

CHALLENGER OF RECORD & DEFENDER AMERICA'S CUP 36

Interpretation 075 of AC75 Class Rule Version 1.23 issued 29th December 2020

Rule References:

- 20.6 The **mast** shall not be adjusted with respect to Rule 20.5 except for:
....
(b) control of the running backstay;
- 12.9 Apart from permitted movement of **foils**, **foil arm drums** and **control surfaces**, parts of the **yacht** shall only move or be moved:
(a) to control movement of a **control surface**;
...
(c) in preparation of controlling a **control surface** (e.g. setting a **headsail** car prior to hoisting; turning an unloaded winch to check it is connected to a drive train; charging an accumulator)
(d) to organise rigging or deck gear after controlling a **control surface** (e.g. stowing sheets; stowing a winch handle; zipping closed a sail cover);
...
(l) as slack rigging or **woollies**;
(m) for safety reasons; or
- 12.10 Other than the movement of **foils** or **control surfaces**, movement of parts of the **yacht** permitted by Rule 12.9 shall have no significant effect on:
(a) aerodynamic loads;

Context:

Rule 20.6 (b) allows to adjust the **mast** by controlling the running backstays.

Rule 12.9 allows for a running backstay to only move or be moved:

- a) to control the combination of a **mast** and a **mainsail** acting together; Rule 12.9 (a); or
- b) in preparation of controlling the combination of a **mast** and a **mainsail** acting together (i.e. getting the slack of the leeward running backstay before a tack or a gybe); Rule 12.9 (c); or
- c) to organize rigging after controlling the combination of a **mast** and a **mainsail** acting together; Rule 12.9 (d); or
- d) as slack rigging; Rule 12.9 (l); or
- e) for safety reasons; Rule 12.9 (m).

Concealing the running backstays in the **mainsail** (within the space between both **sail skins**) has a significant effect on aerodynamic loads, in that regard:

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Questions:

1. Does the **AC75 Class Rule**, and the applicable interpretations such as Interpretation 52 and 72, allow to place or conceal the running backstays inside the **mainsail** (within the space between the two **sail skins**) while racing?
2. Does Rule 12.10 (a) allow a taught running backstay to move or be moved when placed inside the **mainsail** (within the space between the two **sail skins**)?
3. Does Rule 12.10 (a) allow a slack running backstay to move or be moved when placed inside the **mainsail** (within the space between the two **sail skins**)?

Answers:

1. No. The **Yacht** must comply with Rule 20.5 while racing – see Interpretation 074 Question 1. Therefore, the **yacht** must comply with 031 750 101A_Rig and Sailplan while racing except for adjustments as permitted by Rule 20.6.
031 750 101A_Rig and Sailplan presents the running backstay arranged outside the **mast** and outside the **sail skins**.
2. The **Rules Committee** does not answer questions with respect to a prohibited configuration.
3. The **Rules Committee** does not answer questions with respect to a prohibited configuration.

END