

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



G 005

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Question:

The Racing Rules of Sailing rule 25 states that ...'The meanings of the visual and sound signals stated in Race Signals shall not be changed except under rule 86.1(b).'

Rule 86.1(b) is not mentioning the Racing Signals.

Does this mean that

- a) it is permitted to change the meaning of the Race Signals in the sailing instructions, because rule 86.1(b) states that the sailing instructions can change a racing rule, except some certain rules, or
- b) it is not permitted to change the meanings of the visual and sound signals stated in Race Signals, because rule 25 prevent this and rule 86.1(b) does not have exceptions?

Answer:

It is permitted to change the meaning of the Race Signals in the sailing instructions as rule 25 is not included in the rules that can not be changed in rule 86.1(a).

When rule 25 states 'except under rule 86.1(b)', that refers to the requirement that when the sailing instructions change a rule or the definition of the zone around marks, it must also refer specifically to the rule or definition being changed and state the change.