



IRC Congress 2021

Proposed IRC Rule Changes for 2022 from the IRC Technical Committee

Post IRC Congress 2021 version with Proposal 2, Rule 15 Manual Power, updated (new text highlighted).

A word used as defined by ERS is printed in **bold**.

A word used as defined by IRC Definitions is printed underlined.

Proposed additions are printed in blue.

Proposed deletions are printed in ~~struckthrough-red~~.

Effective Date: IRC Rule changes apply from 1st January 2022, except in countries with June-May validity, where changes apply from 1st June 2022. See Rule 8.12

Original Version: 210906

This Version: 4



1. IRC RULE 17 – BOAT WEIGHT

Reason for change: While engines are part of boat weight, green generators of power, such as wind generators or solar panels are not specifically listed. This rule adds these items to the items included in IRC boat weight.

Amend IRC Rule 17 as follows:

17 BOAT WEIGHT

17.1 **Boat Weight** is measured in accordance with the following **Conditions for Weight and Flotation Measurement**:

The **boat** shall:

be dry.

be in compliance with the **class rules** (ie. IRC Rules)

Unless otherwise specified in the *rules*, any of the following shall be included:

rig including **spinnaker pole(s)**, **whisker poles** and/or jockey pole

main sheet and **mizzen sheet**, vang,

inboard engine or outboard engine in stowed position,

permanently installed solar panels, wind or hydro generators,

fitted berth cushions on board in their normal positions if carried *while racing*

all permanent fixtures and **fittings** and items of accommodation.

Unless otherwise specified in the *rules*, any of the following shall be excluded:

sails

fuel, water, **variable ballast** or the content of any other tanks,

gas bottles

portable safety equipment

and all other unfitted or loose equipment.

Effect: Include renewable generators of power in IRC boat weight when fitted.



2. IRC RULE 15 - MANUAL POWER

Reason for change: IRC Rule 15 may amend the RRS rule that requires only manual crew power for sails, rigging and movable hull appendages. This rule includes automatic steering devices yet permitting their use should be made clear by the organising authority in the Notice of Race. Therefore, the proposed amendment makes it clear that their use is only permitted when specifically mentioned in the Notice of Race.

Note: The rule is careful not to use RRS wording of “adjusting movable hull appendages” as this will encapsulate canting keels, foils, leeboards etc.

Amend IRC Rule 15 as follows:

15 MANUAL POWER

15.1 RRS 52, Manual Power, shall not apply. This Rule may be amended by Notice of Race.

15.2 (a) The use of stored power for the hoisting of **mainsails**, or the reefing or furling of **sails** need not be declared.

(b) **Boats** using stored power solely for the adjustment or operation of **backstays** shall declare this to the Rating Authority.

(c) **Boats** using stored power for the adjustment or operation of **running rigging** other than as noted in Rules 15.2(a) & (b) shall declare this to the Rating Authority.

(d) **Boats shall not use stored power for steering unless specified by the Notice of Race.**

Congress noted that Rule 11 must also be updated to include new rule 15.2 (d):

11 CHANGES TO CLASS RULES

11.1 A Rule Authority Prescription or Notice of Race may vary the requirements of IRC Rules 8.6, 9.6, 14.1, 15.1, **15.2 (d)**, 21.1.5 (d) (e) and (f), 21.8.4, and 22.4. Any Rule Authority prescriptions shall have been approved by the national IRC Owners’ Association when such exists. No other IRC Rules may be amended.

Effect: To be clear that automatic and wind-vane devices for steering are only permitted when mentioned in the Notice of Race.



3. IRC RULE 21.3.6 – WHISKER POLE

Reason for change: It has been brought to our attention that in heavy weather a whisker pole may be used to set a headsail to windward when it is unsafe or undesirable to set a spinnaker. This is primarily for safety and should not result in a rating effect. It is therefore only intended to rate a whisker pole when it is set to leeward.

Amend IRC Rule 21.3.6 as follows:

21.3.6 A **boat** shall declare using any **spar** as a **whisker pole set to leeward** to set a headsail or a flying headsail

Effect: To rate boats with a whisker pole when used to leeward only.



4. IRC DEFINITION A5 - SPINNAKER

Reason for change: The definition of a spinnaker includes the term “set forward of the **mast**”. The ERS term **mast** includes the rigging and therefore the forestay. This may cause confusion and so it is therefore necessary to change the definition to “set forward of the **mast spar**”. This is also in accordance with the ERS definition of **spinnaker**.

Amend IRC Definition of Spinnaker as follows:

Spinnaker ERS G.1.3(f) shall not apply. A spinnaker is defined as a **sail** set forward of the foremost **mast spar** with **half width** (measured as a spinnaker) equal to or greater than 75% of **foot length** and without battens. A spinnaker may be set reefed by any means while *racing* under IRC provided that when measured in any reefed condition it continues to satisfy the IRC definition of a spinnaker.

Effect: Clarify a spinnaker is set forward of the **mast spar**.



5. IRC RULE 8.5 – ENDORSED CERTIFICATE

Reason for change: IRC Rule 8.5 describes where the endorsed stamp is located on the certificate. With the new certificate format this is no longer the case and it is not necessary to specify this location within the IRC Rule.

Amend IRC Rule 8.5 as follows:

8.5 An ENDORSED IRC certificate is one for which the data on the certificate has been audited and if necessary verified by measurement, or other methods in accordance with current published standards. An owner may apply to their Rule Authority to have an IRC rating certificate Endorsed. The Rule Authority will inform the owner of any measurement, including weighing, or other checks required prior to issue by the Rating Authority of a certificate carrying (irrespective of certificate print language) the notation ENDORSED ~~under the IRC Rating Authority stamp~~ (see also Rule 13).

Effect: To remove the reference to the endorsed stamp in the IRC Rule.