
**THE
RACING RULES
OF
SAILING**

for 2025–2028

*Including changes and corrections made by
World Sailing as of January 1, 2025*

World Sailing

As the leading authority for the sport, World Sailing promotes and supports the protection of the environment in all sailing competitions and related activities throughout the world.

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ONLINE RULES DOCUMENTS

World Sailing has established a single internet address at which readers will find links to all the documents available on the World Sailing website that are mentioned in this book. Those documents are listed below. Links to other rules documents will also be provided at that address.

The address is: **www.sailing.org/racingrules**

<i>Document</i>	<i>Mentioned in</i>
Guidelines for discretionary penalties	Introduction
Changes made to these rules after 1 January 2025	Introduction
Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions Guides	Introduction
World Sailing Regulations	Introduction
<i>The Case Book</i>	Introduction
<i>The Call Books</i> for various disciplines	Introduction
World Sailing Regulations with the status of a <i>rule</i>	Definition <i>Rule</i> (b)
Interpretations of Rule 42, Propulsion	Rule 42
<i>World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations</i>	Rule 49.2
<i>The Equipment Rules of Sailing</i>	Several rules
Appendix TS, Traffic Separation Schemes	Rule 56.2
Hearing Request and Hearing Decision Forms	Part 5 Preamble
Rules for other windsurfing competition formats	Appendix B Preamble
Standard Notice of Race for Match Racing	Appendix C Preamble
Standard Sailing Instructions for Match Racing	Appendix C Preamble
Match Racing Rules for Visually Impaired Sailors	Appendix C Preamble
Development Rules for Umpired Radio Sailing	Appendix E Preamble
Rules for other kiteboarding competition formats	Appendix F Preamble
Up-to-date table of National Sail Letters	Appendix G
Guidance on conflicts of interest	Appendix M2.3
Guidance on misconduct	Appendix M6.8
<i>World Sailing Judges Manual</i>	Appendix T Preamble

INTRODUCTION

The Racing Rules of Sailing includes two main sections. The first, Parts 1–7, contains rules that affect all competitors. The second, the appendices, provides details of rules, rules that apply to particular kinds of racing, and rules that affect only a small number of competitors or officials.

Terminology A term used in the sense stated in the Definitions is printed in italics or, in preambles, in bold italics (for example, *racing* and ***racing***).

Each of the terms in the table below is used in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* with the meaning given.

<i>Term</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Boat	A sailboat and the crew on board, that are subject to the <i>rules</i> .
Competitor	A person who races or intends to race in the event.
National authority	A World Sailing member national authority.
Race committee	The race committee appointed under rule 89.2(c) and any other person or committee performing a race committee function.
Racing rule	A rule in <i>The Racing Rules of Sailing</i> .
Technical committee	The technical committee appointed under rule 89.2(c) and any other person or committee performing a technical committee function.
Vessel	Any boat or ship.

Other words and terms are used in the sense ordinarily understood in nautical or general use. For a source of the nautical sense of a word, a reader may refer to *The Equipment Rules of Sailing*.

Hails A language other than English may be used for a hail required by the *rules* provided that it is reasonable for it to be understood by all boats affected. However, a hail in English is always acceptable.

Notation The notation ‘[DP]’ in a *rule* means that the penalty for a breach of the *rule* may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be

less than disqualification. Guidelines for discretionary penalties are available on the World Sailing website.

Revision The racing rules are revised and published every four years by World Sailing, the international authority for the sport. This edition becomes effective on 1 January 2025 except that for an event beginning in 2024 the date may be postponed by the notice of race. Marginal markings indicate important changes to Parts 1–7 and the Definitions in the 2021–2024 edition. No changes are contemplated before 2029, but any changes determined to be urgent before then will be announced through national authorities and posted on the World Sailing website.

Appendices When the rules of an appendix apply, they take precedence over any conflicting rules in Parts 1–7 and the Definitions. Each appendix in this book is identified by a letter. Other appendices are available on the World Sailing website and are identified by two or three letters. A reference to a rule in an appendix will contain the letter or letters, and the rule number (for example, ‘rule A1’ or ‘rule MR1’). The letters I, K, L, O and Q are not used to designate appendices in this book.

Development Rules Development Rules may be approved by World Sailing for specific events or categories of events. They are available on the World Sailing website and are identified by the letters DR.

Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions Guides and templates for writing a notice of race and sailing instructions are available, in various file formats, on the World Sailing website at www.sailing.org/racingrules. National authorities are encouraged to translate these guides and templates.

World Sailing Regulations The Regulations are referred to in the definition *Rule* and in rule 6, but they are not included in this book because they can be changed at any time. The most recent versions of the Regulations are published on the World Sailing website; new versions will be announced through national authorities.

Interpretations World Sailing publishes the following authoritative interpretations of the racing rules:

- *The Case Book – Interpretations of the Racing Rules*,
- *The Call Books*, for various disciplines,
- Interpretations of Rule 42, Propulsion, and
- Interpretations of the Regulations, for those Regulations that are *rules*.

These publications are available on the World Sailing website. Other interpretations of the racing rules are not authoritative unless approved by World Sailing.

DEFINITIONS

A term used as stated below is shown in italic type or, in preambles, in bold italic type. The meaning of several other terms is given in Terminology in the Introduction.

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 apply to boats on opposite *tacks* only when rule 18 applies between them or when both boats are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind.

Committee The protest committee, the race committee or the technical committee.

Conflict of Interest A *conflict of interest* exists if a person

- (a) may gain or lose as a result of a decision to which that person contributes,
- (b) may reasonably appear to have a personal or financial interest which could affect that person's ability to be impartial, or
- (c) has a close personal interest in a decision.

Continuing Obstruction An *obstruction* is a *continuing obstruction* when the boat with the shortest hull referred to in the rule using the term will pass alongside it for at least three of her hull lengths. However, the following are not a *continuing obstruction*: a vessel under way, a boat *racing*, or a race committee vessel that is also a *mark*.

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, after her starting signal, any part of her hull 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 in *sailing the course* made at the line, or
- (c) continues to *sail the course*.

After *finishing* she need not cross the finishing line completely. The sailing instructions may change the direction in which boats are required to cross the finishing line to *finish*.

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 the 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, a race committee vessel surrounded by navigable water from which the starting or finishing line extends, and an object intentionally attached to the object or vessel. However, an anchor line is not part of the *mark*.

Mark-Room Room for a boat

- (a) to sail to the *mark* when her *proper course* is to sail close to it,
- (b) to round or pass the *mark* on the required side, and
- (c) to leave it astern.

Obstruction An *obstruction* is

- (a) 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;
- (b) an object that can be safely passed on only one side; or
- (c) an object, area or line that is so designated in a *rule*.

However, a boat *racing* is not an *obstruction* to other boats unless they are required to *keep clear* of her or, if rule 22 applies, avoid her.

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 redress hearing: a boat requesting redress or for which redress is requested; a boat for which a hearing is called to consider redress under rule 61.1; a *committee* acting under rule 61.1;
- (c) for a redress hearing under rule 61.4(b)(1): the body alleged to have made an improper action or improper omission;
- (d) a person against whom an allegation of a breach of rule 69.1(a) is made; a person presenting an allegation under rule 69.2(e)(1);
- (e) a *support person* subject to a hearing under rule 62 or 69; any boat that person supports; a person appointed to present an allegation under rule 62.2.

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 choose in order to *sail the course* as quickly 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 60 by a boat or a *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 manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way.

Rule

- (a) The rules in this book, including the Definitions, Race Signals, Introduction, preambles and the rules of relevant appendices, but not the Basic Principles or titles;

- (b) World Sailing Regulations that have been designated by World Sailing as having the status of a *rule* and are published on the World Sailing website;
- (c) the prescriptions of the national authority, unless they are changed by the notice of race or sailing instructions in compliance with the national authority's prescription, if any, to rule 88.2;
- (d) the class rules (for a boat racing under a handicap or rating system, the rules of that system are 'class rules');
- (e) the notice of race;
- (f) the sailing instructions; and
- (g) any other documents that govern the event.

Sail the Course A boat *sails the course* when

- (a) she *starts*;
- (b) a string representing her track until she *finishes*, when drawn taut,
 - (1) passes each *mark* of the course for the race on the required side and in the correct order (including the starting *marks*),
 - (2) touches each *mark* designated in the sailing instructions to be a rounding *mark*, and
 - (3) passes between the *marks* of a gate from the direction of the course from the previous *mark*; and then
- (c) she *finishes*.

A *mark* that does not begin, bound or end the leg the boat is sailing does not have a required side.

Start A boat *starts* when, her hull 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 if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side.

Support Person Any person who

- (a) provides, or may provide, physical or advisory support to a competitor, including any coach, trainer, manager, team staff, medic, paramedic or any other person working with, treating or assisting a competitor in or preparing for the competition, or
- (b) is the parent or guardian of a competitor.

DEFINITIONS

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*.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

The Basic Principles shall not be changed.

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 a boat breaks a *rule* and is not exonerated, she will promptly take an appropriate penalty or action, 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, competitor or *support person* shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.

1.2 Life-Saving Equipment and Personal Flotation Devices

A boat shall carry adequate life-saving equipment for all persons on board, including one item ready for immediate use, unless her class rules make some other provision. Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions.

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. The penalty shall be a disqualification that is not excludable.

3 DECISION TO RACE

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

4 ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

4.1 (a) By participating or intending to participate in an event conducted under the *rules*, each competitor and boat owner agrees to accept the *rules*.

(b) A *support person* by providing support, or a parent or guardian by permitting their child to enter an event, agrees to accept the *rules*.

4.2 Each competitor and boat owner agrees, on behalf of their *support persons*, that such *support persons* are bound by the *rules*.

4.3 Acceptance of the *rules* includes agreement

(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*;

(c) with respect to any such determination, not to resort to any court of law or tribunal not provided for in the *rules*; and

(d) by each competitor and boat owner to ensure that their *support persons* are aware of the *rules*.

4.4 The person in charge of each boat shall ensure that all competitors in the crew and the boat's owner are aware of their responsibilities under this rule.

4.5 This rule may be changed by a prescription of the national authority of the venue.

5 RULES GOVERNING ORGANIZING AUTHORITIES AND OFFICIALS

The organizing authority, a *committee* and other race officials shall be governed by the *rules* in the conduct and judging of the event.

6 WORLD SAILING REGULATIONS

6.1 Each competitor, boat owner and *support person* shall comply with the World Sailing Regulations that have been designated by World Sailing as having the status of a *rule*. These regulations as of 30 June 2024 are the World Sailing:

- Advertising Code
- Anti-Doping Code
- Code of Ethics
- Eligibility Code
- Sailor Categorization Code

6.2 The rules of Part 5 do not apply unless *protests* are permitted in the Regulation alleged to have been broken.

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 for breaking one of these rules, except rule 14 when the incident resulted in injury or serious damage, or rule 23.1.*

When a boat sailing under these rules meets a vessel that is not, she shall comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) or government right-of-way rules. If the notice of race so states, the rules of Part 2 are replaced by the right-of-way rules of the IRPCAS or by 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

If reasonably possible, a boat shall

- (a) avoid contact with another boat,
- (b) not cause contact between boats, and
- (c) not cause contact between a boat and an object that should be avoided.

However, a right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled, need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not *keeping clear* or giving *room* or *mark-room*.

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, on a beat to windward when a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass to leeward of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not bear away if as a result the *port-tack* boat must change course immediately 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.

SECTION C

AT MARKS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

*Section C rules do not apply between boats when the **mark** or **obstruction** referred to in those rules is a starting **mark** surrounded by navigable water or its anchor line, from the time the boats are approaching it to **start** until they have left it astern.*

18 MARK-ROOM

18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

- (a) 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
 - (1) between boats on opposite *tacks* on a beat to windward,
 - (2) between boats on opposite *tacks* when the *proper course* at the *mark* for one but not both of them is to tack,
 - (3) between a boat approaching a *mark* and one leaving it, or
 - (4) if the *mark* is a *continuing obstruction*, in which case rule 19 applies.
- (b) Rule 18 no longer applies between boats when *mark-room* has been given.

18.2 Giving Mark-Room

- (a) When the first of two boats reaches the *zone*,
 - (1) if the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat at that moment shall give the inside boat *mark-room*;
 - (2) if the boats are not *overlapped*, the boat that has not reached the *zone* at that moment shall give the other boat *mark-room*.

When a boat is required to give *mark-room* by this rule, she shall continue to do so for as long as this rule applies, even if later an *overlap* is broken or a new *overlap* begins.

- (b) Rule 18.2(a) no longer applies if the boat entitled to *mark-room* passes head to wind or leaves the *zone*.

- (c) When rule 18.2(a) does not apply and the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat shall give the inside boat *mark-room*.
- (d) 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*, rules 18.2(a) and 18.2(c) do not apply between them.
- (e) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.

18.3 Tacking in the Zone

If a boat passes head to wind from *port* to *starboard tack* in the *zone* of a *mark* to be left to port, rule 18.2 does not apply between her and another boat on *starboard tack* that is *fetching* the *mark*. If the other boat has been on *starboard tack* since entering the *zone*, the boat that passed head to wind

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

18.4 Gybing in the Zone

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 two boats at an *obstruction* except when rule 18 applies between them and

- (a) the *obstruction* is the *mark*, or
- (b) the *obstruction* is another boat *overlapped* with each of them.

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 her port or starboard side. If a right-of-way boat changes course

when choosing on which side to pass the *obstruction*, she shall give the other boat *room to keep clear*.

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

20 ROOM TO TACK AT AN OBSTRUCTION

20.1 Hailing

A boat may hail for *room to tack* and avoid a boat on the same *tack* by hailing 'Room to tack'. However, she shall not hail unless

- (a) she is approaching an *obstruction* and will soon need to make a substantial course change to avoid it safely, and
- (b) she is sailing close-hauled or above.

In addition, she shall not hail if the *obstruction* is a *mark* and a boat that is *fetching* it would be required to change course as a result of the hail.

20.2 Responding

- (a) After a boat hails, she shall give a hailed boat time to respond.
- (b) A hailed boat shall respond even if the hail breaks rule 20.1.
- (c) A 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 a 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 a 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 a boat she hails.

20.4 Additional Requirements for Hails

- (a) When conditions are such that a hail may not be heard, the boat shall also make a signal that clearly indicates her need for *room* to tack or her response.
- (b) The notice of race may specify an alternative communication for a boat to indicate her need for *room* to tack or her response, and require boats to use it.

SECTION D

OTHER RULES

When rule 21 or 22 applies between two boats, Section A rules do not.

21 STARTING ERRORS; TAKING PENALTIES; BACKING A SAIL

21.1 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 her hull is completely on the pre-start side.

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

21.3 A boat moving astern, or sideways to windward, through the water by backing a sail shall *keep clear* of one that is not.

22 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.

23 INTERFERING WITH ANOTHER BOAT

- 23.1** If reasonably possible, a boat not *racing* shall not interfere with a boat that is *racing*.
- 23.2** If reasonably possible, a boat shall not interfere with a boat that is taking a penalty, sailing on another leg or subject to rule 21.1. However, after the starting signal this rule does not apply when the boat is sailing her *proper course*.

PART 3

CONDUCT OF A RACE

25 NOTICE OF RACE, SAILING INSTRUCTIONS AND SIGNALS

- 25.1** The notice of race shall be made available to each boat that enters an event before she enters. The sailing instructions shall be made available to each boat before a race begins.
- 25.2** The meanings of the visual and sound signals stated in Race Signals shall not be changed except under rule 86.1(b). The meanings of any other signals that may be used shall be stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions.
- 25.3** When the race committee is required to display a flag as a visual signal, it may use a flag or other object of a similar appearance.

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 starting signal</i>	<i>Visual signal</i>	<i>Sound signal</i>	<i>Means</i>
5*	Class flag	One	Warning signal
4	P, I, Z, Z with I, U, or black flag	One	Preparatory signal
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

*or as stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions

The warning signal for each succeeding class shall be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class.

27 OTHER RACE COMMITTEE ACTIONS BEFORE THE STARTING SIGNAL

- 27.1** No later than the warning signal, the race committee shall signal or otherwise designate the course to be sailed if the sailing instructions

have not stated the course, and it may replace one course signal with another and signal that wearing personal flotation devices is required (display flag Y with one sound).

27.2 No later than the preparatory signal, the race committee may move a starting *mark*.

27.3 Before the starting signal, the race committee may for any reason *postpone* (display flag AP, AP over H, or AP over A, with two sounds) or *abandon* the race (display flag N, N over H, or N over A, with three sounds).

28 SAILING THE COURSE

28.1 A boat shall *sail the course*.

28.2 A boat may correct any errors in *sailing the course*, provided she has not *finished*.

29 RECALLS

29.1 Individual Recall

When at a boat's starting signal any part of her hull is on the course side of the starting line or she must comply with rule 30.1, the race committee shall promptly display flag X with one sound. The flag shall be displayed until the hull of each such boat has been completely on the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions, and until all such boats have complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, but no later than four minutes after the starting signal or one minute before any later starting signal, whichever is earlier. If rule 29.2, 30.3 or 30.4 applies this rule does not.

29.2 General Recall

When at the starting signal the race committee is unable to identify boats that are on the course side of the starting line or to which rule 30 applies, or there has been an error in the starting procedure, the race committee may signal a general recall (display the First Substitute with two sounds). The warning signal for a new start for the recalled class shall be made one minute after the First Substitute is removed (one sound), and the starts for any succeeding classes shall follow the new start.

30 STARTING PENALTIES

30.1 I Flag Rule

If flag I has been displayed, and any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line or one of its extensions during the last minute before her starting signal, she shall sail across an extension so that her hull is completely on the pre-start side before she *starts*.

30.2 Z Flag Rule

If flag Z has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first *mark* during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall receive, without a hearing, a 20% Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c). She shall be penalized even if the race is restarted or resailed, but not if it is *postponed* or *abandoned* before the starting signal. If she is similarly identified during a subsequent attempt to start the same race, she shall receive an additional 20% Scoring Penalty.

30.3 U Flag Rule

If flag U has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first *mark* during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, but not if the race is restarted or resailed.

30.4 Black Flag Rule

If a black flag has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first *mark* during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, even if the race is restarted or resailed, but not if it is *postponed* or *abandoned* before the starting signal. If a general recall is signalled or the race is *abandoned* after the starting signal, the race committee shall display her sail number before the next warning signal for that race, and if the race is restarted or resailed she shall not sail in it. If she does so, her disqualification shall not be excluded in calculating her series score.

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*.

32 SHORTENING OR ABANDONING AFTER THE START

32.1 After the starting signal, the race committee may shorten the course or *abandon* the race:

- (a) because of foul weather,
- (b) because of insufficient wind making it unlikely that any boat will *sail the course* within the race time limit,
- (c) because a *mark* is missing or out of position, or
- (d) for any other reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition.

In addition, the race committee may shorten the course so that other scheduled races can be sailed, or *abandon* the race because of an error in the starting procedure. However, after one boat has *sailed the course* within the race time limit, if any, the race committee shall not *abandon* the race without considering the consequences for all boats in the race or series.

32.2 To shorten the course, the race committee shall display flag S with two sounds before the first boat crosses the finishing line. If the course is shortened, the finishing line shall be,

- (a) at a rounding *mark*, between the *mark* and a staff displaying flag S;
- (b) a line the course requires boats to cross; or
- (c) at a gate, between the gate *marks*.

32.3 To *abandon* a race in progress, the race committee shall display flag N, N over H, or N over A, with three sounds.

33 CHANGING THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

While boats are *racing*, the race committee may change a leg of the course that begins at a rounding *mark* or at a gate by changing the position of the next *mark* (or the finishing line) and signalling all boats before they begin the leg. The next *mark* need not be in position at that time.

- (a) If the direction of the leg will be changed, the signal shall be the display of flag C with repetitive sounds and one or both of
 - (1) the new compass bearing,
 - (2) a green triangle for a change to starboard or a red rectangle for a change to port.
- (b) If the length of the leg will be changed, the signal shall be the display of flag C with repetitive sounds and a ‘-’ if the length will be decreased or a ‘+’ if it will be increased.
- (c) Subsequent legs may be changed without further signalling to maintain the course shape.

34 MARK MISSING

If a *mark* is missing or out of position while boats are *racing*, the race committee shall, if possible,

- (a) move it to its correct position or replace it with a new one of similar appearance, or
- (b) replace it with an object displaying flag M and make repetitive sounds.

35 RACE TIME LIMIT AND SCORES

If one boat *sails the course* within the time limit for that race, if any, all boats that *finish* shall be scored according to their finishing places unless the race is *abandoned*. If no boat *sails the course* within the race time limit, the race committee shall *abandon* the race.

36 RACES RESTARTED OR RESAILED

If a race is restarted or resailed, a breach of a *rule* in the original race, or in any previous restart or resail of that race, shall not

- (a) prohibit a boat from competing unless she has broken rule 30.4; or
- (b) cause a boat to be penalized except under rule 2, 30.2, 30.4 or 69 or under rule 14 when she has caused injury or serious damage.

37 SEARCH AND RESCUE INSTRUCTIONS

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 rules apply only to boats **racing** unless the rule states otherwise.*

SECTION A

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

40 PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

40.1 Basic Rule

When rule 40.1 is made applicable by rule 40.2, each competitor shall wear a personal flotation device except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices.

40.2 When Rule 40.1 Applies

Rule 40.1 applies if

- (a) flag Y was displayed afloat with one sound before or with the warning signal, while *racing* in that race;
- (b) flag Y was displayed ashore with one sound, at all times while afloat that day; or
- (c) a rule in the class rules, notice of race or sailing instructions states that it applies.

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.

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 and 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 the helm that is either forceful or that propels the boat forward or prevents her from moving astern;
- (e) repeated tacks or gybes unrelated to changes in the wind or to tactical considerations.

42.3 Exceptions

- (a) A boat may be rolled to facilitate steering.
- (b) A boat's crew may move their bodies to exaggerate the rolling that facilitates steering the boat through a tack or a gybe, provided that, just after the tack or gybe is completed, the boat's speed is not greater than it would have been in the absence of the tack or gybe.
- (c) When surfing (rapidly accelerating down the front of a wave), planing or foiling is possible,
 - (1) to initiate surfing or planing, each sail may be pulled in only once for each wave or gust of wind, or

- (2) to initiate foiling, each sail may be pulled in any number of times.
- (d) When a boat is above a close-hauled course and either stationary or moving slowly, she may scull to turn to a close-hauled course.
- (e) If a batten is inverted, the boat's crew may pump the sail until the batten is no longer inverted. This action is not permitted if it clearly propels the boat.
- (f) A boat may reduce speed by repeatedly moving her helm.
- (g) Any means of propulsion may be used to help a person or another vessel in danger.
- (h) To get clear after grounding or colliding with a vessel or object, a boat may use force applied by her crew or the crew of the other vessel and any equipment other than a propulsion engine. However, the use of an engine may be permitted by rule 42.3(i).
- (i) Sailing instructions may, in stated circumstances, permit propulsion using an engine or any other method, provided the boat does not gain a significant advantage in the race.

Note: Interpretations of rule 42 are available on the World Sailing website or by mail upon request.

43 EXONERATION

- 43.1** (a) When as a consequence of breaking a *rule* a boat has compelled another boat to break a *rule*, the other boat is exonerated for her breach.
 - (b) When a boat is sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled and, as a consequence of an incident with a boat required to give her that *room* or *mark-room*, she breaks a rule of Section A of Part 2, rule 15, 16, or 31, she is exonerated for her breach.
 - (c) A right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled, is exonerated for breaking rule 14 if the contact does not cause damage or injury.
- 43.2** A boat exonerated for breaking a *rule* need not take a penalty and shall not be penalized for breaking that *rule*.

44 PENALTIES AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT

44.1 Taking a Penalty

A boat may take a Two-Turns Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 in an incident while *racing*. She may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken rule 31. Alternatively, the notice of race or sailing instructions may specify the use of the Scoring Penalty or some other penalty, in which case the specified penalty shall replace the One-Turn and the Two-Turns Penalty. However,

- (a) when a boat may have broken a rule of Part 2 and rule 31 in the same incident she need not take the penalty for breaking rule 31;
- (b) if the boat caused injury or serious damage or, despite taking a penalty, gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach her penalty shall be to retire.

44.2 One-Turn and Two-Turns Penalties

After getting well clear of other boats as soon after the incident as possible, a boat takes a One-Turn or Two-Turns Penalty by promptly making the required number of turns in the same direction, each turn including one tack and one gybe. When a boat takes the penalty at or near the finishing line, her hull shall be completely on the course side of the line before she *finishes*.

44.3 Scoring Penalty

- (a) If specified in the notice of race or sailing instructions, a boat takes a Scoring Penalty by displaying a yellow flag at the first reasonable opportunity after the incident.
- (b) When a boat has taken a Scoring Penalty, she shall keep the yellow flag displayed until *finishing* and call the race committee's attention to it at the finishing line. At that time she shall also inform the race committee of the identity of the other boat involved in the incident. If this is impracticable, she shall do so at the first reasonable opportunity and within the protest time limit.
- (c) The race score for a boat that takes a Scoring Penalty shall be the score she would have received without that penalty, made worse by the number of points stated in the notice of race or

sailing instructions. When the number of points is not stated, the penalty shall be 20% of the score for Did Not *Finish*, rounded to the nearest tenth of a point (0.05 rounded upward). The scores of other boats shall not be changed; therefore, two boats may receive the same score. However, the penalty shall not cause the boat's score to be worse than the score for Did Not *Finish*.

45 HAULING OUT; MAKING FAST; ANCHORING

A boat shall be afloat and off moorings at her preparatory signal. Thereafter, she shall not be hauled out or made fast except to bail out, reef sails or make repairs. She may anchor or the crew may stand on the bottom. She shall recover the anchor before continuing in the race unless she is unable to do so.

46 PERSON IN CHARGE

A boat shall have on board a person in charge designated by the member or organization that entered the boat. See rule 75.

47 TRASH DISPOSAL

Competitors and *support persons* shall not intentionally put trash in the water. This rule applies at all times while afloat. The penalty for a breach of this rule may be less than disqualification.

SECTION B

EQUIPMENT-RELATED REQUIREMENTS

48 LIMITATIONS ON EQUIPMENT AND CREW

48.1 A boat shall use only the equipment on board at her preparatory signal.

48.2 No person on board shall intentionally leave, except when ill or injured, or to help a person or vessel in danger, or to swim. A person leaving the boat by accident or to swim shall be back in contact with the boat before the crew resumes sailing the boat to the next *mark*.

49 CREW POSITION; LIFELINES

49.1 Competitors shall use no device designed to position their bodies outboard, other than hiking straps and stiffeners worn under the thighs.

49.2 When lifelines are required by the class rules or any other *rule*, competitors shall not position any part of their torsos outside them, except briefly to perform a necessary task. However, on boats equipped with upper and lower lifelines, competitors sitting facing outboard with their waist inside the lower lifeline may have the upper part of their body outside the upper lifeline. Unless a class rule or any other *rule* specifies a maximum deflection, lifelines shall be taut. If the class rules do not specify the material or minimum diameter of lifelines, they shall comply with the corresponding specifications in the *World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations*.

Note: Those regulations are available on the World Sailing website.

50 COMPETITOR CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

50.1 (a) Competitors shall not wear or carry clothing or equipment for the purpose of increasing their weight.

(b) Furthermore, a competitor's clothing and equipment shall not weigh more than 8 kilograms, excluding a crew harness (as defined in *The Equipment Rules of Sailing*) and clothing (including footwear) worn only below the knee. Class rules or the notice of race may specify a lower weight or a higher weight up to 10 kilograms. Class rules may include footwear and other clothing worn below the knee within that weight. A crew harness shall have positive buoyancy in fresh water and shall not weigh more than 2 kilograms, except that class rules may specify a higher weight up to 4 kilograms. Weights shall be determined as required by Appendix H.

(c) A crew harness shall allow the competitor, at any time, to easily disconnect the harness from the trapeze or attachment to the boat.

50.2 Rules 50.1(b) and 50.1(c) do not apply to boats required to be equipped with lifelines.

51 MOVABLE BALLAST

All movable ballast, including sails that are not set, shall be properly stowed. Water, dead weight or ballast shall not be moved for the purpose of changing trim or stability. Floorboards, bulkheads, doors, stairs and water tanks shall be left in place and all cabin fixtures kept on board. However, bilge water may be bailed out.

52 MANUAL POWER

A boat's standing rigging, running rigging, spars and movable hull appendages shall be adjusted and operated only by the power provided by the crew.

53 SKIN FRICTION

A boat shall not eject or release a substance, such as a polymer, or have specially textured surfaces that could improve the character of the flow of water inside the boundary layer.

54 FORESTAYS AND HEADSAIL TACKS

Forestays and headsail tacks, except those of spinnaker staysails when the boat is not close-hauled, shall be attached approximately on a boat's centreline.

55 SETTING AND SHEETING SAILS

55.1 Changing Sails

When headsails or spinnakers are being changed, a replacing sail may be fully set and trimmed before the replaced sail is lowered. However, only one mainsail and, except when changing, only one spinnaker shall be carried set at a time.

55.2 Spinnaker Poles; Whisker Poles

Only one spinnaker pole or whisker pole shall be used at a time except when gybing. When in use, it shall be attached to the foremost mast spar (as defined in *The Equipment Rules of Sailing*).

55.3 Sheeting Sails

No sail shall be sheeted over or through any device that exerts outward pressure on a sheet or clew of a sail at a point from which, with the boat upright, a vertical line would fall outside the hull or deck, except:

- (a) a headsail clew may be connected (as defined in *The Equipment Rules of Sailing*) to a whisker pole, provided that a spinnaker is not set;
- (b) any sail may be sheeted to or led above a boom that is regularly used for a sail and is permanently attached to the mast from which the head of the sail is set;
- (c) a headsail may be sheeted to its own boom that requires no adjustment when tacking; and
- (d) the boom of a sail may be sheeted to a bumkin.

55.4 Headsails and Spinnakers

For the purposes of rules 54 and 55 and Appendix G, the definitions of ‘headsail’ and ‘spinnaker’ in *The Equipment Rules of Sailing* shall be used.

Note: The Equipment Rules of Sailing are available on the World Sailing website.

56 FOG SIGNALS AND LIGHTS; TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES; TRACKING SYSTEMS

56.1 When so equipped, a boat shall sound fog signals and show lights as required by the *International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS)* or applicable government rules.

56.2 A boat shall comply with rule 10, Traffic Separation Schemes, of the *IRPCAS*.

Note: Appendix TS, Traffic Separation Schemes, is available on the World Sailing website. The notice of race may change rule 56.2 by stating that Section A, Section B or Section C of Appendix TS applies.

56.3 When a *rule* requires a boat to be equipped with an Automatic Identification System transponder or any other tracking device, it shall not be turned off or its effectiveness intentionally reduced.

PART 5

PROTESTS, REDRESS, HEARINGS, MISCONDUCT AND APPEALS

A hearing request form and a hearing decision form are available on the World Sailing website at: www.sailing.org/racingrules

The Racing Rules of Sailing does not require a particular hearing request form to be used.

SECTION A

PROTESTS; REDRESS; SUPPORT PERSONS

60 PROTESTS

60.1 Right to Protest

A boat or *committee* may protest a boat.

60.2 Intention to Protest

- (a) If a *protest* concerns an incident observed by the protestor in the racing area:
 - (1) If the protestor is a boat, she shall hail 'Protest' and, if her hull length is longer than 6 metres, conspicuously display a red flag, at the first reasonable opportunity for each. She shall display the flag until she is no longer *racing*.
 - (2) If the protestor is a *committee*, it shall inform the boat after the race within the protest time limit of its intention to protest her.
- (b) However, if
 - (1) the protestee is not within hailing distance at the time of the incident,
 - (2) the incident was an error in *sailing the course*,
 - (3) the incident was not observed by the protestor in the racing area, or

- (4) a protest committee decides to protest a boat under rule 60.4(c),

then the only requirement for the protestor is to inform the protestee of its intention to protest at the first reasonable opportunity.

- (c) If at the time of the incident it is obvious to a protesting boat that a member of either crew is in danger, or that injury or serious damage has resulted, rules 60.2(a) and 60.2(b) do not apply to her, but she shall attempt to inform the other boat within the protest time limit of her intention to protest.
- (d) A *committee* may inform a boat of its intention to protest by posting a notice on the official notice board.

60.3 Delivering a Protest

- (a) When delivered, a *protest* shall be in writing and identify the protestor, the protestee, and the incident.
- (b) A *protest* shall be delivered to the race office (or by such other method as stated in the sailing instructions) within the protest time limit unless the protest committee decides there is good reason to extend the time. The protest time limit is
 - (1) for *protests* about an incident observed in the racing area, two hours after the last boat in the race *finishes*, or
 - (2) for other *protests*, two hours after the relevant information is available to the protestor.

However, if the sailing instructions state a different protest time limit, then that time limit applies instead.

60.4 Protest Validity

- (a) A *protest* is invalid
 - (1) if it does not comply with the definition *Protest* or rule 60.2 or 60.3,
 - (2) if it is from a boat that alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31, but she was not involved in it or did not see the incident, or
 - (3) as far as it alleges a breach of rule 69 or a Regulation referred to in rule 6, unless permitted by the Regulation concerned.

- (b) A *protest* is invalid also if it is from a *committee* and is based on information from
 - (1) a request for redress,
 - (2) an invalid *protest*, or
 - (3) a report from a person with a *conflict of interest* (other than a representative of the boat herself).
- (c) However, rule 60.4(b) does not apply to a *protest* from
 - (1) the protest committee if it learns of an incident involving a boat that may have resulted in injury or serious damage,
 - (2) the protest committee if it learns during the hearing of a valid *protest* that the boat, although not a *party* to the hearing, was involved in the incident and may have broken a *rule*, or
 - (3) the technical committee if it has first conducted an inspection and decided a boat or personal equipment does not comply with the class rules or rule 50.

60.5 Protest Decisions

- (a) The protest committee shall conduct a hearing as required by rule 63 to decide a *protest*.
- (b) A boat shall only be penalized
 - (1) at a protest hearing to which she is a *party*,
 - (2) under rule 62.4, 64 or 69, or
 - (3) under a *rule* which expressly states that a penalty may be applied without a hearing.
- (c) If the protest committee decides that a boat has broken a *rule* it shall disqualify her whether or not the applicable *rule* was mentioned in the *protest*. However, the boat shall not be disqualified if
 - (1) she is exonerated or some other penalty applies,
 - (2) the boat has already taken an applicable penalty, in which case she shall not be penalized further unless the penalty for a *rule* she broke is disqualification that is not excludable,
 - (3) the race is restarted or resailed, in which case rule 36 applies, or

(4) she broke a class rule and rule 60.5(d)(1) applies.

If a boat has broken a *rule* when not *racing*, her penalty shall apply to the race sailed nearest in time to the incident.

- (d) If the protest committee decides that a boat has broken a class rule:
- (1) the boat shall not be penalized if any deviations in excess of tolerances specified in the class rules were caused by damage or normal wear and they did not improve the performance of the boat,
 - (2) the boat shall not *race* again until any such deviations have been corrected unless the protest committee decides there is, or has been, no reasonable opportunity to do so,
 - (3) any breach of the same rule in earlier races in the same event may have the same penalty imposed for all such races without further *protest*, and
 - (4) the boat may compete in subsequent races without changes to the boat, but only if she states in writing that she intends to appeal. If she fails to appeal, or the appeal is not successful, she shall be disqualified without a hearing from all subsequent races in which she competed.

61 REDRESS

61.1 Requesting or Considering Redress

- (a) A boat may request redress.
- (b) The race committee or the technical committee may request redress for a boat.
- (c) The protest committee may call a hearing to consider redress for a boat.

61.2 Requests for Redress

- (a) A request for redress shall be in writing and identify the reason for making it.
- (b) A request shall be delivered to the race office (or by such other method as stated in the sailing instructions):
 - (1) if it is based on an incident in the racing area, within the protest time limit or two hours after the incident (whichever is later),

- (2) if it is based on a protest committee decision on the last scheduled day of racing, no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted, or
- (3) for all other requests, as soon as reasonably possible after the relevant information is available.

However, the protest committee shall extend the time if there is good reason to do so.

61.3 Invalid Requests

A request for redress is invalid if it does not comply with rule 61.2.

61.4 Redress Decisions

- (a) The protest committee shall conduct a hearing as required by rule 63 to decide whether to grant redress.
- (b) A boat is entitled to redress if her score or place in a race or series has been made, or may be made, significantly worse through no fault of her own by
 - (1) an improper action or improper omission of a *committee* or the organizing authority, but not by a protest committee decision when the boat was a *party* to the hearing,
 - (2) injury or physical damage because of the action of a boat that was breaking a rule of Part 2 and took an appropriate penalty or was penalized,
 - (3) injury or physical damage because of the action of a vessel not *racing* that was required to keep clear or is determined to be at fault under the *IRPCAS* or a government right-of-way rule,
 - (4) giving help (except to herself or her crew) in compliance with rule 1.1, or
 - (5) an action of another boat, or a crew member or *support person* of that boat, that resulted in a penalty under rule 2 or a penalty or warning under rule 69.
- (c) If a boat is entitled to redress, the protest committee shall make as fair an arrangement as possible for all boats affected, whether or not they asked for redress. This may be to adjust the scoring (see rule A9 for examples) or finishing times of boats,

to *abandon* the race, to let the results stand or to make some other arrangement.

- (d) If there is doubt about the facts or probable results of any arrangement for the race or series, especially before *abandoning* the race, the protest committee shall take evidence from appropriate sources.

62 SUPPORT PERSONS

62.1 Upon receipt of a report from a boat or a *committee*, or based on its own observation or information from any source, including evidence taken during a hearing, the protest committee may call a hearing to consider whether a *support person* has broken a *rule*.

62.2 If the protest committee decides to call a hearing, it shall conduct a hearing as required by rule 63 and may appoint a person to present the allegations.

62.3 If the protest committee decides that a *support person* who is a *party* to the hearing has broken a *rule*, it may

- (a) issue a warning,
- (b) exclude the person from the event or venue or remove any privileges or benefits, or
- (c) take other action within its jurisdiction as provided by the *rules*.

62.4 In addition, if the protest committee decides that

- (a) a boat may have gained a competitive advantage as the result of the breach by the *support person*, or
- (b) the *support person* committed a further breach after the protest committee warned a boat in writing, following a previous hearing, that a penalty may be imposed,

then the protest committee may also penalize a boat that is a *party* to the hearing for the breach of a *rule* by a *support person* by changing the boat's score in a single race, up to and including disqualification.

SECTION B

HEARINGS AND MAKING DECISIONS

Rule 63 applies to all hearings conducted by the protest committee.

63 CONDUCT OF HEARINGS

63.1 Rights of Parties

- (a) All *parties* to a hearing shall be
 - (1) informed of the time and place of the hearing,
 - (2) given access to the *protest*, request for redress, or report to be considered at the hearing,
 - (3) allowed reasonable time to prepare for the hearing, and
 - (4) allowed to have a representative present throughout the hearing of the evidence but, in a *protest* involving a breach of a rule of Part 2, 3 or 4, representatives of boats shall have been on board at the time of the incident unless there is good reason for the protest committee to decide otherwise.
- (b) If a *party* does not come to a hearing, the protest committee may proceed with the hearing in their absence.

63.2 Hearings

- (a) The protest committee shall hear each *protest* or request delivered unless it allows it to be withdrawn.
- (b) The protest committee may combine hearings which arise from the same or very closely connected incidents into one hearing. However, a hearing under rule 69 shall not be combined with any other type of hearing.
- (c) If the validity requirements are met, the protest committee may change the type of case if it is appropriate to do so having considered the information in the case, including any evidence given during a hearing.
- (d) If the protest committee decides to protest a boat under rule 60.4(c)(2), it shall close the current hearing, deliver a *protest* in accordance with the *rules*, and then hear the original and new *protests* together.

- (e) A hearing involving *parties* in different events conducted by different organizing authorities shall be heard by a protest committee acceptable to those authorities.

63.3 Conflict of Interest

- (a) A protest committee member shall declare any possible *conflict of interest* as soon as possible after becoming aware of it.
- (b) A *party* to the hearing who believes a protest committee member has a *conflict of interest* shall object as soon as possible.
- (c) A protest committee member with a *conflict of interest* shall not be a member of the protest committee for the hearing, unless:
 - (1) all *parties* consent, or
 - (2) the protest committee decides that the *conflict of interest* is not significant.

However, for World Sailing major events, or for other events as prescribed by the national authority of the venue, a person who has a *conflict of interest* shall not be a member of the protest committee.

- (d) When deciding whether a *conflict of interest* is significant, the protest committee shall consider
 - (1) the views of the *parties*,
 - (2) the level of the conflict,
 - (3) the level of the event,
 - (4) the importance to each *party* of the case, and
 - (5) the overall perception of fairness.
- (e) Any written information provided under rule 63.6(b) shall include any *conflict of interest* declared by a protest committee member, and any decision by the protest committee under rule 63.3(c)(2).

63.4 Hearing Procedure

- (a) The protest committee shall first consider validity. The hearing shall be closed if
 - (1) a *protest* or request is invalid, or

- (2) a *protest* was made under rule 60.4(c)(1) and there was no injury or serious damage.
- (b) The protest committee shall take the evidence of the *parties* present at the hearing, their witnesses, and any other evidence it considers necessary. Hearsay evidence is admissible. However, the protest committee may exclude evidence which is irrelevant or unduly repetitive.
- (c) A *party* present at the hearing may question any person who gives evidence.
- (d) A member of the protest committee who saw the incident shall, as soon as reasonably possible, declare this fact to the *parties* attending the hearing.
- (e) A witness shall be excluded from the hearing when not giving evidence, except for a witness who:
 - (1) is also a *party*, or
 - (2) is a member of the protest committee.

63.5 Decisions

- (a) The protest committee shall consider the evidence and decide what weight to give it. It shall then find the facts based on the balance of probabilities (unless an applicable *rule* requires otherwise), and then apply the *rules* to those facts to make its conclusions and a decision.
- (b) Decisions shall be made by simple majority vote. When there is an equal division of votes, the chair of the hearing may cast an additional vote.
- (c) If there is a conflict between
 - (1) two or more *rules* that must be resolved before a decision can be made, and
 - (2) those *rules* are in the notice of race, the sailing instructions, or any of the other documents that govern the event under item (g) of the definition *Rule*,then the protest committee shall apply the *rule* that it believes will provide the fairest result for all boats affected.
- (d) If the protest committee is in doubt about the meaning of a class rule, it shall refer its questions, together with the relevant facts, to an authority responsible for interpreting the rule. In

making its decision, the protest committee is bound by the authority's reply.

63.6 Informing the Parties and Others

- (a) The protest committee shall promptly inform the *parties* to the hearing of the facts found, the applicable *rules*, the decision, the reasons for it, any penalties imposed, and any redress given.
- (b) If requested by a *party* in writing within seven days of being informed of the decision, the above information shall be provided promptly in writing and the protest committee may, if it considers it relevant to do so, prepare or endorse a diagram.
- (c) The protest committee may publish the above information after any hearing, including a hearing under rule 69, unless it decides there is good reason not to do so.
- (d) The protest committee may direct that the above information is to be confidential to the *parties*.
- (e) If the protest committee penalizes a boat under a class rule, it shall send the above information to the relevant class rule authorities.

63.7 Reopening a Hearing

- (a) The protest committee may reopen a hearing if it decides
 - (1) a *party* was unavoidably absent from the hearing,
 - (2) it may have made a significant error, or
 - (3) significant new evidence has become available within a reasonable time.

However, a protest committee shall reopen a hearing when required to do so by the national authority under rule 71.3 or R5.

- (b) A *party* to the hearing may request a reopening by delivering a written request to the race office (or by such other method as stated in the sailing instructions) no later than 24 hours after being informed of the decision. The request shall identify the reason for making it. However, on the last scheduled day of racing the request shall be delivered
- (1) within the protest time limit if the requesting *party* was informed of the decision on the previous day;
 - (2) no later than 30 minutes after the *party* was informed of the decision on that day.

A request that does not comply with this rule is invalid.

- (c) The protest committee shall consider all requests to reopen a hearing. When a request to reopen is being considered, or when the hearing is reopened,
- (1) if based only on new evidence, a majority of the members of the protest committee shall, if practicable, be members of the original committee;
 - (2) if based on a significant error, the protest committee shall, if practicable, have at least one new member.

64 DISCRETIONARY PENALTIES

When a boat reports within the protest time limit that she has broken a *rule* which is subject to a discretionary penalty, the protest committee shall decide the appropriate penalty having first considered the evidence that it considers appropriate. There is no requirement to hold a hearing.

65 LEGAL LIABILITY AND COSTS

65.1 Questions of legal liability arising from a breach of a *rule*, including any claims for monetary damages, shall be governed by prescriptions, if any, of the national authority.

65.2 Any measurement costs arising from a *protest* involving a class rule shall be paid by the unsuccessful *party* unless the protest committee decides otherwise.

Note: There are no rules 66 to 68.

SECTION C MISCONDUCT

69 MISCONDUCT

69.1 Obligation not to Commit Misconduct; Resolution

- (a) A competitor, boat owner or *support person* shall not commit an act of misconduct.
- (b) Misconduct is:
 - (1) conduct that is a breach of good manners, a breach of good sportsmanship, or unethical behaviour; or
 - (2) conduct that may bring, or has brought, the sport into disrepute.
- (c) An allegation of a breach of rule 69.1(a) shall be resolved in accordance with the provisions of rule 69. It shall not be grounds for a *protest*.

69.2 Action by a Protest Committee

- (a) A protest committee acting under this rule shall have at least three members.
- (b) When a protest committee, from its own observation or from information received from any source, including evidence taken during a hearing, believes a person may have broken rule 69.1(a), it shall decide whether or not to call a hearing.
- (c) When the protest committee needs more information to make the decision to call a hearing, it shall consider appointing a person or persons to conduct an investigation. These investigators shall not be members of the protest committee that will decide the matter.
- (d) When an investigator is appointed, all relevant information gathered by the investigator, favourable or unfavourable, shall be disclosed to the protest committee, and if the protest committee decides to call a hearing, to the *parties*.

- (e) If the protest committee decides to call a hearing, it shall promptly inform the person in writing of the alleged breach and of the time and place of the hearing and follow the procedures in rule 63, except that:
 - (1) unless a person has been appointed by World Sailing, a person may be appointed by the protest committee to present the allegation.
 - (2) a person against whom an allegation has been made under this rule shall be entitled to attend the hearing with an advisor and a representative who may act on the person's behalf.
- (f) If a *party*
 - (1) provides good reason for being unable to come to the hearing at the scheduled time, the protest committee shall reschedule it; or
 - (2) does not provide good reason and does not come to the hearing, the protest committee may conduct it without that *party* present.
- (g) The standard of proof to be applied is the test of the comfortable satisfaction of the protest committee, bearing in mind the seriousness of the alleged misconduct. However, if the standard of proof in this rule conflicts with the laws of a country, the national authority may, with the approval of World Sailing, change it with a prescription to this rule.
- (h) When the protest committee decides that a competitor or boat owner has broken rule 69.1(a), it may take one or more of the following actions
 - (1) issue a warning;
 - (2) change their boat's score in one or more races, including disqualification(s) that may or may not be excluded from her series score;
 - (3) exclude the person from the event or venue or remove any privileges or benefits; and
 - (4) take any other action within its jurisdiction as provided by the *rules*.
- (i) When the protest committee decides that a *support person* has broken rule 69.1(a), rules 62.3 and 62.4 apply.

- (j) If the protest committee
 - (1) imposes a penalty greater than one DNE;
 - (2) excludes the person from the event or venue; or
 - (3) in any other case if it considers it appropriate,it shall report its findings, including the facts found, its conclusions and decision to the national authority of the person or, for major international events listed in the World Sailing Code of Ethics, to World Sailing. If the protest committee has acted under rule 69.2(f)(2), the report shall also include that fact and the reasons for it.
- (k) If the protest committee decides not to conduct the hearing without a *party* present, or if the protest committee has left the event and a report alleging a breach of rule 69.1(a) is received, the race committee or organizing authority may appoint the same or a new protest committee to proceed under this rule. If the protest committee decides it is impractical to conduct a hearing, it shall collect all available information and, if the allegation seems justified, make a report to the national authority of the person or, for major international events listed in the World Sailing Code of Ethics, to World Sailing.

69.3 Action by a National Authority and World Sailing

The disciplinary powers, procedures and responsibilities of national authorities and World Sailing that apply are specified in the World Sailing Code of Ethics. National authorities and World Sailing may impose further penalties, including suspension of eligibility, under that code.

SECTION D APPEALS

70 APPEALS AND REQUESTS TO A NATIONAL AUTHORITY

- 70.1** Unless rule 70.3 applies, a *party* to a hearing has the right to appeal the protest committee's decision or its procedures, but not the facts found, to the national authority. In addition, a *party* may appeal when the protest committee has failed to hold a hearing or to make a decision.

70.2 A protest committee may request confirmation or correction of its decision by the national authority.

70.3 There is no right to appeal decisions:

- (a) of an international jury properly constituted under Appendix N,
- (b) that are essential to promptly determine the result of a race that will qualify a boat to compete in a later stage of an event or a subsequent event (and the national authority may prescribe that its approval is required for the use of this rule),
- (c) made at an event open only to boats entered by
 - (1) an organization affiliated to the national authority, or a member of such an organization, or
 - (2) a personal member of the national authority,provided the national authority has granted its approval for the use of this rule, or
- (d) made at an event by a protest committee constituted as required by Appendix N, except that only two members of the protest committee need be International Judges, and provided that the national authority has granted its approval to the use of this rule after consultation with World Sailing.

However, (b), (c) and (d) shall only apply if specified in the notice of race or sailing instructions.

70.4 In rules 70 to 72, the national authority means the one to which the organizing authority is associated under rule 89.1. However, if boats will pass through the waters of more than one national authority while *racing*, an appeal or request shall be sent to the national authority where the finishing line is located, unless the sailing instructions identify another national authority.

70.5 Appeals and requests shall conform to Appendix R.

71 NATIONAL AUTHORITY DECISIONS

71.1 A person who has a *conflict of interest* or was a member of the protest committee shall not take any part in the discussion or decision on an appeal or a request for confirmation or correction.

71.2 The national authority shall accept the facts found by the protest committee unless rule R5 applies.

71.3 The national authority may:

- (a) uphold, change or reverse the protest committee's decision (including a decision on validity or a decision under rule 69),
- (b) order that the hearing be reopened, or
- (c) order that a new hearing be held by the same protest committee or by a new protest committee (which may be appointed by the national authority).

71.4 If the national authority orders a hearing to be reopened, it may limit the scope of the reopened hearing to such issues as it considers appropriate.

71.5 If the national authority decides that a boat that was a *party* to a protest hearing broke a *rule* and is not exonerated, it shall penalize her, whether or not that boat or that *rule* was mentioned in the protest committee's decision.

71.6 The decision of the national authority is final. The national authority shall send its decision in writing to all *parties* to the hearing and the protest committee, who shall be bound by the decision.

72 INTERPRETATIONS

A club or other organization affiliated to a national authority may request an interpretation of the *rules* from the national authority, provided that no protest committee decision that may be appealed is involved. An interpretation shall not be used to change a previous protest committee decision.

PART 6

ENTRY AND QUALIFICATION

75 ENTERING AN EVENT

To enter an event, a boat shall comply with the requirements of the organizing authority of the event. She shall be entered by

- (a) a member of a club or other organization affiliated to a World Sailing member national authority,
- (b) such a club or organization, or
- (c) a member of a World Sailing member national authority.

76 EXCLUSION OF BOATS OR COMPETITORS

76.1 The organizing authority or the race committee may reject or cancel the entry of a boat or exclude a competitor, provided

- (a) it does so before the start of the first race after receipt of the entry for the boat or the competitor, and
- (b) it states a proper reason for doing so.

The reason shall be provided promptly in writing if requested by the boat or competitor.

76.2 However, the organizing authority or the race committee shall not reject or cancel the entry of a boat or exclude a competitor

- (a) because of advertising if the boat or competitor complies with the World Sailing Advertising Code, or
- (b) at world and continental championships if the entry is within stated quotas and the approval of the relevant World Sailing Class Association (or the Offshore Racing Congress) or World Sailing has not been obtained.

76.3 Redress may be requested by a boat or competitor that considers that the rejection or exclusion is improper or that it broke rule 76.2.

77 IDENTIFICATION ON SAILS

A boat shall comply with the requirements of Appendix G governing class insignia, national letters and numbers on sails.

78 COMPLIANCE WITH CLASS RULES; CERTIFICATES

78.1 While a boat is *racing*, her owner and any other person in charge shall ensure that the boat is maintained to comply with her class rules and that her measurement or rating certificate, if any, remains valid. In addition, the boat shall also comply at other times specified in the class rules, the notice of race or the sailing instructions. When a *rule* provides that the penalty for a breach of a class rule may be less than disqualification, the same penalty will apply to a breach of this rule.

78.2 When a *rule* requires a valid certificate to be produced or its existence verified before a boat *races*, and this cannot be done, the boat may *race* provided that the appropriate *committee* receives a statement signed by the person in charge that a valid certificate exists. The boat shall produce the certificate or arrange for its existence to be verified by the appropriate *committee* before the start of the last day of the event, or of the first series, whichever is earlier. The penalty for breaking this rule is disqualification without a hearing from all races of the event.

79 CATEGORIZATION

If the notice of race or class rules state that some or all competitors must satisfy categorization requirements, the categorization shall be carried out as described in the World Sailing Sailor Categorization Code.

80 RESCHEDULED EVENT

When an event is rescheduled to dates different from the dates stated in the notice of race, all boats entered shall be notified. The race committee may accept new entries that meet all the entry requirements except the original deadline for entries.

PART 7

EVENT ORGANIZATION

85 CHANGES TO RULES

85.1 A change to a *rule* shall refer specifically to the *rule* and state the change. A change to a *rule* includes an addition to it or deletion of all or part of it.

85.2 A change to one of the following types of *rules* may be made only as shown below.

<i>Type of rule</i>	<i>Change only if permitted by</i>
Racing rule	Rule 86
Rule in a World Sailing code	A rule in the code
National authority prescription	Rule 88.2
Class rule	Rule 87
Rule in the notice of race	Rule 89.2(b)
Rule in the sailing instructions	Rule 90.2(c)
Rule in any other document governing the event	A rule in the document itself

86 CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES

86.1 A racing rule shall not be changed unless permitted in the rule itself or as follows:

- (a) Prescriptions of a national authority may change a racing rule, but not the Definitions; a rule in the Introduction; Part 2 or 7; rule 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 42, 43, 47, 50, 63.3, 69, 70, 71, 72, 75, 76.2(b) or 79; a rule of an appendix that changes one of these rules; Appendix H or N; or a rule in a World Sailing Code listed in rule 6.1.
- (b) The notice of race or sailing instructions may change a racing rule, but not rule 4, 76.1 or 76.2(a), Appendix R, or a rule listed in rule 86.1(a).
- (c) Class rules may change only racing rules 42, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 78.2.

86.2 In exception to rule 86.1, World Sailing may in limited circumstances authorize changes to the racing rules for a specific international event. The authorization shall be stated in a letter of approval to the organizing authority and in the notice of race, and the letter shall be posted on the official notice board.

86.3 If a national authority so prescribes, the restrictions in rule 86.1 do not apply if rules are changed to develop or test proposed rules. The national authority may prescribe that its approval is required for such changes.

87 CHANGES TO CLASS RULES

The notice of race may change a class rule only 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.

88 NATIONAL PRESCRIPTIONS

88.1 Prescriptions that Apply

The prescriptions that apply to an event are the prescriptions of the national authority with which the organizing authority is associated under rule 89.1. However, if boats will pass through the waters of more than one national authority while *racing*, the notice of race shall identify the prescriptions that will apply and when they will apply.

88.2 Changes to Prescriptions

The notice of race or sailing instructions may change a prescription. However, a national authority may restrict changes to its prescriptions with a prescription to this rule, provided World Sailing approves its application to do so. The restricted prescriptions shall not be changed.

89 ORGANIZING AUTHORITY; NOTICE OF RACE; APPOINTMENT OF RACE OFFICIALS

89.1 Organizing Authority

An event shall be organized by an organizing authority, which shall be

- (a) World Sailing;
- (b) a member national authority of World Sailing;
- (c) an affiliated club;

- (d) an affiliated organization other than a club and, if so prescribed by the national authority, with the approval of the national authority or in conjunction with an affiliated club;
- (e) an unaffiliated class association, either with the approval of the national authority or in conjunction with an affiliated club;
- (f) two or more of the above organizations;
- (g) an unaffiliated body in conjunction with an affiliated club where the body is owned and controlled by the club. The national authority of the club may prescribe that its approval is required for such an event; or
- (h) if approved by World Sailing and the national authority of the club, an unaffiliated body in conjunction with an affiliated club where the body is not owned and controlled by the club.

In rule 89.1, an organization is affiliated if it is affiliated to the national authority of the venue; otherwise the organization is unaffiliated. However, if boats will pass through the waters of more than one national authority while *racing*, an organization is affiliated if it is affiliated to the national authority of one of the ports of call.

89.2 Notice of Race; Appointment of Race Officials

- (a) The organizing authority shall publish a written notice of race that conforms to rule J1.
- (b) The notice of race may be changed provided adequate notice is given.
- (c) The organizing authority shall appoint a race committee and, when appropriate, appoint a protest committee, a technical committee and umpires. However, the race committee, an international jury, a technical committee and umpires may be appointed by World Sailing as provided in its Regulations.

90 RACE COMMITTEE; SAILING INSTRUCTIONS; SCORING

90.1 Race Committee

The race committee shall conduct races as directed by the organizing authority and as required by the *rules*.

90.2 Sailing Instructions

- (a) The race committee shall publish written sailing instructions that conform to rule J2.

- (b) When appropriate, for an event where entries from other countries are expected, the sailing instructions shall include, in English, the applicable national prescriptions.
- (c) The sailing instructions may be changed provided the change is in writing and posted on the official notice board before the time stated in the sailing instructions or, on the water, communicated to each boat before her warning signal. Oral changes may be given only on the water, and only if the procedure is stated in the sailing instructions.

90.3 Scoring

- (a) The race committee shall score a race or series as provided in Appendix A unless the notice of race or sailing instructions specify some other system. A race shall be scored if it is not *abandoned* and if one boat *sails the course* within the race time limit, if any, even if she retires after *finishing* or is disqualified.
- (b) When a scoring system provides for excluding one or more race scores, any score that is a Disqualification Not Excludable (DNE) shall be included in a boat's series score.
- (c) When the race committee determines from its own records or observations that it has scored a boat incorrectly, it shall correct the error and make the corrected scores available to competitors.
- (d) 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*.
- (e) When so stated in the notice of race, notwithstanding the provisions of rules 90.3(a), (b), (c) and (d), there shall be no changes to race or series scores resulting from action, including the correction of errors, initiated more than 24 hours after the later of
 - (1) the protest time limit for the last race of the event;
 - (2) being informed of a protest committee decision after the last race of the event; or
 - (3) the event results are published.

However, in exception, changes to scores shall be made resulting from a decision under rule 6, 69 or 71. The notice of race may change '24 hours' to a different time.

91 PROTEST COMMITTEE

A protest committee shall be

- (a) a committee appointed by the organizing authority or race committee (A national authority may prescribe a minimum number of committee members for specified events within its jurisdiction.);
- (b) an international jury appointed by the organizing authority or as prescribed in the World Sailing Regulations (It shall be composed as required by rule N1 and have the authority and responsibilities stated in rule N2. A national authority may prescribe that its approval is required for the appointment of international juries for events within its jurisdiction, except World Sailing events or when international juries are appointed by World Sailing under rule 89.2(c).); or
- (c) a committee appointed by the national authority under rule 71.3(c).

92 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

92.1 A technical committee shall be a committee of at least one member and be appointed by the organizing authority or the race committee or as prescribed in the World Sailing Regulations.

92.2 The technical committee shall conduct equipment inspection and event measurement as directed by the organizing authority and as required by the *rules*.