

# Superyacht Racing Rules



## The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2017 – 2020

**Including Appendix SY (in blue) and  
Changes and Corrections v2 (in red)**

Version 5.1 (February 2018)



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.

**Contact Details for the World Sailing Executive Office:**

Ariadne House  
Town Quay  
Southampton  
Hampshire SO14 2AQ  
UK

**Tel** +44 (0) 2380 635111

**Fax** +44 (0) 2380 635789

**Email** [office@sailing.org](mailto:office@sailing.org)

**Website** [sailing.org](http://sailing.org)

Published by World Sailing (UK) Limited, Southampton, UK  
© World Sailing Limited  
June 2016







# 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.   |
| 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> .  |
| Superyacht          | A boat with a hull length greater than 30.5 metres.   |
| Superyacht class    | A racing fleet in which a majority of the fleet are superyachts.  |
| 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.

**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 2017 except that for an event beginning in 2016 the date may be postponed by the notice of race and sailing instructions. Marginal markings indicate important changes to Parts 1–7 and the Definitions in the 2013–2016 edition. No changes are contemplated before 2021, 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 is identified by a letter. A reference to a rule in an appendix will contain the letter and the rule number (for example, ‘rule A1’). The letters I, O and Q are not used to designate appendices in this book.

**World Sailing Codes** The World Sailing Codes are listed in the table below. The codes are published in the World Sailing Regulations.

| <i>Title</i>                     | <i>Racing Rule</i> | <i>Regulation</i> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Advertising Code                 | 80                 | 20                |
| Anti-Doping Code                 | 5                  | 21                |
| Betting and Anti-Corruption Code | 6                  | 37                |
| Disciplinary Code                | 7                  | 35                |
| Eligibility Code                 | 75.2               | 19                |
| Sailor Classification Code       | 79                 | 22                |

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

# 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.

**Conflict of Interest** A person has a *conflict of interest* if he

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

**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 any part of her hull, or crew or equipment in normal position, 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 under rule 28.2 made at the line, or
- (c) continues to sail the course.

**Keep Clear** A boat keeps clear of a right-of-way boat if the right-of-way boat can sail her course with no need to take avoiding action **and with no less than 40 metres between the boats.**

**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 *or waypoint* the sailing instructions require a boat to leave on a specified side, and a race committee vessel surrounded by navigable water from which the starting or finishing line extends. An anchor line or an object attached accidentally to a *mark* is not part of it.

**Mark-Room** Room for a boat to leave a *mark* on the required side *with no less than 40 metres between the boats*. Also,

- (a) *room* to sail to the *mark* when her *proper course* is to sail close to it, and
- (b) *room* to round the *mark* as necessary to sail the course.

However, *mark-room* for a boat does not include *room* to tack unless she is *overlapped* inside and to *windward* of the boat required to give *mark-room* and she would be *fetching* the *mark* after her tack.

**Obstruction** 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. An object that can be safely passed on only one side and an area so designated by the sailing instructions are also *obstructions*. However, a boat *racing* is not an *obstruction* to other boats unless they are required to *keep clear* of her or, if rule 23 applies, avoid her. A vessel under way, including a boat *racing*, is never a continuing *obstruction*.

**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 request for redress: a boat requesting redress or for which redress is requested, a race committee acting under rule 60.2(b), a technical committee acting under rule 60.4(b);
- (c) for a request for redress under rule 62.1(a): the body alleged to have made an improper action or omission;
- (d) a person against whom an allegation of a breach of rule 69 is made; a person presenting an allegation under rule 69;



## DEFINITIONS

---

**Start** A boat *starts* when, 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, crew or equipment crosses the starting line in the direction of the first *mark*.

**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.

**Tack, Starboard or Port** A boat is on the *tack, starboard* or *port*, corresponding to her *windward* side.

**Waypoint** A geographic position on the surface of the water defined by WGS 84 latitude and longitude coordinates expressed in degrees decimal minutes (DDM).

**Windward** See **Leeward and Windward**.

**Zone** The area around a *mark* within a distance of 300 metres of it. A boat is in the *zone* when any part of her hull is in the *zone*.

## BASIC PRINCIPLES

---

### **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 competitors break a *rule* they will promptly take a penalty, 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 or competitor 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.

#### 1.3 Communication

At all times while in the racing area, a boat shall

- (a) monitor the safety channel specified in the sailing instructions,
- (b) respond promptly to a hail from another boat, and
- (c) communicate with other boats on matters of safety.

### 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 either disqualification or disqualification that is not excludable.

### 3 ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

- 3.1 (a) By participating or intending to participate in a race conducted under these *rules*, each competitor and boat owner agrees to accept these *rules*.
- 3.1 (b) A *support person* by providing support, or a parent or guardian by permitting their child to enter a race, agrees to accept the *rules*.
- 3.2 Each competitor and boat owner agrees, on behalf of their *support persons*, that such *support persons* are bound by the *rules*.

- 3.3** 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*.

**3.4** 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.

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

#### **4 DECISION TO RACE**

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

#### **5 ANTI-DOPING**

A competitor shall comply with the World Anti-Doping Code, the rules of the World Anti-Doping Agency, and World Sailing Regulation 21, Anti-Doping Code. An alleged or actual breach of this rule shall be dealt with under Regulation 21. It shall not be grounds for a *protest* and rule 63.1 does not apply.

#### **6 BETTING AND ANTI-CORRUPTION**

Each competitor, boat owner and *support person* shall comply with World Sailing Regulation 37, Betting and Anti-Corruption Code. An alleged or actual breach of this rule shall be dealt with under Regulation 37. It shall not be grounds for a *protest* and rule 63.1 does not apply.

#### **7 DISCIPLINARY CODE**

Each competitor, boat owner and *support person* shall comply with World Sailing Regulation 35, Disciplinary, Appeals and Review Code (referred to as 'Disciplinary Code' elsewhere). An alleged or actual breach of this rule shall be dealt with under Regulation 35. It shall not be grounds for a *protest* and rule 63.1 does not apply.





























