

INTERPRETATION OF J/88 CLASS RULE 6.3

The J/88 Executive Committee has provided the following interpretation of Class Rule 6.3 in regard to the bowsprit.

The Class Rule reads:

6.3 The bowsprit shall be fully retracted at all times except when the spinnaker is being set, is set or is being retrieved, and shall be retracted at the first reasonable opportunity after the spinnaker is fully retrieved. An extended bowsprit shall not be considered part of the boat for the purposes of establishing an overlap or obtaining other rights under the Racing Rules of Sailing unless the spinnaker is set.

Question #1 In Class Rule C 6.3 what is the definition of “Is being set, is being retrieved” as it relates to the gennaker halyard and the tackline? Is it just movement of the halyard up or down that defines whether the gennaker is being set or retrieved or is the tack line considered part of the hoisting and dropping process?

Answer #1 The term “being set” means that the gennaker is steadily being deployed from a bag or belowdecks by way of pulling the tack line and hoisting the halyard, which can proceed in either order or at the same time. Conversely, “being retrieved” means that the sail is being restowed below by releasing the halyard and the tack line, which can proceed in either order or together.

Question #2

A boat retrieves her spinnaker fully before arriving at a leeward mark. She rounds the mark and trims her sails for the windward leg before retracting her bowsprit. Has she retracted her bowsprit at the first reasonable opportunity?

Answer #2

No. The first reasonable opportunity to retract a bowsprit begins at the moment that the spinnaker is no longer exerting sufficient tension on the bowsprit to prevent it being retracted.