

1. Racing Rules Committee - Recommendations to Council

This "yellow paper" is a summary of the recommendations made by the Racing Rules Committee.

E26-17 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition – Rule 42

Reporting Committee: Events

Other Committee: Board, Oceanic & Offshore, Olympic Classes, Race Officials, Racing Rules

Opinion: Reject

Many Committee members recognise that the decision is not a matter for this Committee, but there is a clear majority view that the Classes should be permitted to decide and that consistency between levels is more important than consistency between classes. The Finn, Laser, 470, Nacra 17, 49er, RS:X are fundamentally different with regard to RRS 42 and a common rule for all may well cause unforeseen problems. The Committee does recognise that consistency between class rules would be beneficial from a judging and viewing perspective.

Importantly, there are no changes required to the current RRS to implement this decision, provided there is no intention to bring in windspeed limits for the relaxation of RRS 42 for Windsurfers. If this were the case, then a change to RRS B4.42 will be required and that would have to be an urgent change requiring 75% support of RRC and Council.

There are two routes to implementation. Class rule changes as a normal class rule change. Class rule change by event via RRS 87 and the Notice of Race/Sailing Instructions. The latter would require letters of approval to be posted for each event. Should the 470/Finn model of 'Flag O and R' be adopted, then events may implement the class rule selectively simply by using these signals or not at different events. It would not be wise to specify events in the Class Rules themselves and these may change frequently. Direct change of the class rules has most support from the Committee if the submission is approved.

If approved, clear direction will be required regarding how consistent the rule must be between classes with regard to:

Windspeed - and maybe permitting different wind speeds at different events - as Finn v Finn Masters.

Downwind only (as Finn), or whole race (as 470).

If approved, the Committee asks that it be consulted on the wording of any class rules to be adopted, to ensure that no conflicts with the existing rules are introduced and to ensure that the rules achieve the desired outcome.