



Introductory Rules for Racing

Version 1.01 - February 2008

Some Explanations

Windward and Leeward: The *leeward* side of your boat is the side where your mainsail lies. The *windward* side is the other side.

Port and Starboard tack: You are on *port* or *starboard tack* according to your *windward* side.

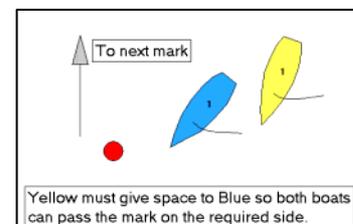
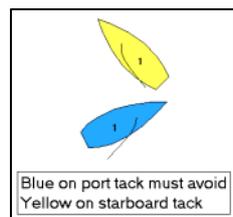
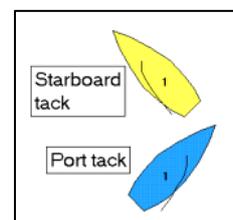
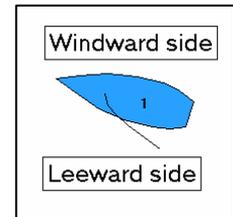
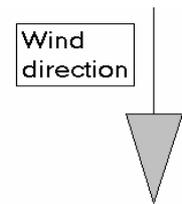
Advisor: A person appointed by the race organizers to assist competitors in understanding the rules and, when appropriate, to penalize a boat.

Basic Rules

1. You must comply with the principles of good sportsmanship.
2. You must try not to collide with another boat.

Rules When Boats Meet

3. When you and the other boat are on opposite *tacks*, if you are on *port tack* you must avoid the boat on *starboard tack*.
4. When you and the other boat are on the same *tack*, you must avoid the other boat
 - (a) if she is in front of you, or
 - (b) if she is on your *leeward* side.
5. After starting, when you and the other boat approach a mark or an object that both boats need to avoid, and the other boat is between you and the mark or other object, you must give her sufficient space to pass it safely on the same side. However, when the boats are on opposite tacks at a windward mark, this rule does not apply.
6. When the other boat is required to avoid you, if you change course, you must give the other boat an adequate opportunity to avoid you.



Other Rules

7. At the starting signal you must be behind the starting line.
8. After the starting signal, you must sail the course described by the race organizers.
9. You must not touch a mark of the course.
10. If you think you or another boat has broken a rule or if you are unclear about the rules at any time during the race, you must describe the incident to the *advisor* after the race. The *advisor* may then add two points to the score of any boat that has broken a rule. If the offence is serious, the *advisor* may add extra points to the boat's score.

Responsibilities of Race Organizers

- (a) To run fair, enjoyable and safe races.
 - (b) To inform all the competitors about the sequence of starting signals, the starting and finishing lines, the course to be sailed and the marks to be rounded.
 - (c) To score each boat points equal to her finishing position, after adjusting for handicaps when appropriate.
 - (d) To appoint an *advisor* on the rules and procedures for racing.
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Introduction and Use

These rules are designed to stand on their own so that sailors who are starting to race can compete using only these few rules and without the need to learn the many details of the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). They are appropriate for small boats in sheltered waters; they are not intended for boats over 6 metres (20 feet) long when an experienced person should be alongside and able to instruct the novice helm. These rules are compatible with the principles and fundamental rules in the RRS. However, they are neither a guide to nor an abbreviated form of the RRS.

The rules are intentionally minimalist and they omit as many complications of the RRS as possible. They are written for sailors who are starting to race and with no more than 2 years of racing experience. After this period these sailors should be encouraged to sail races under the Racing Rules of Sailing.

Boats racing under these rules should race on their own course and should not share the course area or marks with boats racing under the RRS.

Unlike normal racing, there is an obligation on the race organisers to verbally brief all competitors about the marks, the course and all relevant race management matters.

The role of rules advisor is a vital part of teaching the rules. Ideally the rules advisor should be afloat and should watch the racing but, as a minimum, the advisor must be available for discussion immediately the sailors return ashore. The rules advisor may be the same person as the race officer.

The standard penalty for breaking a rule is necessarily small at this learning stage and the difficulties of penalty turns are avoided. As it is only the advisor that imposes a penalty, possible pressure on a less confident competitor while racing is avoided. Note this two place penalty applies to all errors (including starting and course errors) although there is provision for increasing the penalty to avoid any advantage being gained from the error.

Feedback

These rules are 'experimental'. Please let ISAF have your comments, criticisms and suggestions at www.sailing.org/contactisaf. The rules will be updated as required and the latest version published on the ISAF website www.sailing.org.