



**Royal Ocean Racing Club  
Rating Office**

**IRC**

**Notice 2008/01**

**Adjustment of Shrouds and Forestay While Racing**

**Questions:**

IRC Rule 26.1.6 says:

- 26.1.6 *Adjustment or detachment of forestay and/or shrouds including diagonal and jumper shrouds while racing is not permitted except:*
- a) *in the case of a boat without runners, checkstays or adjustable backstay when the forestay may be adjusted but not detached.*
  - b) *in the case of Dayboats explicitly permitted by their own class rules to adjust or detach the forestay and shrouds while racing.*

1. Is it permitted under IRC to have a mast step that is adjustable fore and aft during racing, i.e. under sailing loads? This would allow control over mast prebend while racing, affecting mainsail shape and it would also change shroud tension through straightening or inducing bend in the mast section.
2. Is it permitted under IRC to adjust the mast jack pressure while racing? This would enable adjustment of the shroud tension without touching the shrouds. This assumes that you are not jacking the mast above the measured mast heights.

**Answers:**

1. Moving the mast step fore or aft will, as stated in the question, change shroud tension. Therefore, unless permitted by either Rule 26.1.6 a) or b), no.
2. Adjusting mast jack pressure will move the mast heel up or down and will therefore change shroud tension. Therefore, unless permitted by either Rule 26.1.6 a) or b), no.

Jean Sans and Mike Urwin  
IRC Technical Committee  
1 January 2008