Racing Rules of Sailing

Preamble to RRS Part 2

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

To enable a boat that causes injury or serious damage to be penalized under rule 14 at all times when the RRS applies between the boats.

Proposal

Amend the Preamble of Part 2 as follows:

The rules of Part 2 apply between boats that are sailing in or near the racing area and intend to race, are racing, or have been racing. However, a boat not racing shall not be penalized for breaking one of these rules, except rule 24.1 or under rule 14 when she has caused injury or serious damage.

When a boat sailing under these rules meets a vessel that is not, she shall comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) or government right-of-way rules. If the sailing instructions so state, the rules of Part 2 are replaced by the right-of-way rules of the IRPCAS or by government right-of-way rules.

Current Position

As above

Reasons

There are an increasing number of incidents in the racing area when a boat subject to the RRS breaks a rule and causes injury or serious damage but cannot be penalized under the current rules. This change will allow a boat to be penalized before the first start of the day, after a general recall and between races.

The change adds consistency to the rule as it has long been possible to penalize a boat for breaking a rule of the IRPCAS in an incident with a boat not subject to the RRS.