

CHALLENGER OF RECORD & DEFENDER

AMERICA'S CUP 36

AC75 Interpretation 005

of

AC75 Class Rule Version 1.2 issued 10 December 2018

Rule References:

- 12.11 When viewed from above and orthogonal to **MWP**, neither the crew nor the guest racer shall be covered at any time by any part of the **yacht** except the **mast**, sails and rigging, or occasionally by other components provided that only a small part of any crew member is covered, and this covering is not designed to provide aerodynamic fairing of the crew.

Questions:

1. Figures 1.0 and 1.1 show a crew member gripping a steering wheel in a conventional “grip” fashion, with a portion of their hand underneath the rim of the wheel, and unable to be viewed from above orthogonal to MWP. Is this crew member covered by a part of the yacht, according to Rule 12.11?
2. If the answer to question 1 is “NO”, how much of a crew member is permitted to lie beneath a part of the yacht before that crew member is covered by that part of the yacht?
3. If the answer to question 1 is “YES”, and if the crew member maintains this position for sustained periods, would the crew member be infringing on Rule 12.11?
4. If the answer to question 2 is “YES”, how much time is the crew member permitted to hold the wheel in this manner for?
5. If part of a crew member's foot is under the steering wheel for sustained periods, would they be infringing on Rule 12.11?
6. Figure 2.0 shows a crew member sitting on seat, with parts of their feet lying below the seat. If a crew member remains in this position for a sustained period, would they be infringing on Rule 12.11?

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SIDE VIEW OF HAND
ORTHOGONAL TO "LCP"

View point from above orthogonal
to MWP plane.

Solid hatching showing steering
wheel section. This component is
considered part of the "yacht"

Parts of the hand within this
obscured zone.

Red hatching zone that is
obscured by the outer rim of the
wheel.

line represents plane parallel to MWP

figure 1.0

PLAN VIEW OF HAND
ORTHOGONAL TO "MWP"

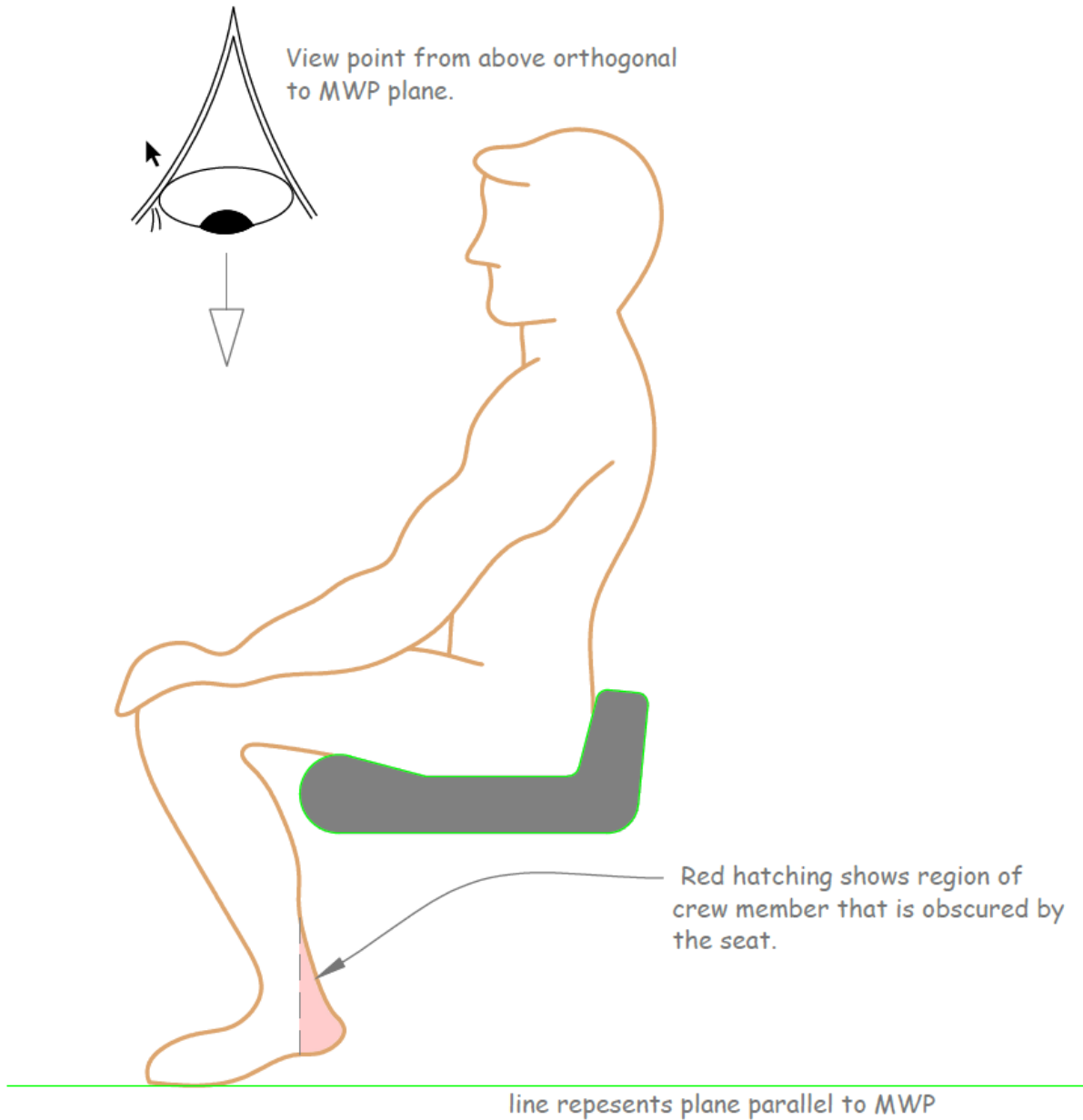
Red hatching shows region of
crew member that is obscured by
the outer rim of the wheel.

Steering wheel rim.

figure 1.1

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SIDE VIEW OF SEATED CREW MEMBER

figure 2.0

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Interpretation:

1. Yes.
2. Not applicable.
3. No; under Rule 16.8, a steering wheel is the required force input device for controlling rudder yaw angle. Normal use of the steering wheel as a force input device may require gripping the wheel in the manner shown in figures 1.0 and 1.1, which may result in part of the crew's body being covered by a part of the yacht in a manner otherwise prohibited by Rule 12.11. According to Rule 32.5(c), the specific requirements of Rule 16.8 take precedence over the more general prohibition of Rule 12.11.
4. In this particular case, the time span is not limited, see answer to question 3. (*Note: It is assumed that in Q4 of the request, it should read "...if the answer to Q1 (and not 2) is YES..."*).
5. Yes, unless the foot is that of the helmsman, and the coverage described is solely and incidentally the result of a normal stance taken by the helmsman in order to operate the steering wheel as a required force input device. See answer to question 3.
6. Yes. In order to be exempt, any "other component" must meet all three conditions in rule 12.11. Due to the position being held for a sustained period, the "occasional" condition is not met.