

2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing

Important Changes Affecting Race Management

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The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) are reviewed and revised every four years by World Sailing, the international authority for the sport. World Sailing recently published the 2021-2024 edition, which will become effective on 1 January 2021. *The Racing Rules of Sailing* include the Introduction, Basic Principles, Definitions, Race Signals, Parts 1 through 7, rules of the appendices, and relevant preambles.

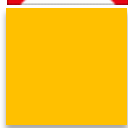
The Racing Rules of Sailing and other support documentation can be found at US Sailing and World Sailing webpages: US Sailing (rulebook.ussailing.org); World Sailing (sailing.org/documents/racingrules/index.php). A digital version of the RRS for mobile devices can be accessed at apple.ussailing.org (iOS devices) or android.ussailing.org (Android devices). The digital rulebook is free to US Sailing members. A new feature of US Sailing's edition of the *2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing*, which includes the US Sailing prescriptions, is a detailed index, keyed to rule numbers.

This document summarizes important changes in the *2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing* which affect race management practices and procedures. It is helpful to have both the old 2017-2020 RRS and new 2021-2024 RRS for reference.

RACE SIGNALS:



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



Orange flag¹ – The staff displaying this flag is one end of the starting line.



Blue flag¹ – The staff displaying this flag is one end of the finishing line.



¹ Check your sailing instructions to ensure they describe starting and finishing marks as well as starting and finishing lines.

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ONLINE RULES DOCUMENTS:

World Sailing has established a single internet address at which you can find links to all the documents available on the World Sailing website that are in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
<http://www.sailing.org/racingrules/documents>

DEFINITIONS:

Finish – A boat now *finishes* when any part of her **hull**² crosses the finishing line. The crew and equipment in normal position are no longer used.

Start – A boat now *starts* when any part of her **hull**² crosses the starting line. Neither crew nor equipment are considered for OCS.

² For the definition of **hull** refer to the Oxford English Dictionary definition of **hull** unless the boat is governed by the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS). Bowsprits, whether retractable or permanent, are a spar and not part of the hull. Wings on 49ers and racks on Moths, for example, **may** be considered part of the cockpit, hence part of the hull. Refer to class rules and policies and future World Sailing clarifications for guidance.



NEW

Obstruction – Sailing instructions can designate an object, area or line as an *obstruction*.

Rule (b) – clarifies which regulations are *rules*. See rule 6.1 **World Sailing Regulations**.

Sail the Course – new definition, replaces part of old rule 28, which is now: rule 28 **Sailing the Race**. Important for possible rule A10 Did Not Sail the Course (NSC) by race committee under rule A5 **Scores Determined by the Race Committee**.



NEW

PART 1 – FUNDAMENTAL RULES:

1.1 Helping Those in Danger – adds *support person* to the list.

2 Fair Sailing – The penalty for breaches of rule 2 shall be a disqualification that is not excludable (DNE). The previous option of disqualification (DSQ) has been removed. Check your scoring program.

3 Decision to Race – previously rule 4 and often referenced in both the notice of race and sailing instructions. Check your race documents and renumber the reference as necessary.

5 Rules Governing Organizing Authorities and Officials – previously rule 84.

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6 World Sailing Regulations – combines old rules 5, 6, and 7 into a single rule and includes three additional World Sailing Regulations that were in the definition of *rule* (b).

PART 2 – WHEN BOATS MEET:

Preamble – requires the notice of race to state if rules of Part 2 are replaced by International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) or other government right-of-way rules, instead of the sailing instructions.

20.4(b) Additional Requirements for Hails – “The notice of race may specify an alternative communication for a boat to indicate her need for *room* to tack (at an obstruction) or her response, and require boats to use it.”



Note: In races for boats that can slow dramatically when they tack, boats are often so far apart when a hail must be made that it is unlikely that an oral hail will be heard.

PART 3 – CONDUCT OF A RACE:

25.1 Notice of Race – The notice of race shall be made available to boats before they enter.

25.1 US Prescription – Rules that helped a competitor decide whether to attend an event, that also described how races would be conducted, used to appear in both the notice of race and the sailing instructions. With the change to Appendix J removing all requirements that a rule included in the notice of race be repeated in the sailing instructions, these will only be in the notice of race. For this reason, “US Sailing prescribes that the race committee ensure that the notice of race and sailing instructions are readily available to competitors throughout the event.”

28 Sailing the Race – replaces old *Sailing the Course*, which now is a definition.

29.1 Individual Recall – Only the hull is considered for calling OCS boats. Likewise, flag X is displayed until the hull of each OCS boat has been completely on the pre-start side of the starting line, etc.

Suggested sailing instruction for races where it is desirable to specify an alternative penalty for boats subject to RRS 29.1 Individual Recall, such as a distance or point-to-point race.

SI x.x *When at a boat's starting signal she is subject to RRS 29.1 Individual Recall and she fails to comply with RRS 29.1 to start correctly, the race committee shall, without a hearing, apply a time penalty of XX% and she shall be deemed to have started correctly. Should the race committee consider this penalty to be inappropriate, it shall protest the boat. This changes RRS 28.1, RRS 63.1, and A5.*

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30 Starting Penalties – reflects the change made to the definition of *start*.

32.3 US Prescription – This US Sailing prescription, to use flag A to indicate no more racing that day, can only be invoked if the sailing instructions include the wording from the prescription.

33 Changing the Next Leg of the Course – added, “while boats are *racing*”.

34 Mark Missing – also added, “while boats are *racing*”.

37 Search and Rescue Operations – “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.”



PART 4 – OTHER REQUIREMENTS WHEN RACING:

Part 4 has been reorganized into two sections: Section A General Requirements and Section B Equipment-Related Requirements. This change has resulted in several rules being renumbered. Check your race documents to ensure that you have the correct rule references. For example, Trash Disposal, previously rule 55, is now rule 47.

40 Personal Floatation Devices – simplifies rule 40, plus allows the notice of race or sailing instructions to invoke rule 40 without using flag Y. US Sailing’s prescription to rule 40 is deleted.

41 Outside Help – eliminated the clause allowing protests under rule 41(a) for gaining a “significant advantage”, leaving no ambiguity to help a “crew member who is ill, injured or in danger.” Consider adding a sailing instruction to allow a crew member who becomes separated from their boat to be returned to their boat without breaking rule 41.

SI x.x *Add new rule 41(e):
(e) help to recover from the water and return on board a crew member, provided the return on board is at the approximate location of the recovery. (See C2.14)*

44.1 Taking a Penalty – allows the notice of race or sailing instructions to specify use of another penalty; previously was only the sailing instructions.

56.2 Traffic Separation Schemes – old rule 48.2, but provides **Appendix TS**, Traffic Separation Schemes, available on World Sailing website.



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PART 5 – PROTESTS, REDRESS, HEARINGS, MISCONDUCT AND APPEALS:

60.2(c) Right to Protest – The race committee can report to protest committee actions by a *support person* believed to have broken a rule. See rule 60.3 (d).

61.1(b) Informing the Protestee – allows for race committee (or technical committee or protest committee) to post a notice on the official notice board within the appropriate time limit to satisfy this requirement.

62.2(a) Redress – adds a 30-minute time limit for redress requests based on a protest committee decision on the last scheduled day of racing. Now parallel to rule **66.2 (a) for Reopening a Hearing** on the last scheduled day of racing.

Part 6 – ENTRY AND QUALIFICATION:

75 Entering an Event – Now using “event” instead of “race”, which encompasses race or series.

78.2 Certificates – A boat must produce its valid certificate “before the start of the last day of the event, or of the (last day of the) first series, whichever is earlier.” Previously the deadline for producing a valid certificate was unclear.

79 Categorization – no longer “Classification”. See rule 6.1, WS Sailor Categorization Code.

Part 7 – RACE ORGANIZATION:

86.1(a) & (c) Changes to the Racing Rules – New rules cited are due, in part, to renumbering of rules in Part 4 and combining World Sailing Regulations under rule 6. New rule 43, Exoneration, and renumbered rule 47, Trash Disposal, are added to the list of rules that cannot be changed.

86.2 Changes to the Racing Rules (for international events) – World Sailing authorization to be stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions, but not necessarily both.

87 Changes to Class Rules – Class rules can no longer be changed by the sailing instructions. The notice of race may still change a class rule when the class rules permit the change or when written permission of the class association for the change is posted on the official notice board.

90.3(d) Scoring Changes – “The race committee shall implement scoring changes directed by the protest committee or national authority as a result of decisions made in accordance with the *rules*.”



90.3(e) Scoring Corrections – If stated in the notice of race, no scoring corrections shall be made 24 hours after: (1) the protest time limit for the last race of the



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series; (2) being informed of a protest committee decision after the last race of a series; or (3) the results being published. To have this rule in effect you must include the following instruction in your notice of race:

NoR x.x Rule 90.3(e) will be in effect. There shall be no changes to race or series scores, including the correction of errors, initiated more than 24 hours after the reasons outlined in rule 90.3(e)(1), (2) or (3).

APPENDIX A – SCORING:

A5 Scores Determined by the Race Committee:

A5.1 – adds “a boat that did not ... *sail the course* ... shall be scored accordingly by the race committee without a hearing.” (NSC)

A5.2 – provides points for NSC (Did not *sail the course*) same as DSQ.

A5.3 - replaces old rule A9, Race Scores in a Series Longer than a Regatta, and requires notice of race or sailing instructions to state that rule A5.3 applies.

NoR x **SCORING**
x.x The Appendix A Scoring System including RRS A5.3 will apply.

A10 Scoring Abbreviations: adds a new scoring abbreviation: NSC Did not *sail the course*.³

³ If the race committee believes from its observations that a boat has made an error in sailing the course, it should score the boat NSC. The race committee should **not** use hearsay evidence from other competitors or support persons to score a boat NSC.



NEW

APPENDIX B – WINDSURFING FLEET RACING RULES

B3 Changes to the Rules of Part 3

Rule 26.1 – Starting Races System 1 (Upwind Starts): Flag Z cannot be used as a preparatory signal. Only P, I, U or Black are permitted.

Rule 30.2 – Starting Penalties: Rule 30.2 is deleted. (Z Flag Rule)

APPENDIX C – MATCH RACING RULES

C2.15 Outside Help – New rule 41(e) has been added to allow help to recover from the water and return on board a crew member during a match race.

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C3.1 Starting Signals – The attention signal has changed from 10 minutes to 7 minutes.

C3.2 Rule 29.1 Individual Recall – Only the hull is considered for calling OCS boats. A blue and or yellow flag is displayed until the hull of each OCS boat has been completely on the pre-start side of the starting line.

C4.1 Requirements Before the Start – Only the hull is considered for entry into the “H” and crossing and clearing the starting line.

C7.2(d) All Penalties – When a boat is taking a penalty around the finishing mark the race committee is required to ensure that her hull is completely on the course side of the line. The race committee is no longer required to check the position of the crew and equipment, including the mast, boom and sails.

APPENDIX D – TEAM RACING RULES

D4 Scoring an Event – Extensive changes have been made to the way Team Racing is scored, specifically how ties are broken.

APPENDIX F – KITEBOARDING RACING RULES

F3 Starting Races – Rule 26 is changed to use a 3-minute starting sequence. The preparatory signal shall be either U or Black flag.

APPENDIX J – NOTICE OF RACE AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

All requirements that a rule included in the notice of race be repeated in the sailing instructions have been removed.



The notice of race shall include information 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. See new **J1.3**.

The sailing instructions shall describe how the race(s) will be conducted, including the other commitments of the race committee and obligations of boats. They should not repeat rules in the notice of race. This will help reduce conflicts between these two documents.

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NOTICE OF RACE GUIDE and SAILING INSTRUCTIONS GUIDE

The notice of race guide and sailing instruction guides, formerly appendices K and L respectively, have been removed from the rule book and will be available as online documents <http://www.sailing.org/racingrules/documents>