

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Rule D1.1(a) – Urgent Change

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To restore the scoring position in team racing which has been inadvertently changed by the new RRS.

Proposal 1

Insert new rule D1.1(a) as follows (and re-number accordingly):

(a) In the definition *Finish*, delete the words “after starting”.

Current Position 1

As above.

Proposal 2

If approved, Proposal 1 shall take effect as an urgent rule change on 1 January 2022.

Current Position 2

Any rule change will normally take effect on 1 January 2025.

Reasons

In the previous RRS, if a boat was OCS and finished the race, she received an additional 10 points on her score e.g. a boat finishing in first place scored 11 points (1 + 10).

In 2021, the definition *Finish* has been changed so that a boat which is OCS (and does not return) has not started and now never finishes. Under rule D3.1(a), a boat that does not finish is scored "points equal to the number of boats entitled to race." Thus, a boat that is scored OCS has the 10 points added to the number of boats entitled to race, rather than to the position in which she crossed the finishing line.

For example, if a boat is over early at the start in a 6 boat race and does not return, and she finishes in first place, she now receives 16 points (6 boats + 10 points), whereas before she would have received 1 + 10 = 11 points.

This is a significant change to the game in team racing and was not expected. It is inappropriate to expect organizing authorities to continually use sailing instructions to reverse this issue until 2025. If Proposal 1 is approved, it is proposed that the Racing Rules Committee should approve this as an urgent rule change from 1 January 2022 by a 75% majority (and the Board will be requested to consent as well as per the Regulations).
