

I have been contacted on 10 October 2023 by Jorn HOELSAETHER, competitor on 2023 IOM European Championship (IOM ICA VC Measurement) regarding the rules compliance of “new kicking straps” on boats CRO 30 and CRO 35. I assume that both boats have same or very similar items.



Robert. We have an issue with the “new kicking strap” on the new Croatian boats. We would like to have your opinion /statement on whether or not it is within the rules. [10/10/2023 10:11](#)

Relevant IOM Class Rules are as follows:

CLASS RULES 2022

A.3 AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A.3.1 The international authority of the class is the IRSA which shall cooperate with the ICA in all matters concerning these class rules.

A.7 CLASS RULES INTERPRETATIONS

A.7.1 GENERAL

Interpretation of **class rules** shall be made in accordance with the IRSA Regulations.

A.7.2 AT AN EVENT

Any interpretation of **class rules** required at an event may be made by an international jury constituted in accordance with the RRS. Such interpretation shall only be valid during the event and the organising authority shall, as soon as practical after the event, inform the IRSA, the DNM and the IOM ICA.

Section F – Rig

F.1 PARTS

F.1.1 MANDATORY

- (a) **Mast.**
- (b) **Mainsail boom.**
- (c) **Headsail boom.**
- (d) **Standing rigging.**
- (e) **Running rigging.**
- (f) Fittings.

F.2 GENERAL

F.2.1 RULES

Rigs shall comply with the current **class rules**.

F.2.2 MANUFACTURERS

No licence is required.

F.2.3 LIMITATIONS

The function of items shall be limited to what is normally provided by items of their type.

F.6 RUNNING RIGGING

F.6.1 MATERIALS

Materials of **running rigging** are unrestricted.

F.6.2 PARTS

(a) MANDATORY

- (1) **Mainsail boom sheet.**
- (2) **Mainsail boom kicking strap.**
- (3) **Headsail halyard**, if **headsail stay** is not fitted.
- (4) **Headsail boom sheet.**
- (5) **Backstay.**

THE
EQUIPMENT RULES
OF
SAILING
for 2021-2024

F.1.6 Rigging

Any equipment attached and/or **connected** at one or both ends to **spars, sails** or other **rigging** and **capable of working in tension only**. Includes associated **fittings** which are not permanently fixed to a **hull, spar** or **spreader**.

F.1.7 Rigging Types

(a) STANDING RIGGING

Rigging used to support a mast **spar** or **hull spar**. It may be adjustable but is not detached when *racing* except as below:

Standing Rigging types:

(i) SHROUD

Rigging used to provide transverse support for a mast **spar** or **hull spar** and which may also provide longitudinal support.

(ii) STAY

Rigging mainly used to provide longitudinal support for a mast **spar** or **hull spar** or a **sail** which may be detached while *racing*.

(iii) FORESTAY

Rigging used to provide forward support for a mast **spar**.

(b) RUNNING RIGGING

Rigging primarily used to adjust a **spar**, a **sail** or a **hull appendage**.

My commercial interest is production of rudders for SAILBOAT RC. I have been also involved in hull design of the two prototype boats CRO 30 and CRO 35.

I have not been involved in any capacity in development and production of the rigs including kicking straps in question.

My views as IOM ICA VC Technical are as follows:

- a) Kicking straps are listed as mandatory parts of **running rigging** -> IOM Class Rule F.6.2.(a)(2). (ERS defined item in bold)
- b) According to ERS F.1.6 and F.1.7, **running rigging** has to be capable to working in tension only.
- c) Kicking straps used on boats in questions are capable to working in tension only. Note that this has to be applied to the kicking strap as whole piece of equipment, not to part of it!
- d) Material of the **running rigging** is unrestricted (IOM Class Rule F.6.1) so kicking straps in question are satisfying this Class Rule.
- e) Kicking straps in questions are clearly used for controlling the mainsail boom angle (vertical plane) and I don't see any other function of them, so their function is limited to what is normally provided by items of their type i.e. kicking straps. (IOM Class Rule F.2.3)
- f) Shape and/or cross section and/or any other dimension(s) of kicking strap are not defined in the IOM Class Rules.
- g) Sides of kicking straps are flat and total lateral area of the kicking strap is not capable of producing significant lift and propulsion power.

Based on all above my opinion is that kicking straps in question are valid according to the current edition of the IOM Class Rules 2022.

For the benefit of the IOM Class, I will strongly recommend to the IOM ICA Technical Subcommittee and IOM ICA Exec class rule amendment which will limit/declare dimension of the kicking strap. Technically sound wording to be carefully drafted in the future.

Robert Grubiša, IOM ICA VC Chairman,

10 October 2023