



IRC 2021 Revalidation – Pole Configuration and Spinnaker Pole Length (SPL)

This year there are some major changes regarding spinnaker pole length, whisker poles and flying headsails and if you are applying for revalidation you will be asked to confirm some information regarding pole configuration and spinnaker pole length.

Please look at the new IRC Rules and other guidance on the IRC website Rules page well in advance:

<https://ircrating.org/irc-rule/>

- IRC 2021 Rule & definitions
- Software changes that may affect TCC
- Flying Headsail rules summary and Questions & Answers

It is in your interests to confirm the following details at revalidation, as the 'default' values are likely to give a higher rating:

Bowsprit/spinnaker pole configuration

If this question is not answered your new rating will be based on your last declaration when spinnaker and whisker poles were combined so, for instance, you may be rated for a spinnaker pole when you only have a whisker pole and vice-versa.

Whisker pole

This is now a simple yes/no question. If this question is not answered and you previously declared 'spinnaker and/or whisker pole(s)' then your new rating will include a whisker pole.

The ERS definition of a whisker pole is: "*A **spar** attached to the mast **spar** and connected to a **headsail clew**.*"

A whisker pole may be used to set a headsail to windward (e.g. goose-winged), or to leeward (e.g. a 'reaching strut'). The same pole may be considered and declared a 'spinnaker pole' and/or a 'whisker pole' as it is defined by its use, i.e. to which sail it is connected.

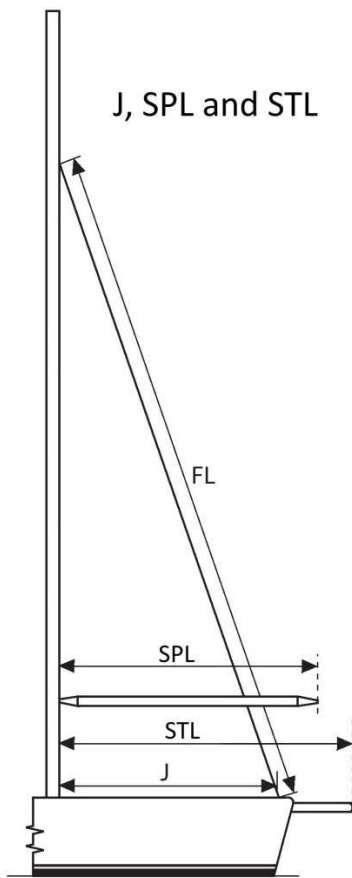
If you make no declarations on these at the time of revalidation, either we will contact you again for the information which will hold up your application or the certificate will be issued with defaults and an amendment fee will be incurred to correct it necessary.

SPL (Spinnaker Pole Length) see drawing on p.2

If there is no change to your spinnaker pole since the boat's last rating, you will only need to supply SPL for certain configurations:

0. No bowsprit or spinnaker pole(s), spinnaker may be tacked on deck - **SPL not applicable**
1. Bowsprit only, no spinnaker pole(s) - **SPL not applicable**
2. Spinnaker pole(s) only - **we will use the previously declared/measured STL (unless you declare a change)**
3. Bowsprit and spinnaker pole(s) - **please declare SPL if it is shorter than the last rated STL. If no SPL is supplied we will use the last rated STL also for SPL.**
4. Articulating bowsprit only - **SPL not applicable**

NOTE: for SPL measurement the pole must be horizontal and fixed to the mast on the centreline – see Definition in the Rule.



Issued by RORC Rating Office
December 2020 updated March 2021

<https://ircrating.org>