



27 June 2022

International Etchells Class Association (IECA) Technical Update – 005

Subject: Hiking

From: One Design Technical Committee (ODTC) and Class Measurer

To: IECA Members

Background

It has become apparent that sailors are interpreting the rules on hiking in different ways. The One-Design Technical Committee and Chief Measurer provide this clarification to help sailors comply with the rules.

If in any doubt, sailors are advised to request further clarification from the ODTC by emailing etchelloffice@gmail.com.

Applicable Class Rules

C.2.3 HIKING

C.2.3(c) The use of **ONLY** the headsail, spinnaker and/or mainsheets and/or a single safety line attached to the top of the console, held solely in the hands, may be used to assist hiking. The safety line shall be of constant thickness, maximum diameter 10mm. It shall have no knots, loops or splices other than to attach it to the console. When extended outboard perpendicular to the sheerline, it shall extend no more than 300mm from the sheerline.

Note: There is no change to the effect of this rule in the class rules as approved by the membership in the recent ballot (currently under review at World Sailing).

Clarification

1. Nothing shall be used to assist hiking, other than the **jib, spinnaker or mainsail sheets and a single safety line**
2. **“Held solely in the hands”** means that the line used to assist hiking must be held in tension solely by the hands. The following are examples of what is and is not permitted:
 - Permitted: The sheet held solely in the hands but passed over the feet/ankle/leg to brace when hiking

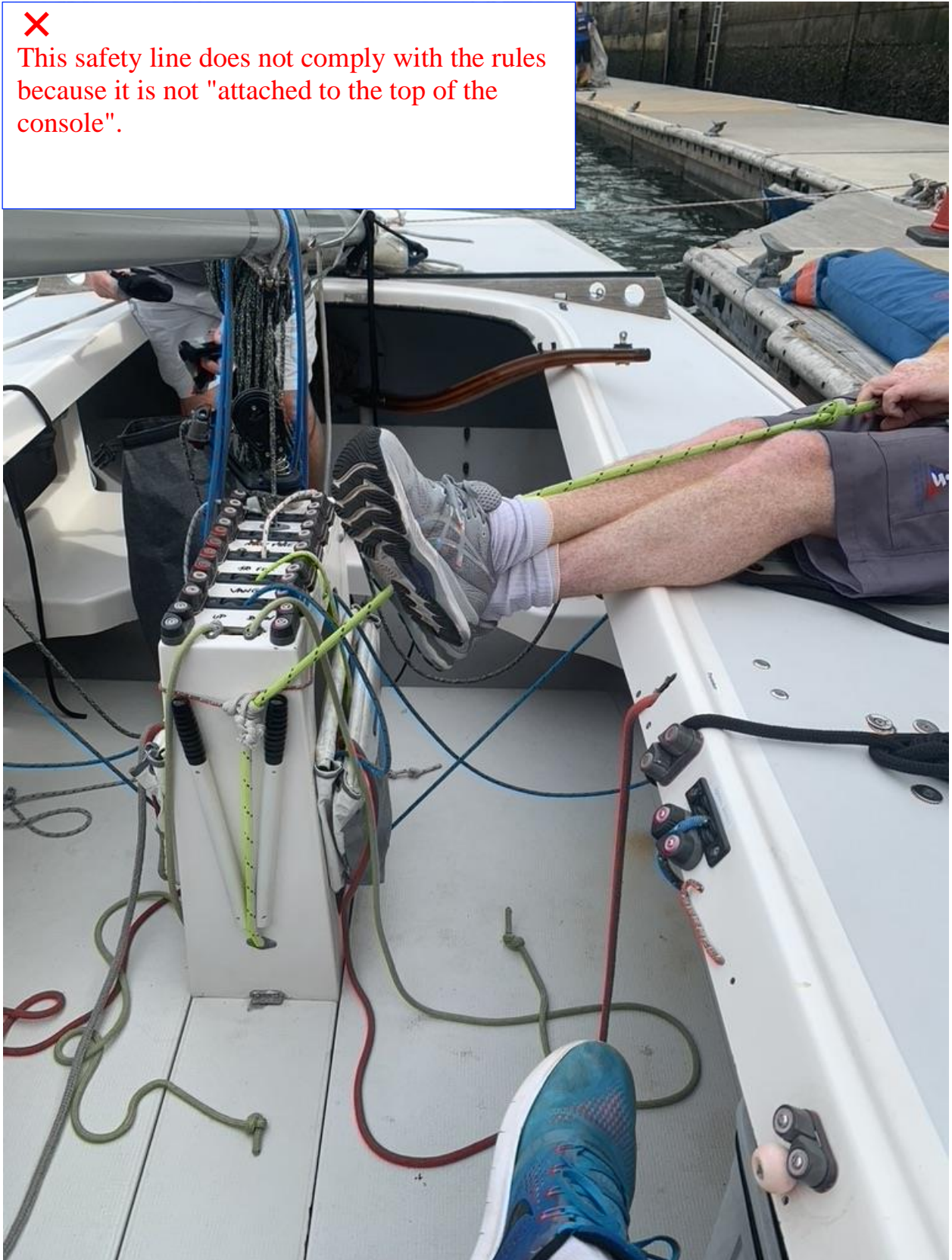
- Prohibited: Using a loop tied in a sheet to hold the sailor's feet or torso, whether or not the sheet is also held in the hands
- Prohibited: Attaching the sheet/safety line to a belt or harness or around the sailor's body.

Definition of a sheet: The Class Rules permit the use of any of the mainsail sheet, spinnaker sheet and jib sheet to be used to assist hiking. The World Sailing Equipment Rules of Sailing defines a sheet as "Rigging used to trim the clew of a sail, or a boom spar." With that definition, in the context of hiking, the sheet is the rigging (i.e. line) between the sailor's hands and the clew or boom of the sail it trims. When the tail end of that line is attached elsewhere to the boat it is NOT a sheet – because that end of the line does not trim any sail - and hence must not be used to assist hiking.

3. **Examples:** The following list and pictures give some examples of what is and is not permitted to assist hiking. The list is not exhaustive. The photos and the text are
- Prohibited: Hiking off a safety line that is not attached to the top of the console.
 - Permitted: Leading a sheet, between its cleat and the sailor's hands, over the ankles.
 - Permitted: Using the spinnaker sheet to assist hiking even when the spinnaker is not hoisted
 - Prohibited: Hiking off the spinnaker sheet twicker (twinning line)
 - Prohibited: Hiking off the backstay
 - Prohibited: Tying a loop in a sheet and looping it around the shoulders to assist hiking.
 - Prohibited: Leading a sheet around any part of the boat between the hands and the spar or sail that the sheet is trimming, resulting in increased downward load on any part of the sailor's body. Blocks or cleats through which the sheet is led as required for the normal trimming operation of the sheet are excluded from this prohibition.
 - Prohibited: Tying a sheet to the boat and hiking from that. This prohibition includes any part of the sheet - either the tail end or a part of the sheet between the sailor's hands and the sail or spar that it is trimming.

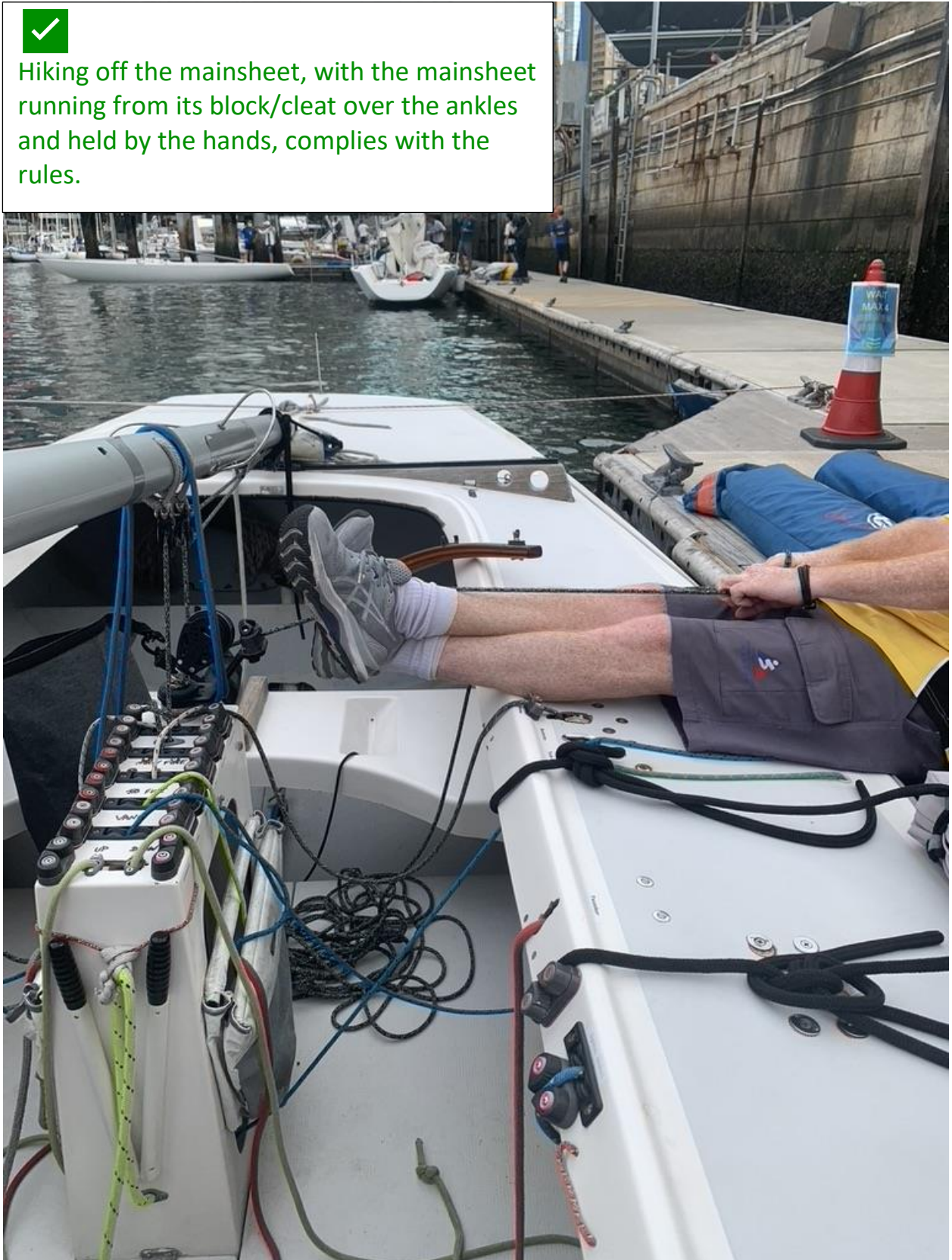


This safety line does not comply with the rules because it is not "attached to the top of the console".





Hiking off the mainsheet, with the mainsheet running from its block/cleat over the ankles and held by the hands, complies with the rules.





Hiking off the spinnaker sheet, with the sheet running from its block/cleat over the ankles and held by the hands, complies with the rules. This applies whether the spinnaker is hoisted or not.



Hiking off the spinnaker sheet twicker does not comply with the rules because it is neither a sheet nor the safety line.





Hiking off the backstay does not comply with the rules because the backstay is neither a sheet nor the safety line. This applies even if the backstay is at the top of the console.



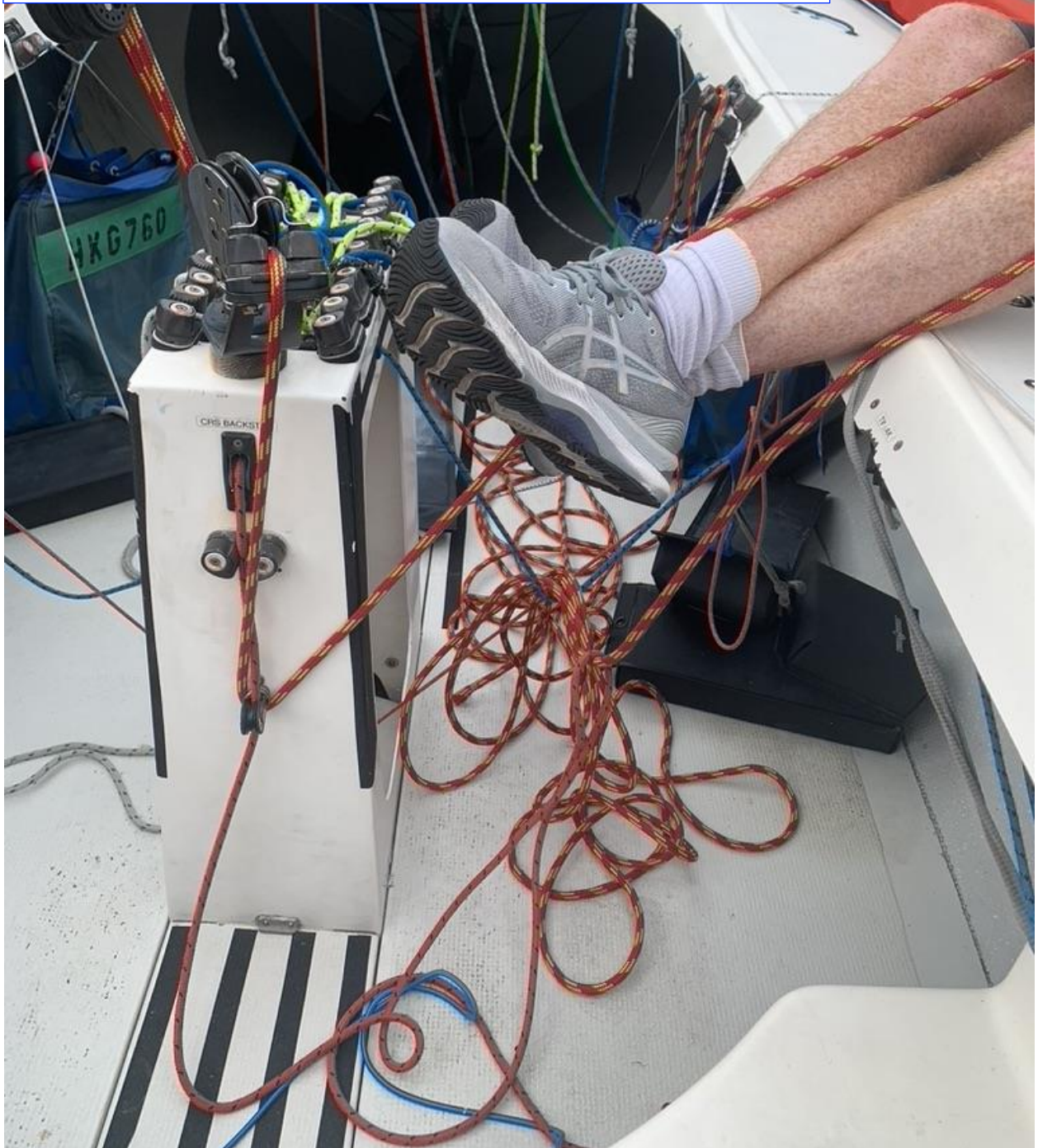


Tying a loop in a sheet (in this case the mainsheet) and hiking off it does not comply with the rules.





Leading a sheet (in this case the mainsheet) around any part of the boat (in this case the backstay fittings) to increase downward load on the body does not comply with the rules.





Tying or otherwise connecting a sheet to any part of the boat (in this case the mainsheet, tied to the floor) to increase downward load on the body does not comply with the rules.

