

SPINNAKER RETRIEVER SYSTEM AND PEDESTAL

PROPOSAL

Modify IMS G6.6 to distinguish between conventional manually powered spinnaker retrieval systems, manually powered systems using a pedestal or equivalent mechanical power-transfer arrangement, and systems using non-manual power. Proposed wording:

G6.6 If there is a spinnaker retriever system, it shall be recorded as one of the following:

- a) “YES” - where the spinnaker retrieval system is powered manually and is operated without the use of a pedestal or equivalent mechanical power-transfer system
- b) “YES PEDESTAL” - where the spinnaker retrieval system is powered manually and is operated through a pedestal or equivalent system that enables continuous and/or multi-crew mechanical power input
- c) “YES NMP” - where the spinnaker retrieval system may be operated using non-manual power.

The appropriate rating assessment shall be applied to each configuration in accordance with ORC Rating Systems 103.3.

RATIONALE

The introduction of spinnaker retrieval systems into the ORC rating framework is a positive development. However, the current binary distinction between manual and non-manual power does not adequately reflect the performance differences between the various manually powered systems now in use.

A pedestal-driven retrieval system can deliver substantially greater and more continuous power than a conventional manually operated retrieval system. It may enable simultaneous input from multiple crew members and allow the retrieval line to be driven at higher speed and under higher sustained load. This can materially affect the execution of a spinnaker drop.

In particular, a high-capacity pedestal retrieval system can:

- retrieve a spinnaker significantly faster;
- maintain retrieval speed under higher loads;
- reduce the number of crew required to perform the manoeuvre;
- allow the retrieval to commence later in the manoeuvre;
- reduce the period during which the spinnaker is partially deployed or uncontrolled; and
- reduce the overall performance loss associated with a spinnaker drop.

These effects are particularly relevant on high-performance yachts, where manoeuvre efficiency is a significant component of overall race performance. The relevant distinction is therefore not solely whether the energy source is manual or non-manual, but also how manually generated power is transmitted and multiplied within the system. Different mechanical arrangements can result in materially different performance outcomes.

Under the current wording, a simple manually operated retrieval system and a purpose-designed pedestal-driven system are both recorded as “YES”, despite their significantly different capabilities. Introducing a separate recorded category for pedestal-driven or functionally equivalent high-capacity manually powered systems would allow ORC to assess these performance differences independently, while preserving the fundamental distinction between manual and non-manual power.

This proposal does not seek to restrict the use of pedestal-driven retrieval systems. Its purpose is solely to ensure that materially different spinnaker handling capabilities are properly identified and appropriately reflected within the ORC rating system.