

Simplified Rules for Racing

RACING RULES

Feb 2010

The following outline is not a replacement for the 2009-2012 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). US Sailing, AMYA, local sailing clubs and others have extensive reference documents for skippers wishing to explore the many nuances of sailboat racing. Use these as a start!

Some Definitions:

PORT TACK & STARBOARD TACK.

- PORT TACK – A boat is on a port tack when the windward side is the port side or left side of the boat –
- STARBOARD TACK – A boat is on a starboard tack when the windward side is the starboard side or right side of the boat



Boat #81 is on a PORT TACK – Boat #89 is on a STARBOARD TACK.

Windward/Leeward boats. When boats are on the SAME tack:

- WINDWARD BOAT: The windward boat is the boat that catches the wind **before** another boat(s).
- LEEWARD BOAT: The next boat to catch the wind is a leeward boat in relationship to the windward boat

Room -The space a boat needs to maneuver in a seamanlike way.

Overlap

- Two boats on the same tack are overlapped if a line abeam from the transom of the boat ahead cuts or falls on any portion of the boat astern.

Right of Way

10--- A port tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard tack boat.

11---A windward boat shall keep clear of a boat to leeward.

12---A boat clear astern shall keep clear of a boat clear ahead.

13---While tacking, the tacking boat shall keep clear of (or give "room" to) all other boats. (*two boat lengths is a starting point*)

14---A boat shall avoid contact if possible and maybe disqualified if damage occurs.

15 & 16.1---A boat acquiring right of way or a right of way boat changing course shall give other boats room to keep clear – (*two boat lengths is a good starting point*).

17---A boat within two hull lengths to leeward of an overlapped windward boat shall not sail above her proper course while passing a windward boat.

At Marks and Obstructions

18--A starting mark is not a mark of the course, so no room need be given. NOTE: Only at the start, "barging" means trying to squeeze between a leeward boat and the starting line mark. Windward boat must keep clear.

18.2a,c – When boats are overlapped as they enter the 4 boat length zone from the mark, the outside boat(s) shall give the inside boat(s) room at the mark even if the overlap is later broken.

18.2b – A boat which is clear astern at the time she enters the 4 boat length zone from the mark is **NOT** entitled to buoy room.

18.2c---A boat which tacks inside the four boat length zone loses her rights to room at the mark.

20.- When a boat sailing close hauled approaches an obstruction (like thin water), she can HAIL for room to tack but she must give the hailed boat time to respond (two boat lengths?).

21---At the start, if recalled for being over early, keep clear of all boats that have started and return to the "right side" of the line around either end. Once you start to return to the right side you have no rights until starting properly.

If you commit a foul, you must do a 360 degree penalty circle. It should be done as quickly as possible (clear of other boats) and before the next mark.

30.1---Dip starts are not permitted. If you are over the start line before the start you must get back around the start line by rounding either end of the line.

31.2---If you touch a mark, you must do a 360 degree penalty circle (a tack and a gybe) after rounding (as soon as possible and keeping clear of other boats). If it's a starting mark, it is done after starting and if it's a finish mark, it is done after crossing the line, then returning to the "right side" of the finish line, and finishing again. While doing penalty turns you have no rights.