

RS Skiff Class Vote on Trapeze Harness Weight Rules

1. Current RS All Classes Rules version 3 March 2021 at para 7.1:

“The total weight of all clothing and equipment worn by the helmsman or crew shall not exceed 12kg when weighted in accordance with Appendix H of the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing.”

Full current rules here: <https://www.rs700.org/documents/p1evuq5kf77942iu19lg1ti2sle3.pdf>

2. RRS 50.1.b updated January 2021:

“Furthermore, a competitor’s clothing and equipment shall not weigh more than 8 kilograms, excluding a hiking or trapeze harness and clothing (including footwear) worn only below the knee. Class rules or the notice of race may specify a lower weight or a higher weight up to 10 kilograms. Class rules may include footwear and other clothing worn below the knee within that weight. A hiking or trapeze harness shall have positive buoyancy and shall not weigh more than 2 kilograms, except that class rules may specify a higher weight up to 4 kilograms. Weights shall be determined as required by Appendix H.”

See full RRS here: https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/rules?part_id=123

3. Many popular brand trapeze harnesses worn by RS sailors weigh more than 2kg when wet, therefore would be illegal without dispensation in class rules. The proposed new limit of 3kg is considered sufficient but not excessive, and is in line with other updated class rules eg Musto Skiffs. See proposed update to RS All Classes Rules version 4 of April 2022 at para 7.1:

“The total weight of all clothing and equipment worn by the helmsman or crew shall not exceed 10kg, excluding a trapeze harness and clothing (including footwear) worn only below the knee. The weight of trapeze harnesses shall not exceed 3kg. These weights shall be determined as required by Appendix H of the Racing Rules of Sailing.”

Full proposed rules here: <https://www.rs700.org/documents/p1g1lm209bmaa1dcj1i2h1ff5134s3.pdf>

4. This requires a change to RS All Classes Rules as per para 8:

“Amendments to these Rules must be approved by each of the following:

8.1 The Copyright Holder, 8.2 The Licensed Builder, 8.3 A majority vote of the relevant members of the Class Association who return written replies within one month of the circulation of the proposed rule change.”

5. **Please email your vote to clare@rs-association.com:**

YES to implement proposed update on trapeze harness rules

Or NO to keep current rules

Vote deadline: 0900hrs Mon 30 May (in time for Carnac!)

I look forward to receiving your vote

Clare Sargent, RS Class Association Secretary 29 April 2022