



## Notice 2021/01

### IRC Rule 11.1: Changes to Class Rules and 21.3.6: Whisker Poles

With effect from 1 June 2021, in **IRC 2021** Rules, amend IRC Rule 21.3.6 regarding **whisker poles** and IRC Rule 11.1 regarding IRC Rules that can be changed:

Amend IRC rule 11.1:

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, 21.1.5 (d) (e) and (f), **21.3.6**, 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.

Amend IRC rule 21.3.6:

21.3.6 A **boat** shall declare using any **spar** as a **whisker pole** to set a headsail or a flying headsail. **This rule may be amended by a Notice of Race.**

#### Reason

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. If a Race Organiser believes this may be the case for their race, then they may consider that this circumstance should not result in a rating effect and therefore may decide to not apply IRC Rule 21.3.6.

Example of a rule amendment to 21.3.6 in a Notice of Race may be as follows:

IRC Rule 21.3.6 does not apply. A whisker pole to set a headsail may be used without IRC declaration

For the avoidance of doubt outriggers are not permitted in accordance with IRC Rule 21.3.2 and Racing Rules of Sailing 55.

**IRC Policy Steering Group**

1 June 2021