



## RULE MANAGEMENT GROUP

# THE VOLVO OPEN 70 RULE

### PUBLIC INTERPRETATION NO.68

*This public interpretation is given in accordance with rule 1.3 of the Volvo Open 70 Rule Version 2*

#### **Question:**

RRS 54, Forestays and headsail tacks, state *"Forestays and headsail tacks, except those of spinnaker staysails when the boat is not close-hauled, shall be attached approximately on a boat's centreline."*

1. Given that the VO70 Rule Version 2 does not define or allow for a "spinnaker staysail" is it correct to assume that all "headsails" as defined by the VO70 Rule Version 2 shall be tacked approximately on centreline?
2. Can you define what is meant by approximately in this case?
3. Does this rule also apply to reaching headsails, heavy weather jibs and storm jibs as defined by the VO70 Rule Version 2 (all of which would be normally considered as "headsails" under ERS)?

#### **Interpretation:**

Rule 7.4.3 states *"Headsails shall be tacked aft of the forestay and forward of the mast."*

Rule 7.5.3 states *"Reaching headsails shall be tacked aft of the forestay and forward of the mast."*

Rule 7.6.3 states *"HWJs shall be tacked aft of the forestay and forward of the mast."*

Rule 7.7.3 states *"Storm Jibs shall be tacked aft of the forestay and forward of the mast."*

For the purposes of this interpretation "Headsail" shall be taken to include Headsails, Reaching Headsails, HWJs and Storm Jibs.

1. The Volvo 70 Rule does not prohibit the use of a headsail as a "spinnaker staysail". The Volvo 70 Rule does not require headsails to be tacked approximately on a boat's centreline. However, RRS 54 shall apply.
2. The RMG do not have the authority to interpret RRS 54.
3. RRS 54 shall apply. The Volvo 70 Rule does not specifically limit the number or type of sails which can be set forward of the mast at any one time. The Volvo 70 Rule does not prohibit the use of any headsail as a "spinnaker staysail".

END

Signed on behalf of the Volvo Open 70 Rule Management Group

A blue ink signature of James Dadd, Chief Measurer.

James Dadd, Chief Measurer  
10<sup>th</sup> October 2008