



Date: Middelfart, DENMARK, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
To: Hobie Class Members  
From: IHCA Rules Committee  
Subject: **Hobie 18 class rule change proposals**

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Dear all,

John Forbes, Australia, has submitted a package of Hobie Cat 18 class rule change proposals. The outset is the “Hobie Cat 18 Reimagined”-project John has been working on for years and as someone is acquainted with already.

John’s proposals are meant to make the boat easier to sail for a wider range of sailors and are as such hoped to stimulate participation at Hobie Cat 18 fleet racing events.

The proposals have been endorsed by the Hobie Cat Association of North America (HCANA) and the Australian National Hobie Class Association (ANHCA) and the proposals are as such considered to have merit. HCANA and ANHCA are the two entities of IHCA still having Hobie Cat 18 fleet racing activities.

The proposed changes are in *red italic*.

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## PROPOSALS

### 1. HC 18 Rule 1.2

#### OLD

Dagger boards in the down position shall not extend into the dagger board trunk beyond one half the diameter of the rope handle hole.

#### NEW

*The curved section of the dagger board above the rope handle hole may be removed in a horizontal plane to the deck. The rope handle hole and any part of the dagger board below the rope handle hole must not be altered.*

#### REASON

The section of raised board above the deck line gets whacked by the crew when entering and returning from the trapezing position, generally resulting in a bruised thigh, shin, or knee of the crew member.

*Illustrations:*



*Photo 1.1: Current dagger boards protruding above the deck line in the location where the crew sits and moves in/out on the trapeze.*



*Photo 1.2: Current dagger board next to chop-top dagger board.*



Photo 1.3: chop-top board in down position. Much nicer for the crew.

## 2. NEW HC 18 Rule 3.2

*Mast spreader arms may have two additional holes added to each spreader arm to allow additional adjustment of the spreader arms.*

### REASON

The current spreader arms and spreader attachment band vary in dimensions and manufacturing tolerance which do not allow teams to achieve the same spreader rake between all boats. This can disadvantage some teams. Some current mast set ups only allow for negative or zero spreader rake whereas other mast set ups can achieve up to 40mm of spreader rake. Teams should be allowed to adjust their spreader rake depending on combined crew weights. This will lead to closer racing and a more controllable and safer boat for the lighter crews, in particular the youth and all female teams.

Illustration:



Photo 2.1: Some arms in the photo already have three holes drilled in them.

### 3. HC 18 Rule 5.6

OLD

Additional mast rotation devices and related control equipment may be installed to the owner's and skipper's specification, provided it does not structurally weaken the mast or the boat or interfere with HOBIE CAT CO. components.

NEW

~~Additional~~ Mast rotation devices and related control equipment may be installed to the owner's and skipper's specification, provided it does not structurally weaken the mast or the boat or interfere with HOBIE CAT CO. components.

REASON

To allow the mast rotation arm to be moved from above the boom to the below the boom to prevent the jib sheet from snagging on the rotation arm during tacks and gybes. Noting also that teams are already

currently legally using a second rotation arm below the boom specifically for the downwind over-rotation control. Allowing this same arm to be used for the upwind mast rotation control is a logical update.

*Illustration:*

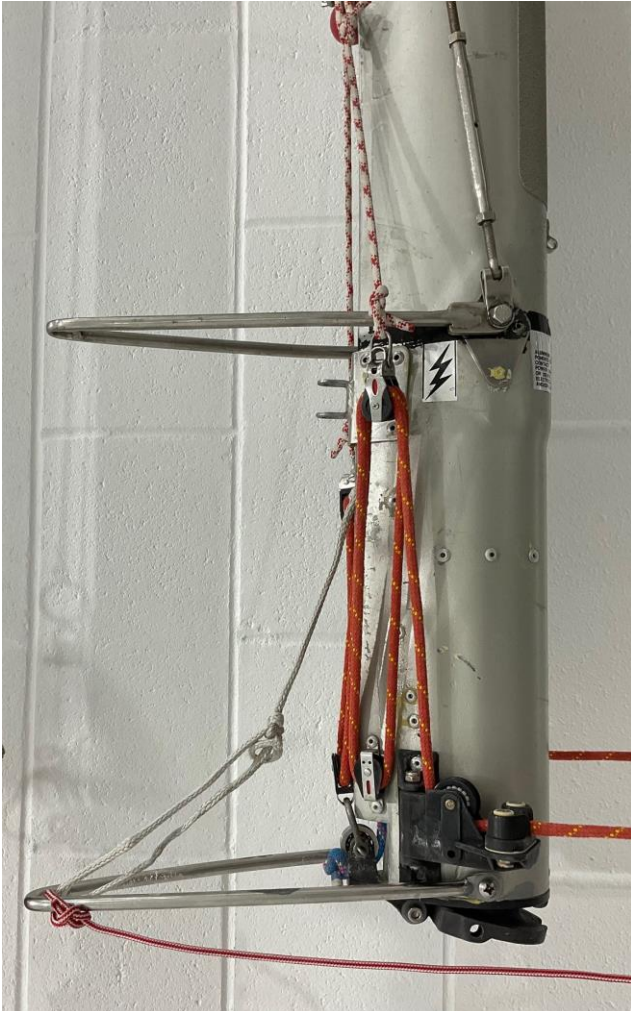


Photo 3.1

#### 4. HC 18 Rule 5.7

OLD

Additional jib cleats may be installed to the owner's and skipper's specifications provided their mounting does not structurally weaken the boat or interfere with other HOBIE CAT CO. components.

NEW

~~Additional~~ Jib cleats may be installed to the owner's and skipper's specifications provided their mounting does not structurally weaken the boat or interfere with other HOBIE CAT CO. components.

REASON

To allow the jib cleat block to be mounted on the trampoline.

*Illustrations:*

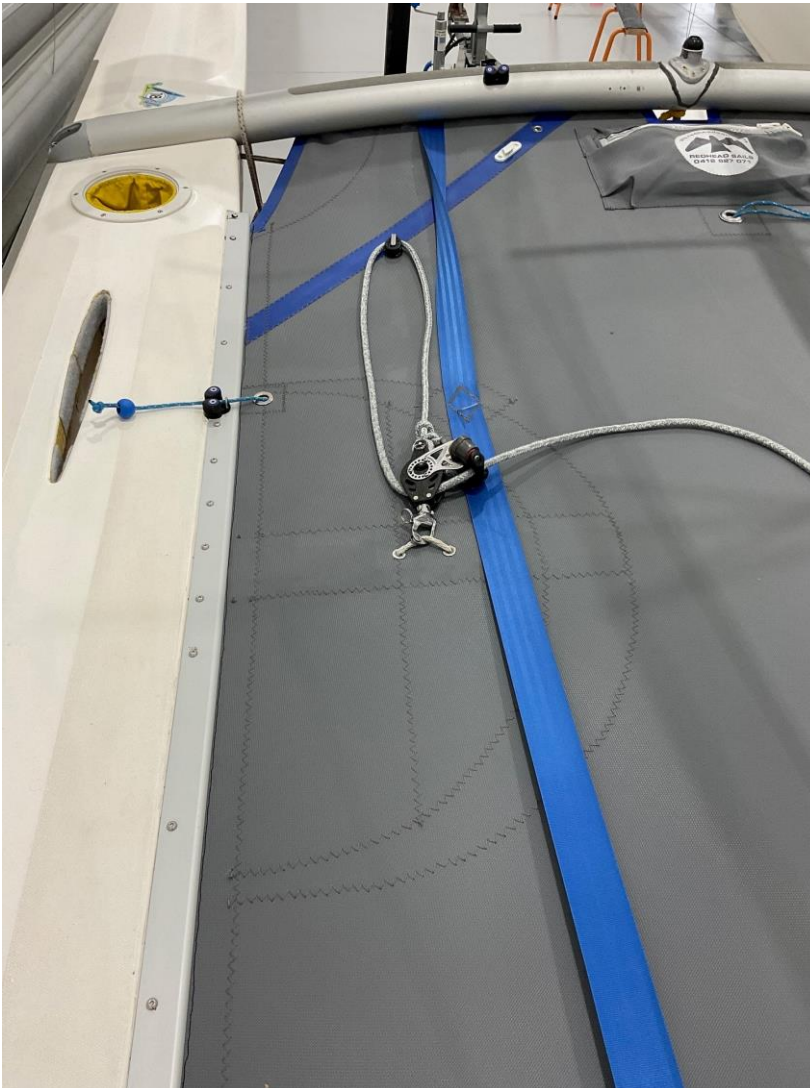


Photo 4.1



*Photo 4.2: There are no wires or other mechanical devices attached to hold the jib block to the trampoline. It is simply attached to the rope loop and the eyelets are through sufficient reinforcing on the trampoline to cater for the jib sheet load. The cost to update an existing trampoline is \$200. No need to buy a new trampoline.*

## **5. NEW HC 18 Rule 5.8**

*Mainsail blocks purchase shall not exceed 10:1 and may be rigged in any manner.*

### **REASON**

To allow women, youth, and aging sailors the ability to pull on the mainsheet with ease. Currently at 7:1 it is not possible for women and youth to pull the mainsheet in enough to be competitive.



## 6. NEW HC 18 Rule 5.9

*Double traveller cars may be used. They shall be linked, and the sheeting angle and traveller line sheaves shall perform the same function as the original single traveller car.*

### REASON

To allow double traveller cars. Double traveller cars have already been ruled as being class legal, but it is not currently defined in the class rules.

### Illustrations:



Photo 6.1.



Photo 6.2.

Photo 6.1 & 6.2: Standard single car traveller.



Photo 6.3



Photo 6.4

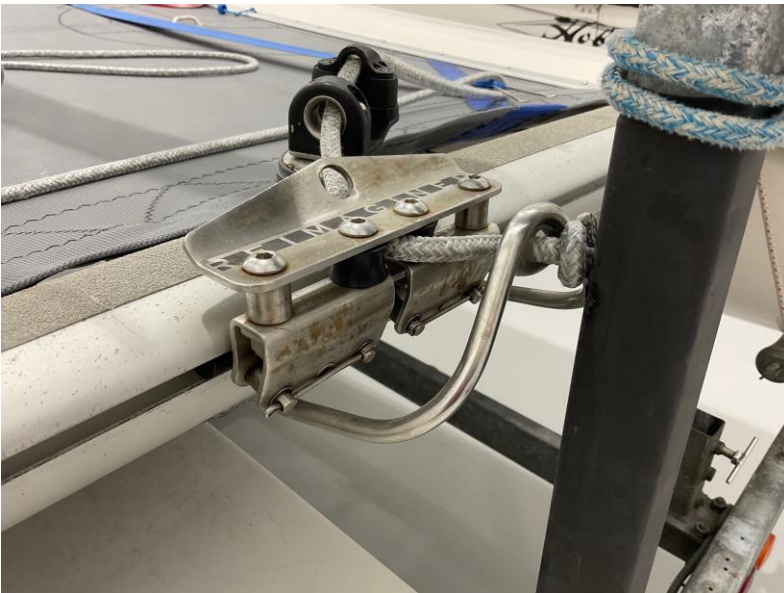


Photo 6.5

*Photo 6.3-6.5: There are a couple of versions of this currently being used by teams around the world. John is working on a version that utilises the maximum amount of existing parts as per photo 6.3 & 6.4 simply joined by a flat bar inside both cars. Photo 5 shows a double traveller car joined by a bar specially tailored for the purpose.*



This is your class and your opportunity to express your opinion.

**Deadline: January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

The proposed changes are expected to go into effect as soon as possible following approval of the IHCA Council. This is assumed to happen no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

*Erik Olsen*

IHCA Rules Committee Chair