

Racing Rules of Sailing

Appendix C

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee and Match racing Committee

Purpose or Objective

Under rule 86.2, ISAF has approved several rule changes to the Alpari World Match Racing Tour. These changed rules have been tested over the past years. There has been positive feedback from sailors as well as from race officials. Some of the proposed changes have, whilst making the game easier, modified the game of match racing in a way that makes it difficult for sailors as well as umpires to operate under the different sets of rules being used at different events. The purpose of this urgent submission is to even the playing field and make sailing and umpiring more consistent from one event to another.

The objective is to make the game better, to make the game easier, to make the game more understandable for everybody, and to make the game easier to umpire - thus creating consistency.

Proposal

Please consider these changes to be of clear necessity and pressing importance and make them effective on 1 January 2015 (see Regulation 28.1.2).

Insert new rule C2.14 for 2015 and 2016. (For the 2017-2020 RRS instead insert as new rule C2.6 and renumber current C2-6 to C2.13 accordingly):

C2.14 **Rule 17 is changed to** ‘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* **on a leg to a windward mark** and *overlapped* within that distance, unless in doing so she promptly sails astern of the other boat. This rule does not apply if the *overlap* begins while the *windward* boat is required by rule 13 to *keep clear*. **This rule ceases to apply once the bow of both boats have crossed the extension of the line from the previous *mark* through the windward *mark*.**’

Current Position

Rule 17 as above.

Reasons

1. The submission is urgent; we need to have the same rules for match racing at all events.
 2. A boat's proper course is the course that boat believes will bring her fastest around the racecourse. There are many factors influencing what a boat's proper course at any one moment is. Different umpires have judged proper course very inconsistently, and it creates an unpredictable and difficult situation for the sailors, in particular when sailing downwind.
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This submission makes it unnecessary to judge proper course downwind and the game will be a lot more transparent. There has been massive support for this submission amongst sailors as well as umpires. Although deleting rule 17 completely has also been tested, there has been more resistance against that and hopefully the WMRT will use this proposed rule as well.

3. Making this change will make match racing easier to understand.
4. Making this change will make umpiring match racing more consistent.