

Reporting Committee – Racing Rules

Other Committee – Race Officials

Round-an-End Rule
Racing Rules of Sailing, Rule 30 .1

A submission from US Sailing

PROPOSAL:

30 STARTING PENALTIES

30.1 Round-an-End Rule

If flag I has been displayed before, with, or as a boat's preparatory signal, and any part of her hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line or its extensions during the minute before her starting signal, she shall sail from the course side across an extension to the pre-start side ~~of the line around either end before starting.~~

CURRENT POSITION:

30 STARTING PENALTIES

30.1 Round-an-End Rule

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REASON:

The requirement in the last phrase of the current rule causes a problem in certain situations.

Example 1. Suppose a boat crosses the line to its course side with 50 seconds to go, realizes her error and heads for the port end of the line intending to follow the requirement of the rule. She can satisfy the current rule's requirement by rounding in a counter-clockwise direction, as we all intend. But if she ducks back to the pre-course side of the line on her way to the mark, rounds it in a clockwise direction and continues rounding until she is on the pre-course side, then she has sailed 'to the pre-start side of the line around [the port] end.'

Example 2: When the first leg is to windward if a boat is over an extension of the starting line within the last minute, she can satisfy the requirement by passing either to windward or to leeward of the nearer starting mark as she sails to the pre-start side of the line. However, the intent of the rule is that she should sail across the extension to its leeward side and then start. The requirement in the proposal clearly requires her to do so.

Example 3: The current requirement has caused a problem because some juries have interpreted 'sail . . . around either end . . . ' to mean that a boat must sail a complete 360-degree circle around one of the starting marks. This is not intended. The requirement in the proposal avoids that problem as well.