

CHALLENGER OF RECORD & DEFENDER

AMERICA'S CUP 36

Interpretation 052

of

AC75 Class Rule Version 1.10 issued 21st May 2020

Rule References:

18.1 Other than as required for **sail hardware**, intentional openings through **sail skins** are prohibited. This rule does not prohibit access panels that are covered or closed whilst racing.

20.11 The components that may make up a **mainsail** are limited to:

(e) **luff** attachment devices such as bolt ropes;

20.29 In **mast/mainsail** measurement condition, when **projected** on to the **mast centre plane**, every part of the **mainsail** except for **woollies** shall lie:

(a) inside a **sail skin**;

(b) within 15 mm of a **leech**;

(c) within 15 mm of a **luff**;

(d) within 100 mm of a **head**; or

(e) within 100 mm of a **foot**.

35.71 **Luff**

The forward edge of a **sail skin**.

35.98 **Sail skin**

A thin and predominantly flexible membrane of a **headsail** or **mainsail**. **Sail skins** include stickers, branding, **batten** pockets, **luff** pockets as well as any reinforcements such as edge tapes or corner patches.

Interpretation 037 on non-physical splits.

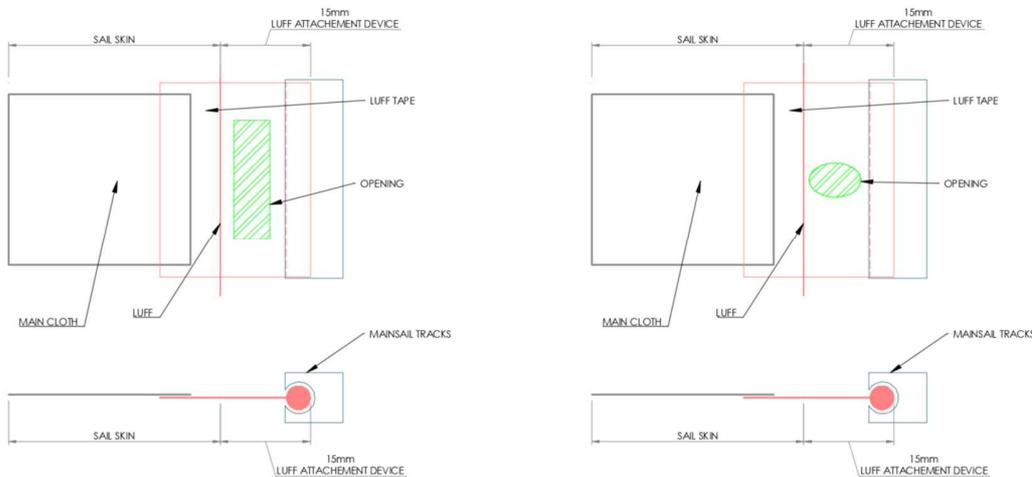
Context:

From rules 20.11, 20.29, and 35.71 we infer that **luff** attachment devices must not be wider (measured perpendicular to the **luff**) than 15 mm. A typical **luff** tape that connects a bolt rope to a **sail skin** is wider than 15 mm (see figure below).

We assume that the answers to questions 1 to 4 in Interpretation 037 apply also to a **mainsail** and that it is therefore allowed to declare a non-physical split between a **sail skin** and a **luff** attachment device.

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Questions:

1. Is it allowed to declare a non-physical split as described in Interpretation 037 between a **sail skin** and a luff attachment device of a **mainsail**? If the answer is “no” which rules are infringed?
2. Is it allowed to have some (not many) small openings of a few centimeters length (see figure above) in a **luff** attachment device, provided the openings are not in the **sail skin**? If the answer is “no” which rules are infringed?

Interpretation:

Rule 20.11 defines the components that are permitted as part of the **mainsail**. Those permitted components include (among other items) two **sail skins** and “**luff** attachment devices such as bolt ropes.”

Per rule 35.71, the **luff** is the forward edge of a **sail skin**.

Rule 20.29 says that in **mast/mainsail** measurement condition, every part of a **mainsail** (except woolies) when **projected** onto the **mast center plane** shall lie within the **projected** plan of a **sail skin**, but with that **projected** plan expanded to include zones 15mm perpendicular to but outside the **luff** and **leech**, and zones 100mm perpendicular to but outside the **head** and **foot**.

Luff attachment devices may fall within this expanded zone along but outside the **luff**.

Rule 35.98, which has been added to the rules reference section above, defines the sail skin to be: “A thin and predominantly flexible membrane of a **headsail** or **mainsail**. **Sail skins** include stickers, branding, **batten** pockets, **luff** pockets as well as any reinforcements such as edge tapes or corner patches.”

The Rule states that the definition of **sail skin** includes **luff** pockets and reinforcement such as edge tapes (i.e. a luff tape). It does not say “may include”. Thus, the luff tape IS part of a sail skin.

A “**luff** attachment device” is not a defined term in the **AC75 Class Rule** and is referred to only in Rule 19.1 (d), where it includes only hanks, and 20.11 (e), where an example of a ‘bolt rope’ is given.

The **Rules Committee** concludes that the bolt rope is the **luff** attachment device and that the **sail skin** ends at the aft edge of the bolt rope.

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A **luff** attachment bolt rope differentiates from **luff**, **leech**, **head** and **foot** lines in that it is fixed to the **sail skin**. **Luff**, **leech**, **head** and **foot** lines are considered control systems moving inside an edge tape.

Attention is brought also to the first part of rule 20.17: "All **sail skins** of the **mainsail** shall be continuously attached to the **mast tube** from 1.5m above **MRP** to 1.0m below the highest **mainsail head point**," i.e. whilst it would be permissible to have a hole in a **luff** car the **sail skin** would still need to be continuously attached to the **mast** with no holes in it.

Answers:

1. No. See Interpretation above.
2. Yes, provided the openings are not in the **sail skin**. In the drawings presented, the openings shown are in the **sail skin**, and per rule 18.1, are not permitted unless they are access panels that are covered or closed whilst racing.

END