

Racing Rules of Sailing

A photograph of a sailboat's deck and rigging against a backdrop of a setting sun over the ocean. The boat is angled towards the right, with its white sail partially visible. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, transitioning to a darker blue at the horizon. The water is a deep blue with small white-capped waves. The boat's deck is light-colored wood, and various sailing equipment like ropes and a mast are visible.

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES FOR 2021 -
2024

Good news, boat on boat rules have not changed significantly. The changes that have been made are attempts at clarification.

Several changes that impact Race Management, but nothing that changes the basic way we run races

One change for the Organizing Authority is that the Notice of Race much be published before registration for a regatta can be opened.

You need to tell potential competitors what type of event you intend to run. RRS 25 and Appendix J.

Start and Finish Are Changing

The former rule:
‘Hull, crew
or equipment in
normal position’

The new rule:
“Hull”

The Hull

- Does not encompass:
 - An extendable/retractable spinnaker pole
 - A fixed pole or bowsprit
 - A spinnaker
 - A rudder off the stern
 - Wings or racks for hiking

When must the RC really be on its toes:

Down wind or reaching spinnaker starts (video?)

All down wind finishes unless it's a Non-spin class.

In a handicapped fleet the precision of a second or two may not be critical

But with a larger 1 Design fleet with boats converging it could be an RC nightmares (video?)

Next Topic – Sail The Course

- Old Rules – Rule 28 the “string rule”
- New Rules –

Definition **Sail the Course** which includes the “string rule”, but....

You still need RRS 28 to fully understand how things work

Next Topic – Redress, RSS 62

- Old Rule - redress available if (among other things) through “no fault of her own” a boats score was made significantly worse by “injury or physical damage because of the action of a boat breaking a rule....”
- New Rule – “injury or physical damage because of an action of a boat breaking a rule and **took an appropriate penalty or was penalized...**”

NO REDRESS WITHOUT FAULT

A few other smaller changes

The "Protest Form" is not a "Request for a Hearing" form

Code Flag V is now a signal – everyone is part of the search and rescue team, monitor the radio, new RRS 37

US Prescription to RRS 32: If provided in the SI's Code Flag A, without sound means no more races that day.

Exoneration – 3 different rules dealing with exoneration are combined in RRS 43

The time to take a penalty is the same as time to fly a protest flag "first reasonable opportunity"