Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule L9.6

A submission from the Danish Sailing Association

Purpose or Objective

To clarify what competitors must do if a gate mark is missing and provide a consistent sailing instruction for this situation.

Proposal

Insert new item in RRS Appendix L (Sailing Instructions Guide) as follows:

9.6 When one gate mark is missing, the remaining mark shall be left to port. This changes rule 28.2 (c).

Current Position

There is no current position.

Reasons

1. When one of two gate marks is missing, for whatever reason, the race committee should make every effort to replace the mark with another mark or an object displaying flag M. However, if the race committee fails to do this, it is not clear according to the rules how boats should round the remaining mark. This may give rise to dangerous situations. In addition, it may result in a large number of requests for redress, or, alternatively, the race committee needs to abandon the race. Such a situation could be avoided by specifying in the sailing instructions how boats should react in case only one gate mark is present.

2. This submission provides a consistent solution by defining how boats should pass the gate if one gate mark is missing.