

## World Sailing Racing Rules Question and Answer Service

**N 004**

**Q&A 2019.009**

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### Question 1

Does pumping out bilge water for the purpose of changing a boat's trim or stability break rule 51?

### Answer 1

No. See the last sentence of rule 51.

However, class rules may limit the amount of bilge water allowed and/or put restrictions on the time and/or the type of bilge pump used to bail water out.

### Question 2

Does pumping out bilge water while racing at a time and place of the crew's choosing, break rule 51?

### Answer 2

No. See answer 1.

### Question 3

Does the fact that there are well established, easy ways of automatically removing bilge water, and that no other reasonable reason can be established for fitting a more complex system other than to control exactly the time and place that bilge water is pumped out, change that answer?

### Answer 3

No. See answer 1.

### Question 4

Given that it might be easier to use a manual pump downwind than while hiking upwind, does a boat that is only equipped with manual pumps and which chooses to pump out bilge water only at the beginning of a downwind leg, break rule 51?

### Answer 4

No. See answer 1.