

On January 1, 2025, the new *Racing Rules of Sailing* for 2025-2028 went into effect. Here are the significant changes in Appendix C, Match Racing.

C2.7 states that now rule 16.2, Changing Course, is changed to:

“In addition, when boats on opposite *tacks* are sailing to a *mark* that is to windward of them, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not bear away to a course that is more than ninety degrees from the true wind and that is below her *proper course*, if as a result the *port-tack* boat must change course immediately to continue *keeping clear*.”

This change to rule 16.2 was previously found in MR Call D6. Note, this rule applies after the starting signal, regardless of whether the boats have started or not (i.e., crossed the starting line). After the starting signal, the boats are sailing to a mark that is to windward of them.

C2.10 states that rule 20.4(a) is changed to:

“(a) The following arm signals by the *helmsperson* are required in addition to the hails: (1) for ‘*Room to tack*’, repeatedly and clearly pointing to windward; and...”

In addition to changing “helmsman” to “helmsperson,” the rule parallels the new rule 20.1(a) which says that boats may hail for room to tack by hailing ‘Room to tack.’ So be sure to use those three words in your hail.

C2.14 states that rule 27.2 is changed to:

“No later than the warning signal, the race committee may move a starting *mark*.”

This means the race committee cannot move either end of the starting line after the “warning signal”, which in a multiple start sequence is the starting signal for the match before the next match. In other words, the starting marks cannot be moved between the warning and the prep signal of the match that is about to enter.

C5.4 has been changed to state:

“A black flag with a blue or yellow flag and one long sound means ‘The identified boat is disqualified *or has retired*, and the match is terminated and awarded to the other boat.’”

C8.5 now states:

“When, after one boat has *started*, the umpires are satisfied that the other boat will not *start*, they may signal under rule C5.4, *identifying the boat that has not started*.”

And C8.6 states:

“When one boat retires after both boats in a match have *started*, the umpires may signal under rule C5.4, *identifying the retired boat*.”

Now when it is obvious to the umpires that one of the boats has retired from the race, they can terminate the race so the other boat can stop racing as well, with the win.