

Reporting Committee – Racing Rules

Other Committees –

Changing Course
Racing Rules of Sailing, Rule 16.2

A submission from the Italian Sailing Federation

PROPOSAL

To delete in full Racing Rule of Sailing 16.2

CURRENT POSITION

16 CHANGING COURSE

16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room to keep clear*.

16.2 In addition, when after the starting signal a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not change course if as a result the *port-tack* boat would immediately need to change course to continue *keeping clear*. [O.K. 6/00]

REASONS

The concept contained in this additional rule is already fully covered by the provisions contained in Rule 16.1 Changing Course. The right - of - way boat is bound to give the give - way boat *room to keep clear*. The definition of *room* is ample enough to protect more than adequately the port - tacker. Rule 16.2 is redundant (it is an additional Rule), and not necessary. Further, the right-of-way boat is already limited in its right to change course by the burden to have to prove that it gave *room* to the give-way boat: any "additional" restriction is not necessary. Also it is believed that Rule 16.2 has found very little application, since once a Jury has established the facts, the decision is normally based on Rule 16, thus it is a useless rule. Finally the words " would immediately need to change course to continue *keeping clear* " contained in Rule 16.2, would seem to be more pertinent to a judges manual, on how to decide a case, rather than to the section of the Rule Book referring to "WHEN BOATS MEET" which contains clear obligations based on clear facts, rather than on an abstract judgement.

CURRENT ISAF COUNCIL POSITION:

Council noted that US Sailing and the Royal Yachting Association are currently working on a proposal and that a submission will be made for November 2002.

Council Decision

- (i) **On a proposal by David Tillett, duly seconded, Council unanimously agreed to defer Submissions 122-01 and 133-00 until November 2002.**