

(Questions from Lester Gilbert on the IOM Class Rule, November 2018.)

Questions

- (1) (i) May the headsail and mainsail sheets be of different materials, and/or of mixed materials, and/or different sizes?

(ii) If the answer to (1)(i) is “Yes”, may the mixed materials be connected using intermediate components, for example, small steel rings, fishing line snap hooks, or roach pole elastic connectors?
- (2) (i) May the sheet be terminated by an elastic component which is in turn fixed to the boom or to the boom fitting?

(ii) May the sheet be terminated by a component which is itself terminated in turn and fixed to the boom or to the boom fitting? For example, where a Dyneema sheet is terminated by a length of silicone line, the silicone line may itself be terminated by a small steel ring, a fishing line snap hook, or a roach pole elastic connector.
- (3) May the sheet attach to an element of the boom fixing or fitting which rotates?
- (4) Where the sheet attaches to a boom fixing or fitting, may the boom fixing or fitting have an elastic component?
- (5) (i) May the sheet control line be of mixed materials?

(ii) If the answer to (5)(i) is “Yes”, may the mixed materials be connected using intermediate components, for example, small steel rings, fishing line snap hooks, or roach pole elastic connectors?
- (6) May a sheet or the sheet control line have (i) stop knots and/or beads, and/or (ii) sheathes and/or sleeves, or similar components?

Relevant Rules

ERS 2017-2020

F.1.6 Rigging

Any equipment attached 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 (b)

(vi) SHEET

Rigging used to trim the **clew** of a **sail**, or a **boom spar**.

IOM CR 2018

C.7.6 RUNNING RIGGING

USE

- (a) The **mainsail sheet** and the **headsail sheet** may be worked by a **sheet** control line attached to the **sheet** control unit.

F.2.3 LIMITATIONS

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

F.2.4 CONSTRUCTION

- (a) Fittings and/or control lines may be combined provided their function is not extended beyond what is permitted.
- (b) The position of parts, and the length and tension of **rigging**, may be adjustable unless otherwise restricted.

F.4.3 MAINSAIL BOOM FITTINGS

- (a) MANDATORY
 - (2) **Mainsail boom sheet** fitting(s).
- (b) OPTIONAL
 - (3) Opening(s) for **mainsail boom sheet** fitting.

F.4.4 HEADSAIL BOOM FITTINGS

- (a) MANDATORY
 - (2) **Headsail boom sheet** fitting(s).
- (b) OPTIONAL
 - (4) Opening(s) for **headsail boom sheet** fitting.

F.6.2 PARTS

- (a) MANDATORY
 - (1) **Mainsail boom sheet.**
 - (4) **Headsail boom sheet.**
- (b) OPTIONAL
 - (9) A **sheet** control line.

F.6.3 FITTINGS

- OPTIONAL
 - (a) Terminations.
 - (b) Length and tension adjustments.

Discussion

C.7.6 tells us that the **sheet** control line worked by the **sheet** control unit may work the **mainsail sheet** and **headsail sheet**.

F.6.2 (a) tells us that a **mainsail boom sheet** and a **headsail boom sheet** are permitted.

Conclude a single **sheet** is permitted for each **boom**.

Conclude a **sheet** control line is not an item of **rigging**.

A **sheet** is defined as an item of **rigging**.

Rigging is defined as:

Any equipment

attached 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.6.1 tells us the materials used in **rigging** are unrestricted.

Conclude the **sheet** may vary in its construction (material and design) along its length.

F.6.3 (a) tells us that terminations (undefined) are permitted. Therefore the attachment at one or both ends is permitted and, because F.6.1 tells us materials used are unrestricted, their material is unrestricted.

Other optional fittings for **running rigging** are:

Length and tension adjustments

Blocks

Wind indicator

The definition of **rigging** tells us that fittings e.g. shackles, hooks, caribiners, clip hooks, balls, connections etc, not permanently fixed to a **hull, spar** or **spreader**, are permitted as part of the **sheet**.

Conclude connector fittings joining more than two or more parts of a **sheet** are permitted.

Answers

Returning to this specific RFI - Questions 1 by 1

(1) (i) May the headsail and mainsail sheets be of different materials, and/or of mixed materials, and/or different sizes?

See above – YES/YES/YES.

(ii) If the answer to (1)(i) is “Yes”, may the mixed materials be connected using intermediate components, for example, small steel rings, fishing line snap hooks, or roach pole elastic connectors?

See above – YES. The definition of **rigging** includes fittings not fixed to a **hull, spar** or **spreader**.

(2) (i) May the sheet be terminated by an elastic component which is in turn fixed to the boom or to the boom fitting?

The sheet may incorporate an elastic element as material for a **sheet** is not controlled.

(ii) May the sheet be terminated by a component which is itself terminated in turn and fixed to the boom or to the boom fitting? For example, where a Dyneema sheet is terminated by a length of silicone line, the silicone line may itself be terminated by a small steel ring, a fishing line snap hook, or a roach pole elastic connector.

The Dyneema **sheet** (jn this example) is not terminated by the length of silicone line. They are both elements of the **sheet** and may have a connector fitting (not fixed to a **hull, spar** or **spreader**) to make the connection. The end of the **sheet** (in this case the length of silicone line) may have a termination that connects to the **boom's sheet** fitting.

(3) May the sheet attach to an element of the boom fixing or fitting which rotates?

The **sheet** may have a termination that connects to the **boom's sheet** fitting. Provided it functions in a way that its function is not extended beyond that of a **sheet** attachment (F.4.3 a & b, F.4.4 a & b), then it is permitted.

The fitting described in the RFI does extend this function and is not permitted.

(4) Where the sheet attaches to a boom fixing or fitting, may the boom fixing or fitting have an elastic component?

See above - Provided the **boom's sheet** fitting functions in a way that its function is not extended beyond that of a **sheet** attachment, then it is permitted.

The fitting described in the RFI does extend this function and is not permitted.

(5) (i) May the sheet control line be of mixed materials?

Yes.

(ii) If the answer to (5)(i) is "Yes", may the mixed materials be connected using intermediate components, for example, small steel rings, fishing line snap hooks, or roach pole elastic connectors?

See above – YES. The definition of **rigging** includes fittings not fixed to a **hull, spar** or **spreader**.

(6) May a sheet or the sheet control line have (i) stop knots and/or beads, and/or (ii) sheathes and/or sleeves, or similar components?

Each may have knots and other elements of a piece of **rigging**; fittings not fixed to a **hull, spar** or **spreader** are permitted. Provided sheathes and sleeves do not prevent the **sheet** from compliance with the requirements for a **sheet** in the IOM Class (see above) then they are permitted.

Conclusion

Answers to the questions asked are given in the sections above.

No interpretation is required as a result of the questions asked as the relevant ERS and Class Rules provide straightforward answers to the original questions.

Where no interpretation is necessary to answer questions posed it is not required to have the formal discussion with IRSA that is necessary for an interpretation.

End of section.