

Racing Rules of Sailing

Basic Principles, Sportsmanship and the Rules

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose

To correct a deficiency in the Basic Principle, Sportsmanship and the Rules.

Proposal

Change the Basic Principle, Sportsmanship and the Rules as follows:

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* **and are not exonerated** they will promptly take a penalty, which may be to retire.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

The current Basic Principle (Sportsmanship and the Rules) says that when competitors break a rule they must promptly take a penalty, but that is not accurate. There are many times when competitors break a rule but they are exonerated. In those cases, competitors are not expected to take a penalty. The proposed change to the Basic Principle makes it clear that competitors do not have to take a penalty when they are exonerated for a rules breach.

Two other submissions from US Sailing deal with exoneration. One of these proposes changes in rules 21(a) and (b), and the other proposes changes in current rules 21 and 64.1(a).