

Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race 2014

NOTICE TO COMPETITORS NO. 1

The following question has been put to the Jury.

Q: Is the movement of sails within the boat or stacking them on deck permitted under RRS 51

A: No.

The NOR for the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race 2014 has under Clause 9.3, (Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing) amended RRS 51 as follows: *A boat with movable ballast or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability.*

This amendment does not include sails.

Boats with movable or variable ballast are rated accordingly and that ballast is also taken into account when determining a boats stability.

RRS 51 states in part; **All movable ballast, including sails that are not set, shall be properly stowed. Water, dead weight or ballast shall not be moved for the purpose of changing trim or stability.**

The movement of sails for the purpose of altering trim or stability is clearly an attempt to increase a boat's performance without a corresponding increase in rating.

Any movement of sails, within the boat, or stacked on deck are in breach of RRS 51.

IRC rule 2.5 states: "The spirit of IRC requires that owners and designers shall not seek means of artificially reducing the rating of a boat, e.g. increasing performance without a corresponding increase in rating."

"Stacking" of sails would therefore be an infringement of IRC Rule 2.5. (IRC Rule 2.5 is not included in the list of Rules in IRC Rule 11.1. IRC Rule 2.5 can therefore not be amended or deleted by the NOR or SI's.)



John Rountree (NZL) Chairman Rolex Sydney Hobart international Jury 2014
Jury members; Tony Mooney (AUS), Noel Allen (AUS), Bevan Woolley (NZL) Lars Nyqvist (FIN)

24 November 2014