Submission: EST 3

Reporting committee: ITC

DEPOWERING AND HIGHER WIND VELOCITY

PROPOSAL

Depowering the aerodynamic forces of asymmetric spinnakers with SHW/SFL of 0.75 – 0.85 or adding to the time allowances table a higher wind velocity than 20 knots (similar submissions were made in 2015, 2018, and 2022).

RATIONALE

In the 2023 World Championship, the first 3 coastal races were held in more than 20 knots of wind, whereas for scoring the race used the PCS - Constructed course model, which lead to a weak point in the VPP and scoring system.

In the first coastal race, in legs one and two the true wind angle was measured at 107° and 100° at a strength 22-26 knots. The wind gusts were up to 30 knots and the entire fleet was sailing with J3 or J4 headsails, with no one hoisting a spinnaker due to the strong wind. As a result boats having asymmetric spinnakers with SHW/SFL of 0.75 – 0.85 in their inventory received an undeserved rating penalty.

For example, EST949 has a 78% A0 in its inventory, but during the first 8 miles she got penalized for approximately 2 minutes for a sail that she could not hoist due to wind outside the sail's usable range and/or wind angle.

Considering the 2022 submission USA 2, proposing using a wind speed and direction derived from a high-fidelity weather model could lead the current ORC VPP to penalize boats in long offshore races in 40 knots of wind using asymmetric spinnakers with SHW/SFL of 0.75 – 0.85. But in reality these boats would only be using a storm jib and trysail in those extreme conditions.