

Rule Enquiry #242: Face protection Mask

In accordance with TR-7.5 (a), we submit the following request for interpretation.

Rule References:

AC75 Class Rule 29.8

Background

We are looking at ways to protect our sailors' face from hitting parts of the yacht or being hit by large amounts of water in case of nose dives and other decelerations. To do so, we have been prototyping face masks that protect the face, much like the helmet protects the head and goggles protect the eyes. An example of such face mask can be seen in the pictures below.



An extract of the official practice racing for the Preliminary Regatta below demonstrates that this is a real necessity.







The helmet required under 75-29.3 b), as well as the goggles that most sailors use, provide aerodynamic fairing of the crew member but it is undisputed that they serve a higher primary purpose. Examples of these are below:





We sustain that the same holds for the proposed face mask, which protects the nose and mouth, and it is no larger than required to perform its function.

Questions

Q1: Does the proposed mask comply with the AC75 Class Rule? If not, why not?