



## HIKING THE MELGES 24

The Melges 24 is an athletic class for the crew and hiking techniques are well developed. However, the class has decided that some techniques are too extreme or possibly unsafe and must be controlled.

Below are a series of photographs and descriptions to help you understand which hiking methods are permissible and which are outlawed.

The rules that cover hiking are:

### **C.11 BOAT HANDLING RULES**

C.11.4. The skipper or crew shall not hike out by sitting facing outboard over the spinnaker turning block. The skipper/helmsman shall not sit in any way that projects the body below the waist beyond the sheerline, nor shall they use any fitting or device with which to hike from any part of the body below the waist.

C.11.5. When tacking, or gybing, standing up and hanging or pushing/leaning on the shrouds, mast or any other item to promote the manoeuvre shall be prohibited.

C.11.7 When hiking, the crews shall either sit facing outboard in such a way that at least a part of the back of the thigh/buttocks is in contact with the deck or gunwale edge, kneel on the aft corner of the side deck or, stand with at least one foot on the cockpit floor.

**“Part of the back of the thigh/buttocks is in contact with the deck or gunwale edge”.** I think that everybody understands that this is the normal way the boats are hiked upwind in particular. It is a sitting type position with the legs down the side of the boat and the body over the hiking lines.

This is shown with the next three photographs:-





Of course, downwind the crew still comply because they are sitting on the deck:-



**“Kneel on the aft corner of the side deck”** This is frequently used by crews to look aft and yet still hike:-.



The picture above shows the crew looking aft kneeling over the Pushpit and below we have the helm also kneeling but with one foot on the cockpit floor.



**“Stand with at least one foot on the cockpit floor”.** This is shown above but also as an example here with both feet on the floor and with one foot on the floor.



The previous photos show the types of hiking methods used and approved in the class. **However don't forget that there are some techniques which are not permitted, such as:**



And again for the forward crew:





These final four photographs are examples of techniques which are not permitted and will very likely result in a penalty from the Jury or a protest from another boat. Please read the rules carefully and think about how you sail.

We will add pictures to this document when we find good examples of the legal and illegal so do keep checking.

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