



2021 – MODIFICATIONS IRC

The purpose of this note is not to cover the full IRC 2021 Rule and software amendments, but the major ones only which means changes of the rule that may affect the TCC of a boat next year. We hope this note to be useful for an owner to understand the potential evolution of a boat's TCC.

Voir : <https://ircrating.org/irc-rule/>

NEW APPENDIX F – LIFTING APPENDAGES

This new appendix presents the IRC eligibility criteria of a lifting appendage. It defines what is a lifting appendage for the IRC Rule, and it makes clear the parameters of the appendages the TCC is calculated from.

When the owner of a lifting appendage(s) fitted boat applies for an IRC certificate, or when the project to design such a boat is considered, the Centre de Calcul will come back to the owner, designer and shipyard, for complementary information.

SPINNAKER POLE LENGTH (SPL) :

The 2021 IRC software includes changes to the rating of spinnaker poles and whisker poles, with the intention of rating poles more equitably. The IRC Rules now read:

*21.3.5 Boats will be rated according to whether they use a **spinnaker pole** and/or a **bowsprit** according to the following configurations:*

- (a) No **spinnaker pole** (spinnaker tacked on deck) or a centre line **bowsprit** only.*
- (b) An articulating **bowsprit** only.*
- (c) **Spinnaker pole(s)** either with or without a **bowsprit**.*

A new definition of Spinnaker Pole Length (**SPL**) has been added to enable IRC to better rate boats with bowsprit AND spinnaker poles where previously the maximum STL was used for rating purposes. The spinnaker pole has been removed from the STL definition and IRC Appendix A4 now includes:

*SPL The greatest horizontal distance from the forward face of the **mast spar**, ignoring any **fittings** and tracks, measured on or near the centreline of the **boat**, to the extremity of the **spinnaker pole**.*

To fully benefit from the changes owners are asked to confirm the pole configuration of their boat, and SPL as well as STL if applicable when applying for a certificate. For revalidation SPL should be supplied if it is different from the previous rated STL. If SPL is not supplied then STL will automatically be used for spinnaker pole length if applicable, which may result in a higher TCC. Boats may see a change in their TCC for 2021 and the rating effect will depend on the specific configuration of the boat.

WHISKER POLES

In 2020 IRC introduced whisker poles into the rating scope for spinnaker poles; this resulted in some boats having a substantial increase in TCC and was reviewed for 2021. Now there is a definition of whisker pole in the 2021-2024 Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) the 2021 IRC software includes changes to the rating of whisker poles with the intention of rating them more equitably.

IRC Rules now read:

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

To fully benefit from the changes owners are asked to confirm the configuration of their boat, and if no declaration is made then default inputs will be used based on previous declarations which may result in a higher TCC. Boats previously rated with a spinnaker and/or whisker pole may see a change in their TCC for 2021 and the rating effect will depend on the specific configuration of the boat.

FLYING HEADSAIL

Recognizing the evolution of sail types, IRC has introduced a new IRC definition of “Flying Headsail” with several rules in regards to the half width ratio to the foot length (greater than or equal to 62.5%), a maximum tack point position (STLFHmax), battens or stiffening of the sail are not permitted and several other rule requirements. The Flying Headsail definition encompasses some ‘Code0’ sails that do not satisfy the Racing Rules of Sailing, Equipment Rules of Sailing or IRC definition of a spinnaker (SHW > or = 75%SFL). Previously these sails rated as large headsails. Note that Code0s that are defined as a spinnaker are not impacted by this change.

See <https://ircrating.org/irc-rule/> for the full rules and definitions relating to Flying Headsails.

Owners declaring a Flying Headsail within the IRC definition will see a change in rating for 2021. Some representative examples are shown below; these are for guidance only as the rating effect will depend upon the rig configuration and many other boat factors.

Boat Design	Flying Headsail Area (m ²)	Number of Flying Headsails		
		1	2	3
		increase	increase	increase
Farr 30	45	0.008	0.014	0.023
A31	45	0.006	0.013	0.023
J 109	60	0.008	0.014	0.024
JPK 10.80	65	0.007	0.015	0.025
Volvo Open 70	330	0.014	0.021	0.038

For a presentation of the Flying Headsail in IRC:

04.Introduction_Flying_Headsail_IRCRule2021_CCIRC_Eng.pdf

And

05.Flying Headsail Summay.pdf

Autorité de Rating IRC

Paris, France: irc@uncl.com

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