

Changed Sections of the WORLD SAILING ASSOCIATION RACING RULES OF SAILING 2021-2024

[JK and LK] Wording that is new for 2021 is in **red font** and wording that has been deleted from the 2017-2020 edition is in ~~red font and struck through~~. Sections that do not apply to RC Sailing on a pond and Regattas and other competitions are not included. This is an attempt to cut 150 pages down to the more important changes.

DEFINITIONS

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 after crossing the finishing line she

(a) takes a penalty under rule 44.2,

(b) corrects an error in sailing the course under rule 28.2 made at the line, or

(c) continues to sail the course sail the course

Mark An object the sailing instructions require a boat to leave on a specified side, **and** a race committee vessel surrounded by navigable water from which the starting or finishing line extends, **and an object intentionally attached to the object or vessel. However, an anchor line is not part of the mark. An anchor line or an object attached accidentally to a mark is not part of it.**

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.~~

Obstruction An object that a boat could not pass without changing course substantially, if she were sailing directly towards it and one of her hull lengths from it. An object that can be safely passed on only one side and an **object, area or line** so designated by the sailing instructions are also obstructions. However, a boat racing is not an obstruction to other boats unless they are required to keep clear of her or, if rule 22 applies, avoid her. A vessel under way, including a boat racing, is never a continuing obstruction.

Proper Course A course a boat would **choose in order sail** to **sail the course and** finish as soon as possible in the absence of the other boats referred to in the rule using the term. A boat has no proper course before her starting signal.

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.

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.**

Part 1: FUNDAMENTAL RULES

2 FAIR SAILING A boat and her owner shall compete in compliance with recognized principles of sportsmanship and fair play. A boat may be penalized under this rule only if it is clearly established that these principles have been violated. The penalty shall be ~~either disqualification or a~~ disqualification that is not excludable.

4 ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

4.1 (a) By participating or intending to participate in ~~an event a race~~ conducted under ~~the these~~ rules, each competitor and boat owner agrees to accept ~~the these~~ rules.

(b) A support person by providing support, or a parent or guardian by permitting their child to enter ~~an event a race~~, agrees to accept the rules.

Part 2: WHEN BOATS MEET

Section B: GENERAL LIMITATIONS

14 AVOIDING CONTACT A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible. However, a right-of-way boat, or one ~~entitled to sailing within the room or mark-room to which she is entitled, (a)~~ need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not keeping clear or giving room or mark-room. ~~, and (b) shall be exonerated if she breaks this rule and the contact does not cause damage or injury.~~

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.

Section C: AT MARKS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

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

18.2 (d) Rules 18.2(b) and (c) cease to apply ~~if when~~ the boat entitled to mark-room ~~has been given that mark-room, or if she~~ passes head to wind or leaves the zone.

18.3 ~~Passing Head to Wind Tacking~~ in the Zone If a boat in the zone of a mark to be left to port passes head to wind from port to starboard tack and is then fetching the mark, she shall not cause a boat that has been on starboard tack since entering the zone to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact and she shall give mark-room if that boat becomes overlapped inside her. When this rule applies between boats, rule 18.2 does not apply between them.

19.2 (c) While boats are passing a continuing obstruction, if a boat that was clear astern and required to keep clear becomes overlapped between the other boat and the obstruction and, at the moment the overlap begins, there is not room for her to pass between them,

(1) she is not entitled to room under rule 19.2(b), ~~and~~

(2) ~~while While~~ the boats remain overlapped, she shall keep clear and rules 10 and 11 do not apply.

20.4 Additional Requirements for Hails

(a) When conditions are such that a hail may not be heard, the boat shall also make a signal that clearly indicates her need for room to tack or her response.

(b) The notice of race may specify an alternative communication for a boat to indicate her need for room to tack or her response, and require boats to use it.

Section D: OTHER RULES

When rule ~~21~~ or ~~22~~ applies between two boats, Section A rules do not.

~~21 EXONERATION~~ ~~When a boat is sailing within the room or mark-room to which she is entitled, she shall be exonerated if, in an incident with a boat required to give her that room or mark-room, (a) she breaks a rule of Section A, rule 15 or rule 16, or (b) she is compelled to break rule 31.~~

21 STARTING ERRORS; TAKING PENALTIES; BACKING A SAIL

21.1 A boat sailing towards the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions after her starting signal to start or to comply with rule 30.1 shall keep clear of a boat not doing so until **her hull she** is completely on the pre-start side.

21.2 A boat taking a penalty shall keep clear of one that is not.

21.3 A boat moving astern, or sideways to windward, through the water by backing a sail shall keep clear of one that is not.

22 CAPSIZED, ANCHORED OR AGROUND; RESCUING

If possible, a boat shall avoid a boat that is capsized or has not regained control after capsizing, is anchored or aground, or is trying to help a person or vessel in danger. A boat is capsized when her **masthead** is in the water.

23 INTERFERING WITH ANOTHER BOAT

23.1 If reasonably possible, a boat not racing shall not interfere with a boat that is racing.

23.2 If reasonably possible, a boat shall not interfere with a boat that is taking a penalty, sailing on another leg or subject to rule 21.1. However, after the starting signal this rule does not apply when the boat is sailing her proper course.

Part 3: CONDUCT OF A RACE

28 SAILING THE **RACE COURSE**

28.1 A boat shall start, **sail the course** ~~described in the sailing instructions~~ and then finish. While doing so, she may leave on either side a mark that does not begin, bound or end the leg she is sailing. After finishing she need not cross the finishing line completely.

28.2 ~~A boat may correct any errors in sailing the course, provided she has not crossed the finishing line to finish. A string representing a boat's track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its pre-start side to start until she finishes shall, when drawn taut, (a) pass each mark on the required side and in the correct order, (b) touch each rounding mark, and (c) pass between the marks of a gate from the direction of the course from the previous mark. She may correct any errors to comply with this rule, provided she has not finished.~~

APPENDIX E RADIO SAILING RACING RULES

E1.3

(b) ~~In rule 20, hails and replies shall be made by the competitor controlling the boat.~~ Hails under rules 20.1 and 20.3 shall include the words 'room' and 'tack' and the sail number of the hailing boat, in any order.

(c) Rule 22 is changed to: 'If possible, a boat shall avoid a boat that is disabled.'

(d) Rule 90.2(c) is changed to: Changes to the sailing instructions may be communicated orally to all affected competitors before the warning signal of the relevant race or heat. When appropriate, changes shall be confirmed in writing.

E2.1 Hailing Requirements

(a) A hail shall be made **and repeated as appropriate** so that the competitors to whom the hail is directed might reasonably be expected to hear it.

(b) When a rule requires a boat to hail or respond, the hail shall be made by the competitor controlling the boat.

(c) The individual digits of a boat's sail number shall be hailed; for example 'one five', not 'fifteen'.

E2.3 Boat Out of Radio Control A competitor who loses radio control of his boat shall promptly hail and ~~repeat~~ '(The boat's sail number) out of control' and the boat shall retire.

E3.5 Individual Recall Rule 29.1 is changed to: When at a boat's starting signal any part of ~~her hull the boat~~ is on the course side of the starting line or when she must comply with rule 30.1, the race committee shall promptly hail 'Recall (sail numbers)' ~~and repeat the hail as appropriate~~. If rule 30.3 or 30.4 applies this rule does not.

E3.6 General Recall Rule 29.2 is changed to: When at the starting signal the race committee is unable to identify boats that are on the course side of the starting line or to which rule 30 applies, or there has been an error in the starting procedure, the race committee may hail ~~and repeat as appropriate~~ 'General recall' and make two loud sounds. The warning signal for a new start will normally be made shortly thereafter.

E4.3 Taking a Penalty Rule 44.1 is changed to: A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2, or rule 31, in an incident while racing. However,

(a) when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 and rule 31 in the same incident she need not take the penalty for breaking rule 31;

(b) if the boat gained ~~a significant an~~ advantage in the heat or race by her breach despite taking a penalty, her penalty shall be ~~an additional One-Turn Penalty~~ **additional One-Turn Penalties until her advantage is lost**;

(c) if the boat caused serious damage, or as a result of breaking a rule of Part 2 she caused another boat to become disabled and retire, her penalty shall be to retire.