

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 47.2

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Proposal

47 LIMITATIONS ON EQUIPMENT AND CREW

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

47.2 No ~~person on board~~ **crew member** shall intentionally leave, except when ill or injured, or to help a person or vessel in danger, or to swim. A ~~person~~ **crew member** leaving the boat by accident or to swim shall be ~~back on board~~ **in physical contact with the boat** before the boat continues in the race **or finishes**.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

ISAF Racing Rules Q&A 2008-002 states that a boat will finish with a crew member detached from the boat provided the crew as a whole are not attempting to progress the boat in the race. The implications of the answer given include a scenario that, perhaps downwind or in a favourable tide, the boat will finish correctly if the crew member is swept across the finishing line while the boat is swept outside the line. This is an undesirable outcome and is open to abuse.

The proposed change states the boat will break this rule unless the crew are in contact with the boat when finishing but, as in the current rules, the boat may be capsized.

The words 'person on board' are changed to 'crew member' as they seem more appropriate in the context, consistent with their use in rule 41 and to ensure the rule does not apply when race committee representatives, perhaps for publicity purposes, are placed on board temporarily.
