it must be declared and carried onboard for all races in the series. On the contrary, a Storm Jib (surface  $<0.05 * IG^2$ ) shall not be accounted for in the inventory and so shall not be declared.

If you have any questions or concerns on the pending changes to the 2020 ORCs rule, please feel free to contact ORC directly ( [orcsy@orc.org](mailto:orcsy@orc.org) ) or the SYRA ( [peter@superyra.org](mailto:peter@superyra.org) ).

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