

THE RACING RULES OF SAILING 2021-2024
Marginal Marking Details

2021-2024 Edition

55.3 Sheeting Sails

No sail shall be sheeted over or through any device that exerts outward pressure on a sheet or clew of a sail at a point from which, with the boat upright, a vertical line would fall outside the hull or deck, except:

- (a) a headsail clew may be connected (as defined in *The Equipment Rules of Sailing*) to a whisker pole, provided that a spinnaker is not set;
- (b) any sail may be sheeted to or led above a boom that is regularly used for a sail and is permanently attached to the mast from which the head of the sail is set;
- (c) a headsail may be sheeted to its own boom that requires no adjustment when tacking; and
- (d) the boom of a sail may be sheeted to a bumkin.

55.4 Headsails and Spinnakers

For the purposes of rules 54 and 55 and Appendix G, the definitions of ‘headsail’ and ‘spinnaker’ in *The Equipment Rules of Sailing* shall be used.

Note: The Equipment Rules of Sailing are available at the *World Sailing website*.

2017-2020 Edition

50.1 Use of Outriggers

- (a) No sail shall be sheeted over or through an outrigger, except as permitted in rule 50.3(b) or 50.3(c). An outrigger is any fitting or other device so placed that it could exert outward pressure on a sheet or sail at a point from which, with the boat upright, a vertical line would fall outside the hull or deck. For the purpose of this rule, bulwarks, rails and rubbing strakes are not part of the hull or deck and the following are not outriggers: a bowsprit used to secure the tack of a sail, a bumkin used to sheet the boom of a sail, or a boom of a boomed headsail that requires no adjustment when tacking.
- (b) Any sail may be sheeted to or led above a boom that is regularly used for a sail and is permanently attached to the mast from which the head of the sail is set.
- (c) A headsail may be sheeted or attached at its clew to a spinnaker pole or whisker pole, provided that a spinnaker is not set.

Comments from [The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 Study Version](#)

- Changes in rule 55.3 are the result of Submission 167-19, Alternative 1, as edited.
- Further edits were made after the 2019 meeting in Bermuda:
 - The RRC voted in Bermuda to delete current rule 50.3(b) because it was thought to be covered by rule 55.3(c) in the draft shown here. However, Stan Honey pointed out that current rule

50.3(b) is different in its effect from rule 55.3(c) and deleting current rule 50.3(b) would change the game for many boats that fly symmetric spinnakers. By an electronic vote of the RRC taken in May 2020, rule 50.3(b), as shown in this draft, was approved and, therefore, reinstated.

- Rule 55.3(c) was reworded for clarity. In the draft approved in Bermuda, it was not clear what sail the words ‘that sail’ referred to. The rewording removes that ambiguity and is consistent with 55.3(c)’s intent.
- The word ‘or’ was changed to ‘and’ at the end of rule 55.3(c) for the following reason: If ‘or’ is used, it implies that a boat may use only one of these four exceptions at a time. Under the current rule a boat can use more than one of these exceptions at a time. The use of ‘and’ in place of ‘or’ permits a boat to use more than one of these exceptions and, thereby, avoids a game change.
- All four rules, 55.3(a), (b), (c) and (d), have been slightly reworded for consistency and clarity.