

# Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-24

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# Introduction

- 2021-2024 Rules
  - No fundamental changes
  - Few significant changes
  - Many small changes to fix problems
  - Too many to cover all in time available
- Significant changes grouped by impact on:
  - Competitors and others
  - Race & Protest Committees
- Limited to 6 items in each group
- Q&A after each group

# Top Six Changes - 1

## For Competitors (and others)

- Definition change: *Start & Finish*
- New Definition: *Sail the Course*
- Exoneration: new Rule 43
- Flags
  - New: Orange, Victor
  - Change: Blue
- Changing Course: Rule 16.2
- Definition *Mark-Room* & Rule 18.1: When Rule 18 Applies

# 1 Definition: Start & Finish

- Now hull only
- Crew and equipment deleted
- Bowsprits – not part of the hull
- Wings – are a hull extension
- Trapeze and Crew excluded
- Judging OCS boats better
- Consequential changes to
  - Rule 29 Recalls
  - Rule 30 Starting Penalties
  - Rule 44.2 Penalties at finishing line
- BUT NOTE: **Overlap** still says ‘crew and equipment in normal position’

**Start** A boat *starts* when, **her hull** having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull, ~~crew or equipment~~ crosses the starting line **from the pre-start side to the course side in the direction of the first mark.**

**Finish** A boat *finishes* when, **after starting**, any part of her hull, ~~or crew or equipment in normal position~~, crosses the finishing line from the course side. However she has not *finished* if.....

# 2 Definition: Sail the Course

- Text taken from old Rule 28
- Several rules now refer to *sail the course*
  - 28 Sailing the Race
  - 32.1 Abandoning after the Start
  - 35 Race Time Limit
  - 61 Protest Requirements
  - 90.3 Scoring
  - Appendix A5.1, A10
  - NSC scoring abbreviation

***Sail the Course*** A boat *sails the course* provided that a string representing her track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its prestart side to start until she finishes, when drawn taut,

- (a) passes each mark of the course for the race on the required side and in the correct order,
- (b) touches each mark designated in the sailing instructions to be a rounding mark, and
- (c) passes between the marks of a gate from the direction of the course from the previous mark.

# 2 NSC: Did not Sail the Course

- NSC scoring abbreviation added to Appendix A10.
- *Sail the Course* added to Appendix A5 Scores Determined by the Race Committee.
- Race Committee now required to disqualify, without a hearing, boats which do not *sail the course*.
- Care required before acting on a report from a non-race committee member.

A5.1 A boat that did not *start*, *sail the course* or *finish*, or comply with rule 30.2, 30.3, 30.4 or 78.2, or that retires or takes a penalty under rule 44.3(a), shall be scored accordingly by the race committee without a hearing. Only the protest committee may take other scoring actions that worsen a boat's score.

A5.2 A boat that did not *start*, did not *sail the course*, did not *finish*, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series. A boat that is penalized under rule 30.2 or that takes a penalty under rule 44.3(a) shall be scored points as provided in rule 44.3(c).

# 3 Exoneration: Rule 43

- Puts three exoneration rules in one place
- Rule 64.1(a) Penalties and Exoneration becomes 43.1(a)
- Rule 21 Exoneration becomes 43.1(b)
- Rule 14(b) Avoiding Contact becomes 43.1(c)
- New Rule 43.2 makes clear that an exonerated boat need not take a penalty

## 43 EXONERATION

### 43.1

(a) When as a consequence of breaking a *rule* a boat has compelled another boat to break a *rule*, the other boat is exonerated for her breach.

(b) When a boat is sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled and, as a consequence of an incident with a boat required to give her that room or mark-room she breaks a rule of Section A of Part 2, rule 15, 16, or 31, she is exonerated for her breach.

(c) A right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled, is exonerated for breaking rule 14 if the contact does not cause damage or injury.

### 43.2

A boat exonerated for breaking a rule need not take a penalty and shall not be penalized for breaking that rule.

# 4 Race Signals: Orange & Blue

New



No sound

Orange flag.  
The staff displaying  
this flag is  
one end of the  
starting line.

Change



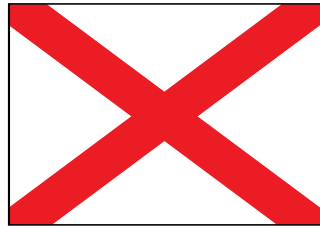
No sound

Blue flag.  
The staff displaying  
this flag is  
one end of the  
finishing line.



# 4 Race Signals: Flag V & Rule 37

New



+ long sound

Flag V Monitor communication channel for safety instructions (see rule 37).

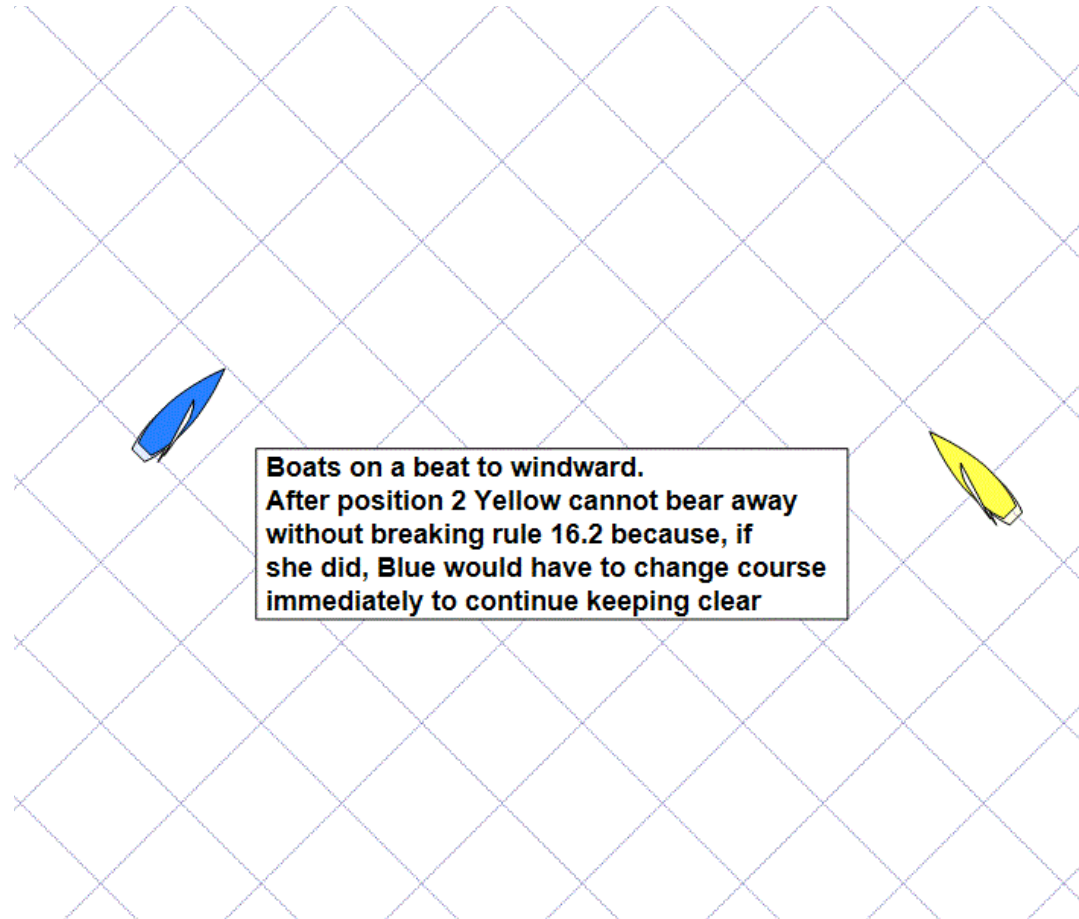
NB: Use of this signal is not mandatory. It does not require an SI to be invoked.

## Rule 37 Search and Rescue Instructions

When the race committee displays flag V with one sound, all boats and official and support vessels shall, if possible, monitor the race committee communication channel for search and rescue instructions.

# 5 Changing Course: Rule 16.2 – 2

Sometimes known as the Anti-hunting or Dial-down rule



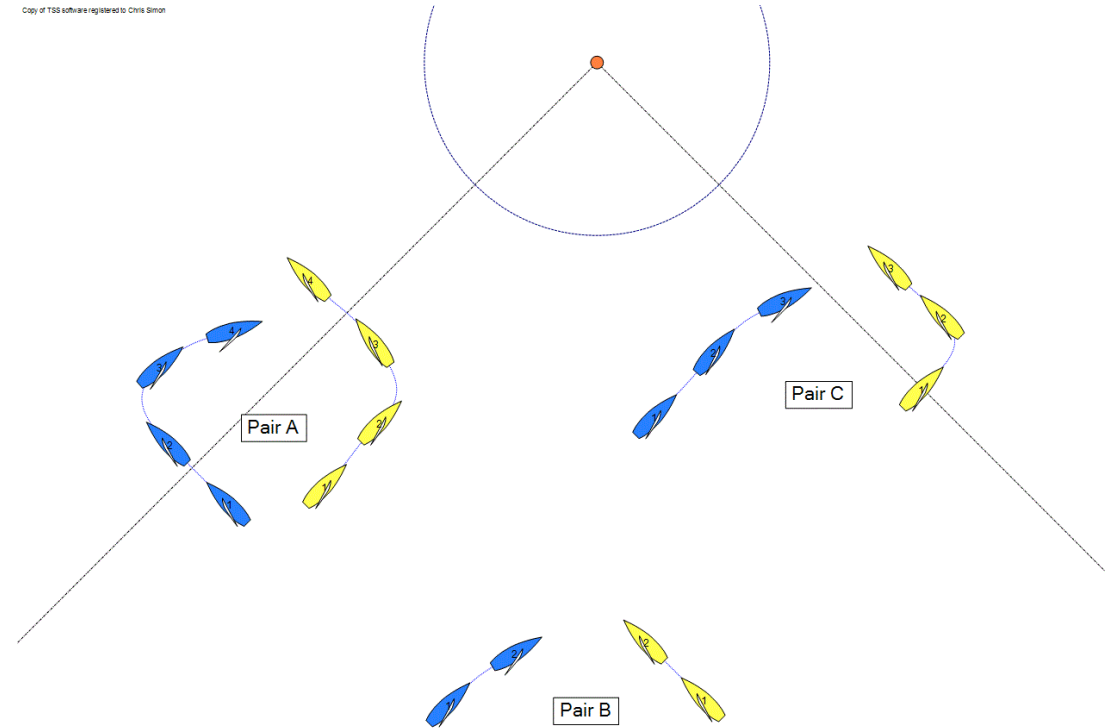
**16.2** In addition, ~~on a beat to windward~~ when ~~after the starting signal~~ a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass ~~astern~~ to **leeward** of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not ~~change course~~ **bear away** if as a result the *port-tack* boat ~~would immediately need to~~ **must** change course immediately to continue keeping clear.

# 5 Changing Course: Rule 16.2 - 3

## WS Case 132

“Two boats on opposite tacks are on a beat to windward:

- 1) when the proper course for each of them would, in the absence of all other boats, be close-hauled or above, or
- 2) When one or both of them are overstanding a close-hauled layline to their next mark.”



Each pair of boats is on a beat to windward and the starboard-tack boats are each subject to rule 16.2

# 6 Definition Mark-Room & Rule 18.1

**Mark-Room** *Room* for a boat to leave a *mark* on the required side. Also,

(a) *room* to sail to the *mark* when her *proper course* is to sail close to it, and

(b) *room* to round **or pass** the *mark* as necessary to **sail the course without touching the mark**.

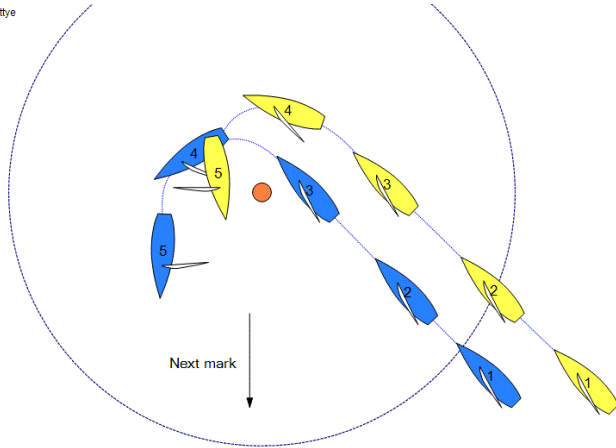
## 18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

**Rule 18 no longer applies between boats when *mark-room* has been given.**

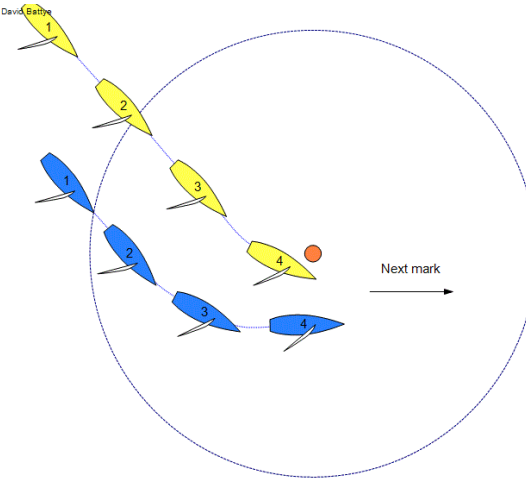
- This change now turns off the whole of Rule 18 rather than just 18.2(b) and (c) which used to be the case.

# 6 When Mark-Room has been Given

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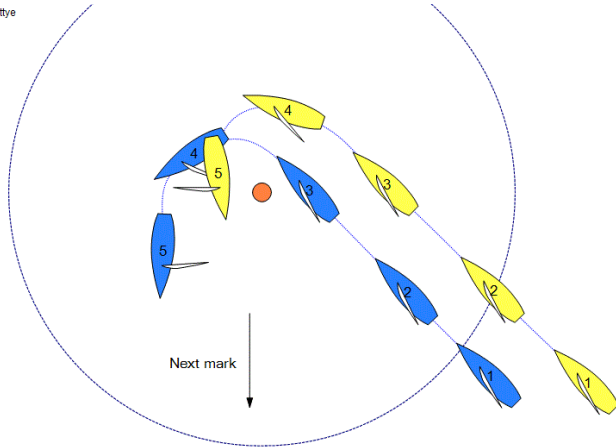


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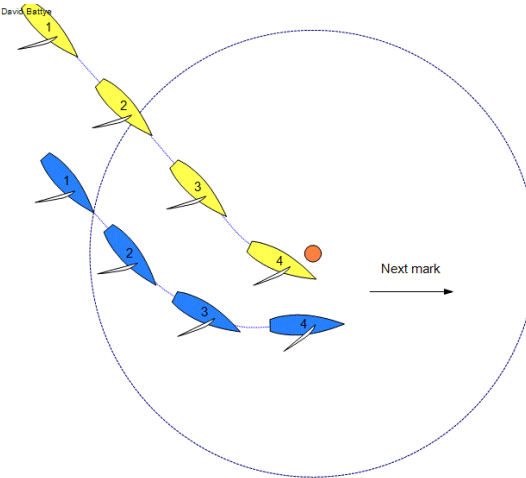


# 6 When Mark-Room has been Given

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When Blue has sailed to a position where no action by Yellow, that is permitted by the rules, will result in Blue touching the mark.

# Other Changes

## Definitions

- *Mark*
  - Includes object intentionally attached
- *Obstruction*
  - Includes Area or Line
- *Party*
  - Includes Boat seeking redress and *Support Person*

## Rules

- Rule 2 Fair Sailing
  - DNE penalty only
- Rule 20.4 Additional Requirements for Hails
  - e.g.VHF or Sound Signal
- Lots of rule number changes
  - e.g Rules 3 & 4 reversed
  - Check your Risk Statement and SI.

# Top Six Changes - 1

Questions on these changes?

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# Top Six Changes - 2

## For Organising Authority, Race & Protest Committees

- NoR & SI: Rules 5, 25.1, App J
- Informing the Protestee: Rule 61.1
- Requests for Redress: Rules 62.1(b) & 62.2(a)
- Hearings: Rule 63.2 & 63.6
- Decisions: Rule 64.1
- Appendix M: Recommendations for PC

# 1 Notice of Race (NoR) & Sailing Instructions (SI)

- NoR now more important relative to SI.
- App J1 (NoR) is now divided into 3 parts:
  - J1.1 The mandatory contents of an NOR;
  - J1.2 Items to be included “if they apply”;
  - J1.3 Items to be included “that will apply and that would help competitors decide whether to attend the event or that conveys other information they will need before the sailing instructions become available.”
- App J2 (SI) is 2 parts, both stating “Unless included in the Notice of Race”:
  - J2.1 The mandatory contents;
  - J2.2 Items to be included “if they apply.”

25.1 The notice of race shall be made available to each boat that enters an event before she enters. The ~~and~~ sailing instructions shall be made available to each boat before a race begins.

## Appendix J Preamble

A rule in the notice of race need not be repeated in the sailing instructions.

e.g. Rule 26 Starting Races – the starting sequence may be changed in the NoR and not repeated in the SI.

Appendix K~~G~~, NoR Guide  
Appendix L~~G~~, SI Guide

- No longer included in the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- Updated guides are available in various formats on the World Sailing website and are downloadable as either PDF or Word document.

# 1 Rule 5 Rules Governing OA and Officials

- Was Rule 84
- Now promoted to a Fundamental Rule
- Included because of changes to NoR and SI

## 5 RULES GOVERNING ORGANIZING AUTHORITIES AND OFFICIALS

The organizing authority, race committee, technical committee, protest committee and other race officials shall be governed by the rules in the conduct and judging of the event.

## 2 Informing the Protestee: Rule 61.1

- No longer limited to incidents which the boat either observed or was involved in
  - Makes clear that Committees are not required to inform the protestee orally.
- (a) ~~...that she was involved in or saw~~
- (b) A notice posted on the official notice board within the appropriate time limit satisfies this requirement.

# 3 Redress: Rule 62.1(b)

- A & B collide. A is at fault. B is damaged. B seeks 62.1(b) redress.
  - Previously, no requirement for B to protest A or call A as a witness. B could seek to convince PC based on her evidence alone. Or A could come to hearing as witness and confirm facts, and then depart unpenalized.
  - What evidence of appropriate penalty is needed?
  - If no two-turn penalty taken then A will need to have protested A or persuade her to retire.
- 62 REDRESS  
62.1 A request for redress or a protest committee's decision to consider redress shall be based on a claim or possibility that a boat's score or place in a race or series has been or may be, through no fault of her own, made significantly worse by  
(b) injury or physical damage because of the action of a boat that was breaking a rule of Part 2 and took an appropriate penalty or was penalized, or of a vessel not racing that was required to keep clear or is determined to be at fault under the IRPCAS or a government right-of-way rule;

# 3 Last Day Requests for Redress: Rule 62.2

- The additional text in red is taken from Appendix L and used to appear in SI when required.
- It now is included by default
- If not required it may be removed by an SI to delete 62.2(a).

62.2 A request shall be in writing and identify the reason for making it. If the request is based on an incident in the racing area, it shall be delivered to the race office within the protest time limit or two hours after the incident, whichever is later. Other requests shall be delivered as soon as reasonably possible after learning of the reasons for making the request. The protest committee shall extend the time if there is good reason to do so. No red flag is required.

(a) However, on the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted.

# 4 Hearings: Rules 63.2 & 63.6

- Makes clear that hearings from the same or connected incidents may be combined and heard together
- This gives *party* status across all the cases not just their own
- But Rule 69 hearings should be conducted separately

## 63.2 Time and Place of the Hearing; Time for Parties to Prepare

All *parties* to the hearing shall be notified of the time and place of the hearing, the *protest* or redress information **or the allegations** shall be made available to them, and they shall be allowed reasonable time to prepare for the hearing. **When two or more hearings arise from the same incident, or from very closely connected incidents, they may be heard together in one hearing. However, a hearing conducted under rule 69 shall not be combined with any other type of hearing.**

# 4 Hearings: Rule 63.6

- What is Hearsay evidence?
- e.g. A says “C told me that B hit a mark”. C is not present.
- If author not present, includes
  - Mark rounding sheets
  - Race committee voice recordings
  - Equipment inspection records
- Hearsay evidence is now permitted
- But the evidence may be excluded if irrelevant or given a low weight.

## 63.6 Taking Evidence and Finding Facts

(a) The protest committee shall take the evidence, **including hearsay evidence**, of the parties present at the hearing and of their witnesses and other evidence it considers necessary. **However, the committee may exclude evidence which it considers to be irrelevant or unduly repetitive.**

(d) The committee shall then **give the weight it considers appropriate to the evidence presented**, find the facts and base its decision on them



# 5 Decisions: Rule 64.1

- New rule describing the procedure for a Protest Committee to reach a decision.
- Allows for a hearing to be reclassified
  - e.g. a Protest against the Race Committee reclassified as a Request for Redress.

## 64 DECISIONS

### 64.1 Standard of Proof, Majority Decisions and Reclassifying Requests

- (a) A protest committee shall make its decision based on a balance of probabilities, unless provided for otherwise in the rule alleged to have been broken.
- (b) Decisions of the protest committee shall be by simple majority vote of all members. When there is equal division of votes cast, the chairman may cast an additional vote.
- (c) The protest committee shall proceed with each case, as a protest, request for redress or other type of request, based on the information in the written request or allegation and testimony during the hearing. This permits the type of case to be changed if appropriate.

# 6 Appendix M Recommendations for Protest Committees

- Now more generalised to recognise that not all matters before a protest committee are protests or requests for redress. So 'allegation', 'case' and 'hearing' are used more frequently.
- In the hearing sequence, questions from the protest committee are much later.
- Includes the recommendation for the protest committee chair to advise parties giving hearsay, repetitive or irrelevant evidence that little or no weight may be given to that evidence.