

Accountability of Sails in the ORCsyr Rule

2020 Changes



Since the debut of the ORCsyr rating system, both the rule and VPP have been modified annually as the ORC learned more about superyacht sailing characteristics. All superyacht racing programs should be aware that there are meaningful changes to how the 2020 rule accounts for sails.

In March 2019 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 was to make the racing fairer, all the while keeping the needs and desires of the yacht owner at the forefront.

The ORC accepted the SYRA recommendations. Some of the more meaningful changes include:

- Yachts declaring to ORC the sails to be used are 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 start with 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 3rd 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.

The applicable section of the 2020 ORC Rule is 304

(<https://orc.org/rules/ORC%20Superyacht%20Rule%202020.pdf>).

If you have any questions or concerns on the changes to the 2020 ORCsyr rule, please feel free to contact ORC directly (orcsy@orc.org or alessandro.nazareth@orc.org) or the SYRA (peter@superyra.org).

see current 2022 rule on page 2

Sail Accountability is found in the ORC's 2022 Superyacht Rule, section 304.3.

304.3 A yacht's ratings will be adjusted based on declared number of headsails set on forestay(s) (excluding those with area less than $0.135 * JG^2$), declared number of headsails set flying tacked in front of the forestay and declared number of spinnakers as follows:

- a) Headsails set on the forestay
 - No rating penalty for 2 headsails
 - 0.5% rating penalty for each headsail in excess of 2
 - 0.5% rating credit for yachts with furlers
- b) Headsails set flying tacked in front of the forestay
 - No rating penalty for 1 headsail set flying
 - 0.5% rating penalty for each headsail in excess of 1
- c) Spinnakers
 - No rating penalty for 2 spinnakers
 - 1.0% rating penalty for a 3rd spinnaker
 - 0.5% rating penalty for each spinnaker in excess of 3

305 Use of Headsails

305.1 Headsails may be set on the forestay or **set flying**.

305.2 Headsails **set flying** may be tacked:

- a) in front of the forestay, when
 - i) it shall be tacked approximately on the yacht's centreline, and
 - ii) it shall not be used when a spinnaker is set.
- b) between the forestay (and including it) and the forward mast, when
 - i) it shall have $HLP \leq 1.1 * J$, and
 - ii) it shall be tacked inside any spinnaker sheet, and
 - iii) it may be tacked away from the yacht's centreline.

305.3 When more than one headsail is used at the same time, if they are trimmed flat along the centerline of the yacht and the clew of the foremost-tacked headsail is forward of the clew of any other headsail the measurement of the largest headsail set on the forestay shall be assumed to be as follows:

- a) HLP shall be the distance between the aftmost clew and the foremost headstay
- b) HLU shall be the longest luff of all headsails in the sail inventory

The resulting area will be reduced by 10% if there are 3 or more headsails used at the same time.

306 Sailing Inventory Weights

Weights of items onboard recorded in the inventory list on the ORCsail certificate (racing gear, anchor and chain, items that cannot be removed while racing) shall not be less than the values recorded in the "Weight Sailing" column.

307 Observed Performance Factor (OPF)

307.1 A yacht's rating may be adjusted by an Observed Performance Factor (OPF). OPF is adjusting time allowances for yacht's performance for light and strong wind while effect on the wind ranges in between is calculated proportionally between light and strong wind. It is expressed in percentage of modification of time allowances. OPF may be applied between regattas or between races at a regatta by the ORC Rating Office when:

- a) the data and measurement information from the handicap/rating application form is insufficient to provide a detailed assessment of the yacht's speed potential, or it is submitted late, or
- b) there is evidence from race tracking data and/or from observed performance and timings that the yacht's elapsed time (for a race or part of a race) is significantly different from that predicted based on the rating allowances published on the certificate.
- c) there is unusual class composition, where a class is comprised of yachts with significantly different sailing characteristics and/or rating values and it is assessed that the VPP will not rate the yachts fairly relative to one another. In this circumstance, the rating adjustment will be referred to as a 'Regatta Specific OPF' and will only be valid for that particular regatta.

An OPF will not be applied in those cases where a yacht's performance is clearly affected by tactical mistakes or poor boat handling, as determined by tracking and/or observation.

307.2 When an OPF is applied to a yacht that has a valid certificate, that certificate shall be withdrawn and replaced with a new one that will adjust all time allowances based on the assigned OPF. If the OPF is applied during a regatta, races scored with the withdrawn certificate shall not be re-scored and the new certificate, modified with the OPF, shall apply only to races thereafter.

307.3 The decision to apply or not to apply an OPF is at the sole discretion of the ORC and shall not be grounds for