

THE RACING RULES OF SAILING for 2013–2016

excerpts: including only **Definitions, Rules When Boats Meet, and corresponding Radio Sailing addenda**

(PNMYC local club modifications to these rules are not shown on this sheet.)

DEFINITIONS *A term used as stated below is shown in italic type or, in preambles, in bold italic type.*

Abandon A race that a race committee or protest committee *abandons* is void but may be resailed.

Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap

One boat is *clear astern* of another when her hull and equipment in normal position are behind a line abeam from the aftermost point of the other boat's hull and equipment in normal position. The other boat is *clear ahead*.

They *overlap* when neither is *clear astern*. However, they also *overlap* when a boat between them *overlaps* both.

These terms always apply to boats on the same *tack*. They do not apply to boats on opposite *tacks* unless rule 18 applies or both boats are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind.

[RADIO: Adds new definition:

Disabled **A boat is *disabled* while she is unable to continue in the heat.]**

Fetching A boat is *fetching* a *mark* when she is in a position to pass to windward of it and leave it on the required side without changing *tack*.

Finish A boat *finishes* when 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 under rule 28.2 made at the line, or (c) continues to sail the course.

Interested Party A person who may gain or lose as a result of a protest committee's decision, or who has a close personal interest in the decision.

[RADIO: 'but not a competitor when acting as an observer']

Keep Clear A boat *keeps clear* of a right-of-way boat:

(a) if the right-of-way boat can sail her course with no need to take avoiding action, and

(b) when boats are *overlapped*, if the right-of-way boat can also change course in both directions without immediately making contact.

Leeward and Windward A boat's *leeward* side is the side that is or, when she is head to wind, was away from the wind. However, when sailing by the lee or directly downwind, her *leeward* side is the side on which her mainsail lies. The other side is her *windward* side. When two boats on the same *tack* *overlap*, the one on the *leeward* side of the other is the *leeward* boat. The other is the *windward* boat.

Mark An object the sailing instructions require a boat to leave on a specified side, and a race committee boat surrounded by navigable water from which the starting or finishing line extends. 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 the *mark* as necessary to sail the course.

However, *mark-room* for a boat does not include *room* to tack unless she is *overlapped* inside and to *windward* of the boat required to give *mark-room* and she would be *fetching* the *mark* after her *tack*.

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 area 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 23 applies, avoid her. A vessel under way, including a boat *racing*, is never a continuing *obstruction*.

Overlap See **Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap**.

Party A *party* to a hearing is

(a) for a protest hearing: a protestor, a protestee;

(b) for a request for redress: a boat requesting redress or for which redress is requested, a R/C acting under rule 60.2(b);

(c) for a request for redress under rule 62.1(a): the body alleged to have made an improper action or omission;

(d) a boat or a competitor that may be penalized under rule 69.2.

However, the protest committee is never a *party*.

Postpone A *postponed* race is delayed before its scheduled start but may be started or *abandoned* later.

Proper Course A course a boat would sail to *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.

Protest An allegation made under rule 61.2 by a boat, a race committee or a protest committee that a boat has broken a *rule*.

Racing A boat is *racing* from her preparatory signal until she *finishes* and clears the finishing line and *marks* or retires, or until the race committee signals a general recall, *postponement* or *abandonment*.

Room The space a boat needs in the existing conditions, including space to comply with her obligations under the rules of Part 2 and rule 31, while maneuvering promptly in a seamanlike way.

Rule (a) The rules in this book, including the Definitions, Race Signals, Introduction, preambles and the rules of ...appendices, but not titles; (b) [select ISAF Regulations]; (c) the prescriptions of the national authority, unless they are changed by the sailing instructions...; (d) the class rules; (e) the notice of race; (f) the sailing instructions; and (g) any other documents that govern the event.

Start A boat *starts* when, 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..., any part of her hull, crew or equipment crosses the starting line in the direction of the first *mark*.

Tack, Starboard or Port A boat is on the *tack*, *starboard* or *port*, corresponding to her *windward* side.

Windward See *Leeward and Windward*.

Zone The area around a *mark* within a distance of three hull lengths of the boat nearer to it. A boat is in the *zone* when any part of her hull is in the *zone*. **[RADIO: the Zone distance is changed to four hull lengths.]**

BASIC PRINCIPLES

SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE RULES

Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of *rules* that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a *rule* they will promptly take a penalty, which may be to retire.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Participants are encouraged to minimize any adverse environmental impact of the sport of sailing.

PART 1

FUNDAMENTAL RULES

1 SAFETY

1.1 Helping Those in Danger A boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.

1.2 [RADIO: 1.2 deleted] Life-Saving Equipment and Personal Flotation Devices...

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. A disqualification under this rule shall not be excluded from the boat's series score.

3 ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

By participating in a race conducted under these racing rules, each competitor and boat owner agrees

(a) to be governed by the *rules*;

(b) to accept the penalties imposed and other action taken under the *rules*, subject to the appeal and review procedures provided in them, as the final determination of any matter arising under the *rules*; and

(c) with respect to any such determination, not to resort to any court of law or tribunal.

4 DECISION TO RACE

The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue *racing* is hers alone.

5 ANTI-DOPING [omitted from this sheet]

? ANTI-WAGERING [omitted from this sheet]

PART 2

WHEN BOATS MEET

The rules of Part 2 apply between boats that are sailing in or near the racing area and intend to **race**, are **racing**, or have been **racing**. However, a boat not **racing** shall not be penalized ... except rule 24.1. When a boat sailing under these rules meets a vessel that is not, she shall comply with ...IRPCAS or government right-of-way rules.

SECTION A

RIGHT OF WAY A boat has right of way over another boat when the other boat is required to **keep clear** of her. However, some rules in Sections B, C and D limit the actions of a right-of-way boat.

10 ON OPPOSITE TACKS

When boats are on opposite *tacks*, a *port-tack* boat shall *keep clear* of a *starboard-tack* boat.

11 ON THE SAME TACK, OVERLAPPED

When boats are on the same *tack* and *overlapped*, a *windward* boat shall *keep clear* of a *leeward* boat.

12 ON THE SAME TACK, NOT OVERLAPPED

When boats are on the same *tack* and not *overlapped*, a boat *clear astern* shall *keep clear* of a boat *clear ahead*.

13 WHILE TACKING

After a boat passes head to wind, she shall *keep clear* of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course. During that time rules 10, 11 and 12 do not apply. If two boats are subject to this rule at the same time, the one on the other's port side or the one astern shall *keep clear*.

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 *room* or *mark-room*

(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.

15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

When a boat acquires right of way, she shall initially give the other boat *room* to *keep clear*, unless she acquires right of way because of the other boat's actions.

16 CHANGING COURSE

16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room* to *keep clear*.

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

17 ON THE SAME TACK; PROPER COURSE

If a boat *clear astern* becomes *overlapped* within two of her hull lengths to *leeward* of a boat on the same *tack*, she shall not sail above her *proper course* while they remain on the same *tack* and *overlapped* within that distance, unless in doing so she promptly sails astern of the other boat.

This rule does not apply if the *overlap* begins while the *windward* boat is required by rule 13 to *keep clear*.

SECTION C

AT MARKS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

Section C rules do not apply at a starting *mark* surrounded by navigable water or at its anchor line from the time boats are approaching them to *start* until they have passed them.

18 MARK-ROOM

18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and at least one of them is in the *zone*. However, it does not apply

- (a) between boats on opposite *tacks* on a beat to windward,
- (b) between boats on opposite *tacks* when the *proper course* at the *mark* for one but not both of them is to tack,
- (c) between a boat approaching a *mark* and one leaving it, or
- (d) if the *mark* is a continuing *obstruction*, in which case rule 19 applies.

18.2 Giving Mark-Room

(a) When boats are *overlapped* the outside boat shall give the inside boat *mark-room*, unless rule 18.2(b) applies.

(b) If boats are *overlapped* when the first of them reaches the *zone*, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat *mark-room*. If a boat is *clear ahead* when she reaches the *zone*, the boat *clear astern* at that moment shall thereafter give her *mark-room*.

(c) When a boat is required to give *mark-room* by rule 18.2(b),

(1) she shall continue to do so even if later an *overlap* is broken or a new *overlap* begins;

(2) if she becomes *overlapped* inside the boat entitled to *mark-room*, she shall also give that boat *room* to sail her *proper course* while they remain *overlapped*.

However, if the boat entitled to *mark-room* passes head to wind or leaves the *zone*, rule 18.2(b) ceases to apply.

(d) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.

(e) If a boat obtained an inside *overlap* from *clear astern* or by tacking to *windward* of the other boat and, from the time the *overlap* began, the outside boat has been unable to give *mark-room*, she is not required to give it.

18.3 Tacking in the Zone

If a boat in the *zone* passes head to wind and is then on the same *tack* as a boat that is *fetching* the *mark*, rule 18.2 does not thereafter apply between them. The boat that changed *tack*

- (a) shall not cause the other boat to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact or prevent the other boat from passing the *mark* on the required side, and
- (b) shall give *mark-room* if the other boat becomes *overlapped* inside her.

18.4 Gybing

When an inside *overlapped* right-of-way boat must gybe at a *mark* to sail her *proper course*, until she gybes she shall sail no farther from the *mark* than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.4 does not apply at a gate *mark*.

19 ROOM TO PASS AN OBSTRUCTION

19.1 When Rule 19 Applies

Rule 19 applies between boats at an *obstruction* except when it is also a *mark* the boats are required to leave on the same side. However, at a continuing *obstruction*, rule 19 always applies and rule 18 does not.

19.2 Giving Room at an Obstruction

(a) A right-of-way boat may choose to pass an *obstruction* on either side.

(b) When boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat shall give the inside boat *room* between her and the *obstruction*, unless she has been unable to do so from the time the *overlap* began.

(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, she is not entitled to *room* under rule 19.2(b). While the boats remain *overlapped*, she shall *keep clear* and rules 10 and 11 do not apply.

20 ROOM TO TACK AT AN OBSTRUCTION

[RADIO: Hails and replies shall be made by the competitor controlling the boat.]

20.1 Hailing

When approaching an *obstruction*, a boat may hail for *room* to tack and avoid a boat on the same *tack*.

However, she shall not hail if

- (a) she can avoid the *obstruction* safely without making a substantial course change,
- (b) she is sailing below close-hauled, or
- (c) the *obstruction* is a *mark* and a boat that is *fetching* it would be required to respond and change course.

20.2 Responding

- (a) After a boat hails, she shall give the hailed boat time to respond.
- (b) The hailed boat shall respond even if the hail breaks rule 20.1.
- (c) The hailed boat shall respond either by tacking as soon as possible, or by immediately replying 'You tack' and then giving the hailing boat *room* to tack and avoid her.
- (d) When the hailed boat responds, the hailing boat shall tack as soon as possible.
- (e) From the time a boat hails until she has tacked and avoided the hailed boat, rule 18.2 does not apply between them.

20.3 Passing On a Hail to an Additional Boat

When a boat has been hailed for *room* to tack and she intends to respond by tacking, she may hail another boat on the same *tack* for *room* to tack and avoid her. She may hail even if her hail does not meet the conditions of rule 20.1. Rule 20.2 applies between her and the boat she hails.

21 EXONERATION

When a boat is sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled under a rule of Section C, 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 (Right of Way rules 10-13), rule 15 (Acquiring R-O-W) or rule 16 (Changing Course), or
- (b) she is compelled to break rule 31 (Touching a Mark).

(Notice that violation of rule 14 (Avoiding Contact) is not exonerated!)

SECTION D

OTHER RULES

When rule 22 or 23 applies between two boats, Section A rules do not.

22 STARTING ERRORS; TAKING PENALTIES; MOVING ASTERN

22.1 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 she is completely on the pre-start side.

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

22.3 A boat moving astern through the water by backing a sail shall *keep clear* of one that is not.

23 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.

[RADIO: Rule 23 is changed to: 'If possible, a boat shall avoid a boat that is *disabled*']

24 INTERFERING WITH ANOTHER BOAT

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

24.2 Except when sailing her *proper course*, a boat shall not interfere with a boat taking a penalty or sailing on another leg.

PART 3

CONDUCT OF A RACE

25 NOTICE OF RACE, SAILING INSTRUCTIONS AND SIGNALS

25.1 The Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions shall be made available to each boat before a race begins.

25.2 and 25.3 Visual Signals (omitted from this sheet)

26 STARTING RACES

Races shall be started by using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

<i>Minutes before start</i>	<i>Visual signal</i>	<i>Sound signal</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
5	Class flag	One	Warning signal
4	P, I, Z, Z with I, or black flag	One	Preparatory signal
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

[Radio: No visual signals used. Sound signals intervals differ: begin with 2 minute Warning and count down final minute.]

27 OTHER RACE COMMITTEE ACTIONS BEFORE THE STARTING SIGNAL [omitted from this sheet]

28 SAILING THE COURSE

28.1 A boat shall *start*, sail the course described in the sailing instructions and *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 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 previous *mark*.

She may correct any errors to comply with this rule, provided she has not *finished*.

29 RECALLS [omitted from this sheet]

30 STARTING PENALTIES

30.1 I Flag Rule

If flag I has been displayed, and any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line or one of its extensions during the last minute before her starting signal, she shall thereafter sail from the course side across an extension to the prestart side before *starting*.

30.2 Z Flag Rule **[Radio: omitted]**

30.3 Black Flag Rule

[omissions] If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, even if the race is restarted or resailed [incl. Gen Recall or Abandoned after starting signal], but not if it is *postponed* or *abandoned* before the starting signal. [details omitted]

31 TOUCHING A MARK While *racing*, a boat shall not touch a starting *mark* before *starting*, a *mark* that begins, bounds or ends the leg of the course on which she is sailing, or a finishing *mark* after *finishing*.

[various omissions]

41 OUTSIDE HELP

A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except

- (a) help for a crew member who is ill, injured or in danger;
- (b) after a collision, help from the crew of the other vessel to get clear;
- (c) help in the form of information freely available to all boats;
- (d) unsolicited information from a disinterested source, which may be another boat in the same race.

However, a boat that gains a significant advantage in the race from help received under rule 41(a) may be protested and penalized; any penalty may be less than disqualification.

42 PROPULSION

42.1 Basic Rule

Except when permitted in rule 42.3 or 45, a boat shall compete by using only the wind and water to increase, maintain or decrease her speed. Her crew may adjust the trim of sails and hull, and perform other acts of seamanship, but shall not otherwise move their bodies to propel the boat.

42.2 Prohibited Actions

Without limiting the application of rule 42.1, these actions are prohibited:

- (a) pumping: repeated fanning of any sail either by pulling in & releasing the sail or by vertical or athwartship body movement;
- (b) rocking: repeated rolling of the boat, induced by
 - (1) body movement,
 - (2) repeated adjustment of the sails or centreboard, or
 - (3) steering;
- (c) ooching: sudden forward body movement, stopped abruptly;
- (d) sculling: repeated movement of helm that is either forceful or that propels the boat forward or prevents ...moving astern;
- (e) repeated tacks or gybes unrelated to changes in the wind or to tactical considerations.

42.3 Exceptions

- (a), (b), (e), (g), (h) and (i) omitted from this sheet.
- (c) Except on a beat to windward, when surfing (... down the front of a wave) or planing is possible, the boat's crew may pull in any sail in order to initiate surfing or planing, but each sail may be pulled in only once for each wave or gust of wind.
- (d) When a boat is above close-hauled and either stationary or moving slowly, she may scull to turn to a closehauled course.
- (f) A boat may reduce speed by repeatedly moving her helm.

[omissions]

55 TRASH DISPOSAL A competitor shall not intentionally put trash in the water.

90.2 Changes to the Sailing Instructions (shall be written and posted...)

[RADIO: Changes to the sailing instructions may be communicated orally ... before the warning signal of the relevant race or heat. When appropriate, changes shall be confirmed in writing.]

E2 ADDITIONAL RULES WHEN RACING

Rule E2 applies only while radio-controlled boats are racing.

E2.1 Hailing Requirements

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

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

(T-37 Note: This makes sense for most classes that have two-digit sail numbers. Perhaps not so for four digits.)

E2.2 Giving Advice

A competitor shall not give tactical or strategic advice to a competitor controlling a boat that is *racing*.

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.

E2.4 Transmitter Aerials

The extremity of an aerial longer than 200mm when extended shall be adequately protected.

E3 CONDUCT OF A RACE

E3.1 Control Area

The sailing instructions may specify a control area; if not specified, it shall be unrestricted. Competitors shall be in this area when controlling boats that are *racing*, except briefly to handle and then release or re-launch the boat.

E3.2 Launching Area

The sailing instructions may specify a launching area and its use; if not specified it shall be unrestricted.