

# 2017 – 2020 Racing Rules of Sailing

## Summary of rule changes for sailors on the water

<i>Rule</i>		<i>Change</i>	<i>Effect</i>
<b>Definitions</b>			
<i>Preamble</i>		Statement on 'Terminology' moved from 'Introduction' to 'Definitions preamble'.	No effective change
<i>Definition</i>	<i>Conflict of Interest</i>	Expanded wording to include others who might be considered to have a conflict of interest in hearing protests.	Made clearer
<i>Definition</i>	<i>Party</i>	Expanded to include 'technical committee', a person making an allegation under rule 69 and a support person.	Technical change
<i>Definition</i>	<i>Protest</i>	Expanded to include 'technical committee'	Technical change
<i>Definition</i>	<i>Rule</i>	Expanded to include Codes such as Anti-Doping, Advertising, Betting and Anti-Corruption, classification, etc., as 'rules'.	Technical change
<i>Definition</i>	<i>Support Person</i>	New definition. A support person is any person who provides or may provide support to a competitor such as a coach, parent, etc.	Support people now subject to the rules
<b>Part 1 – Fundamental Rules</b>			
<i>Rule 2</i>	<i>Fair Sailing</i>	Penalty for a breach is now either disqualification (DSQ) or a disqualification which cannot be excluded from the series score (DNE)	Option for reduced penalty
<i>Rule 3</i>	<i>Acceptance of the Rules</i>	Expanded wording and re-numbered sub clauses	Principle unchanged
<i>Rule 6</i>	<i>Betting &amp; Anti-corruption</i>	New rule referring to World Sailing Regulation 37	Technical change
<i>Rule 7</i>	<i>Disciplinary Code</i>	New rule referring to World Sailing Regulation 35	Technical change
<b>Part 2 – When Boats Meet</b>			
	<i>Preamble</i>	Boats not racing can now also be penalised for breaching rule 14 when there is damage.	Minor change
<i>Rule 18.2</i>	<i>Giving Mark Room</i>	18.2(c) has been sub divided into (c) and (d) with the old (d) and (e) re-numbered to (e) and (f).	Effectively no game change

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<i>Rule 18.3</i>	<i>Tacking in the Zone</i>	Re-written so that it only applies to boats rounding a mark to port / to remove confusion which arose if applied to boats rounding a windward mark to starboard.	Clarification. No game change.
<i>Rule 19.1</i>	<i>When rule 19 applies</i>	Expanded so that rule 19 does apply when boats are rounding a mark and the obstruction is a boat overlapped with each of them	Clarification
<i>Rule 20.1</i>	<i>Hailing for room to tack</i>	Re-written to make it clearer	Effectively no game change
<i>Rule 21</i>	<i>Exoneration</i>	Minor re-wording.	Effectively no game change.
<i>Rule 22.3</i>	<i>Backing a sail</i>	Requirement to keep clear now includes 'moving sideways to windward' as well as 'moving astern'.	Now includes 'crabbing'
<i>Rule 24.2</i>	<i>Interfering with another boat</i>	Expanded to include not interfering with a boat returning to start unless sailing a proper course. Refer to 22 – Starting Errors; Taking Penalties.	No effective change to principle
<b>Part 3 – Conduct of a Race</b>			
<i>Rule 25.3</i>	<i>Visual signals</i>	Minor word change.	No change in the meaning
<i>Rule 30.1</i>	<i>I Flag rule</i>	Minor word change.	No change in the meaning
<i>Rule 30.3</i>	<i>U Flag rule</i>	New rule similar to the Black Flag rule except that a boat over the line in the last minute is not disqualified if the race is restarted or resailed. Previously only applied if included in sailing instructions.	New rule
<i>Rule 30.4</i>	<i>Black Flag rule</i>	Rule 30.3 re-numbered as 30.4. Otherwise no change	No change in the meaning
<i>Rule 32.1</i>	<i>Shortening or abandoning</i>	Minor addition which also allows a race to be shortened to allow other scheduled races to be sailed. Clauses re-numbered and re-arranged for clarity.	Minor change

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<i>Rule 32.2</i>	<i>Shorten course finishing line</i>	Minor addition allowing a finishing line to include 'a line the course requires a boat to cross'.	Minor change
<i>Rule 33</i>	<i>Signalling change of course</i>	Minor change allowing both the new bearing and a green or red shape to be displayed.	Minor change
<i>Rule 36</i>	<i>Races resailed</i>	Minor change to referenced rules	Technical change
<b>Part 4 – Other Requirements when Racing</b>			
<i>Preamble</i>		Part 4 rules only apply to boats racing unless the rule states otherwise (e.g., rule 55 – Trash, rule 40 – PFD's, etc)	Technical change
<i>Rule 40</i>	<i>Personal floatation devices</i>	The rule now applies at all times while afloat.	Previously only applied to boats racing
<i>Rule 44.3</i>	<i>Scoring penalty</i>	Re-wording to make the intention of 20% penalty clearer.	Technical change
<i>49.2</i>	<i>Crew position; lifelines</i>	Minor change in the wording to include when lifelines are required by the class rules 'or any other rule'. This would now include measurement rules and the like.	Technical change
<i>Rule 55</i>	<i>Trash</i>	Now applies at all times when afloat – not just whilst racing.	Previously only applied to boats racing