

World Sailing Committees

Racing Rules Committee - Regulations 6.5, 6.11 and 28

A submission from the Chairman of Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

The Regulations relating to the operation of the Racing Rules Committee are out of date and do not reflect the current situation. There are many new disciplines of racing that need different rules and interpretations of those rules. Changes are rapid in some areas, including Olympic equipment and formats. The current Regulations are not adequate to meet this need. The Racing Rules Committee needs greater flexibility to meet these challenges. In order to improve the efficiency of decision making it is proposed that submissions to change the Racing Rules and their interpretations are decided by Racing Rules Committee while maintaining the ability of Council to make policy decisions. Other changes are simply to update the Regulations to current practice and remove from the Regulations a number of operational items that properly belong in working documents and procedures.

Proposal 1

Amend the current definition of “Racing Rules” in the Regulations to meet the need to provide additional appendices and sets of test rules.

Definitions

Racing Rules and RRS	The racing rules are the rules in the current book document called The Racing Rules of Sailing (“RRS”), and additional appendices and sets of test rules published by World Sailing and made under Regulation 28. A particular racing rule, such as racing rule 10, On Opposite Tacks, is referred to as ‘RRS 10’.
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Current Position 1

As above.

Reasons 1

1. There are a number of appendices to the Racing Rules of Sailing and sets of test rules that do not appear in the RRS. For example, we have an Appendix for Superyachts and we have a set of test rules for High Speed boats. The current Regulations do not facilitate the development, approval and change of these rules. This submission will ensure that such rules sets are governed by the Regulations.
2. Current RRS 86.2 does provide a mechanism, but only applies to Specific International Events and cannot easily be extended to permit these rules to be used in other events leading up to these International events.

3. 'Book' is replaced by 'document' to reflect the fact that the RRS are frequently used in electronic format.
4. Note: This definition has always been, and remains, of necessity, different from the definition of 'rules' in the Racing Rules of Sailing. This definition defines those rules that are governed by the Regulations. The 'rules' in the RRS define those documents that govern an event and not necessarily governed by these Regulations – IRPCAS, for example, which are beyond the control of World Sailing.

Proposal 2

1. To update the current practices for changing Racing Rules and their interpretations, including the authority for Racing Rules Committee to approve changes to the RRS, unless referred to the Board or Council.

2. Amend Regulation 6.11.7 as follows:

6.11.7 The Racing Rules Committee shall:

- (a) formulate, revise and ~~publish~~ approve ~~The Racing Rules of Sailing~~ ~~Racing Rules~~ on behalf of Council in accordance with Regulation 28;
- (b) consider and decide submissions that propose or suggest changes to the Racing Rules in accordance with Regulation 28.~~2.1~~;
- (g) (working together with the Race Officials Committee) approve ~~the World Sailing~~ Racing Rules Questions and Answers;
- (m) formulate and ~~revise~~ approve the Introductory Rules for Racing.

3. Amend Regulation 28.1 as follows:

28. RACING RULES ADMINISTRATION

Adoption of and Changes to the Racing Rules

- 28.1 In addition to Regulations 28.1.1 to 28.1.5, the Racing Rules Committee is responsible for advising and making recommendations to Council regarding ~~The Racing Rules of Sailing and the various related subjects with which the Racing Rules are concerned, which include but are not limited to the rules that apply when boats meet, management of races, protests and appeals, and rule observance.~~
- 28.1.1 Racing Rules shall be adopted or changed only by ~~Council~~ the Racing Rules Committee or by Council, after considering recommendations from the ~~Racing Rules Committee~~ acting in accordance with Regulation 28.2. Changes in the ~~Racing Rules~~ RRS shall take effect only every four years, on 1 January of the year following the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held. Regulations 28.1.2, 28.1.3, 28.1.4, 28.1.5, and 28.2.5 contain exceptions to this policy.
- 28.1.2 In exception to Regulation 28.1.1, any change to the RRS of clear necessity or pressing importance may be made effective for any designated date by a 75% vote cast in favour of the change by the Racing Rules Committee, ~~and by Council and with the approval of the Board~~. The Executive Office shall promptly report any action taken under this Regulation to all Member National Authorities.

28.1.3 In exception to Regulation 28.1.1, the Board, after consulting with the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee, may, under RRS 86.2, approve changes to the Racing Rules for a specific international event, provided such changes are of clear necessity or pressing importance, or to develop or test proposed rules. ~~The Executive Office shall promptly report any action taken under this Regulation to Council and Member National Authorities.~~

28.1.4 [See Proposal 6 – Housekeeping]

28.1.5 In exception to Regulation 28.1.1, the Racing Rules Committee may, at any time, for specified events or categories of event, approve or change:

- (a) appendices that are not published in the RRS; or**
- (b) test rules.**

4. Amend Regulation 28.2 as follows:

Procedure for Changing the Racing Rules

28.2 **Subject to Regulation 28.1**, a revised edition of The Racing Rules of Sailing shall be published every four years, to take effect on 1 January of the year following the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held.

28.2.1 *Delete and replace with:*

28.2.1 Under Regulation 6.11 and 28.1.1, the Racing Rules Committee is authorised to approve and change The Racing Rules of Sailing on behalf of Council, unless:

- (a) Regulations 28.1.2, 28.1.3, 28.1.4, or 28.1.5, apply; or**
- (b) a decision of the Committee to change the RRS is referred to the Council by the Board, a committee chairman, a chairman of a commission or a member of Council. Any such referral shall be notified to the President in writing no later than the start of the Council meeting at the Annual Conference, or within 7 days of the decision being published (whichever is the earlier).**

All decisions of the Committee shall be reported promptly to Council.

28.2.2 *Delete and replace with:*

28.2.2 Proposals for changes to the RRS shall be made by a submission in accordance with Regulation 15.

Move current 28.2.1 to 28.2.3 to read as follows:

28.2.3 Only submissions and proposals considered by the Racing Rules

Committee no later than its meeting in the year prior to the Olympic Sailing Competition may be accepted for the next edition of the RRS (unless Regulation 28.1.2 applies). However, previously accepted submissions or proposals may be edited, and appendices may be revised for consistency until 1 May of the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held.

Move current 28.2.3 to 28.2.4 to read as follows:

~~28.2.3 The Racing Rules Committee Working Party shall finalize any rule changes by 1 May of the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held.~~

28.2.4 The Racing Rules Committee Working Party shall finalize any approve the final RRS rule changes by 1 May of the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held.

Renumber 28.2.4 and 28.2.5 to 28.2.5 and 28.2.6 accordingly.

5. Make the consequential numbering changes to other Regulations resulting from Proposals 2.

Current Position 2

As above

Reasons 2

- 1 Many recommendations made by Racing Rules Committee regarding proposed changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing, Cases and Calls are purely technical and not policy. Council is not the appropriate body to decide technical changes. This follows other similar situations; Offshore Special Regulations, appointment of Race Officials, so it is not a new concept.
- 2 The current Regulations refer specifically to Match and Team Racing. However, there are now many disciplines of sailboat racing. The Regulations proposed are simpler and based on principles, not specifics.
- 3 To remove sub paragraphs in references to other Regulations to simplify cross referencing and thereby avoid errors when the Regulations are changed.
- 4 To ensure that Questions and Answers published by World Sailing regarding the 'rules' are thoroughly reviewed.
- 5 To maintain the principle that urgent changes require a 75% vote by RRC, but may be approved by the Board by a majority vote. The safeguard provision contained 28.2.1(b) would apply so that such decisions may be referred to the Council.
- 6 In Regulation 28.1.3 to expand the reasons for approvals under RRS 86.2 to facilitate such developments as high speed test rules.

- 7 New Regulation 28.1.5 is critical. Should Olympic formats be adopted that require alternate RRS, the current RRS 86.2 is inadequate as it only permits the rule changes to apply to specific international events. In practice, many events will need to adopt the same rules as will be used at the Olympic regatta for practice, qualification and selection purposes.
- 8 New Regulation 28.2.1 provides the safeguard to refer decisions by RRC to Council. As RRC may make decisions at any time (the introduction of new appendices and test rules), all decisions to change the rules or issue new rules must be notified to a wide audience, who may then refer such decision to Council.
- 9 Proposed 28.2.3 does not change the concept of the existing Regulation, but reflects current working practice. It also removes the Racing Rules Committee Working Party as the specific body and gives the responsibility to RRC to deliver the work as it sees fit. See also proposal 3.
- 10 In the current Regulations there are alternative ways to propose changes to the RRS. An example would be a consequential effect of a submission to another Committee that requires a change to the RRS to be adopted. This removes alternate means to proposed rule changes in the current regulations.

Proposal 3

To remove reference to specific working parties in the Regulations to permit the RRC flexibility to organize itself to deliver its terms of reference, amend Regulation 28.3 as follows:

~~28.3.5 The Case Book Working Party shall evaluate proposed cases and edit approved Cases, including any changes approved by the Racing Rules Committee. It shall eliminate unnecessary text and use standard wording and format. The Match and Team Racing Rules Working Party shall handle proposed and approved Calls in the same way. Following publication of a new edition of The Racing Rules of Sailing, the working party shall promptly review and revise The Case Book, The Call Book for Match Racing and the Call Book for Team Racing.~~

28.3.5 Following publication of a new edition of The Racing Rules of Sailing, the Racing Rules Committee shall promptly review and revise all related documents (including The Case Book and The Call Books).

~~28.3.7 The Match Racing and Team Racing Rapid Response Call Panels shall review proposed rapid response calls from World Sailing International Umpire or a member of the panel. The chief umpire at an event shall propose new calls made during the event that would benefit other events. The procedure that the panel follow when reviewing calls and the call that the panel decide to publish shall be posted on the Match Racing or the Team Racing Rapid Response Call page on the World Sailing Officials pages. The Match Racing and Team Racing Rule Working Party will submit calls published prior to 1 August of a given year for inclusion, as appropriate, in the Call Book for Match Racing or the Call Book for Team Racing.~~

28.3.7 The Racing Rules Committee shall review proposed rapid response calls from any World Sailing International Umpire or a Racing Rules Committee working party. The chief umpire or protest committee chairman at an event shall report new calls made during the event to World Sailing.

Current Position

As above

Reasons

- 1 The Regulations should not include prescriptive operational details. How a Committee delivers its work should be a matter for the Committee. This does mean that documents detailing the current operational procedures should be developed, maintained and registered with the Board.
- 2 This will avoid the need for such regular changes to the Regulations.
- 3 The current Regulations were conceived before electronic communications that permit a more flexible approach to the work of RRC.
- 4 The reduced numbers of committee members requires more flexibility and more even spread of the RRC workload.
- 5 There is a huge amount of work to review all the RRS including its appendices. This work needs to be spread across the RRC members.
- 6 The need to ensure that all RRC members have equal status within the committee.

Proposal 4

To remove reference to specific Call Books in the Regulations and anticipate additional Call Books, amend Regulation 28.3 as follows:

Interpretations of the Racing Rules

28.3 Except when Regulation 28.4 applies, interpretations of the Racing Rules by World Sailing shall be made only through publication of cases *The Case Book* or in *The Call Books*. ~~The Call Book for Match Racing or the Call Book for Team Racing~~. The cases are authoritative interpretations and explanations of the rules for all racing and the calls are authoritative interpretations and explanations of the rules only for the relevant discipline. However, interpretations of the same rule shall be consistent ~~between~~ in the Case Book and the Call Books.

28.3.1 ~~The Racing Rules Committee shall study cases and calls submitted in accordance with Regulation 1, cases proposed by the Case Book Working Party or the Racing Rules Question and Answer Panel, and calls proposed by the Match and Team Racing Working Party, and shall recommend to the Council those that it approves for publication in *The Case Book*, *the Call Book for Match Racing* or *the Call Book for Team Racing*.~~

28.3.1 **The Racing Rules Committee shall decide submissions for Cases and Calls. Such decisions may be referred to Council as provided for in Regulation 28.2.1(b).**

28.3.4 The following are guidelines for publishing calls in *The Call Books* ~~the Call Book for Match Racing and the Call Book for Team Racing~~:

- (a) a call shall illustrate the application of the rules or procedures, including the rules in ~~The Match Racing Rules and Team Racing Rules, any relevant appendix or additional rules, in a situation regularly occurring in that discipline;~~
- (b) a rule interpretation in a call shall be consistent with any cases that interpret the same rule;
- (c) A call shall not duplicate one already published. When a call is an improvement on an existing call it shall be included and the existing call deleted.

28.3.5 [See Proposal 3]

~~28.3.6 The Racing Rules Question and Answer Panel shall answer questions on the Racing Rules or race committee or protest committee procedures that are submitted to it by a World Sailing Race Official or a Member National Authority. The procedure that the panel will follow when answering such questions and the Questions and Answers that the Panel decide to publish shall be posted on the Racing Rules Question and Answer Service page of the World Sailing website, and a link to that page shall appear on both the Racing Rules and Race Officials pages. Questions and Answers published during a four year rulebook cycle will normally be removed from the website no later than 1 January in the year in which a revised rulebook is published. The panel may propose that a published Question and Answer be added to the Case Book, the Call Book for Match Racing or the Call Book for Team Racing.~~

28.3.6 The Racing Rules Question and Answer Panel shall answer questions on the Racing Rules or race official procedures that are submitted to it by a World Sailing Race Official or a Member National Authority. The Panel may decide an answer should be published. Questions and Answers published during a four-year rulebook cycle will normally be valid until 1 January in the year in which a revised rulebook is published.

28.3.8 is moved to 28.3.7 to maintain Regulations associated with the Q&A Panel together.

~~28.3.87~~ Answers to questions provided by the Racing Rules Question and Answer Panel published on the World Sailing website are not authoritative interpretations and explanations of the Racing Rules. However, they are the carefully considered opinions of an experienced panel whose members have a thorough knowledge of the Racing Rules and extensive experience as competitors or as race officials.

~~28.3.7 The Match Racing and Team Racing Rapid Response Call Panels shall review proposed rapid response calls from a World Sailing International Umpire or a member of the panel. The chief umpire at an event shall propose new calls made during the event that would benefit other events. The procedure that the panel will follow when reviewing calls and the calls that the panel decides to publish shall be posted on the Match Racing or the Team Racing Rapid Response Call page on the World Sailing website, and a link to that page shall appear on both the Racing Rules and the Race Officials pages. The Match and Team Racing Rules Working Party will submit calls published prior to 1 August of a given year for inclusion, as appropriate, in the Call Book for Match Racing or the Call Book for Team Racing.~~

Current Position 4

As above.

Reasons 4

1. The current Regulations refer to the Call Books for Match Racing and Team Racing. There is now a need for a Call book for Umpired Fleet Racing and it is almost certain that a Call Book will be needed to accompany the High Speed Rules. Other disciplines such as Kiteboard Slalom may follow. This proposal enables Call Books for disciplines other than Team and Match Racing.
2. The current regulation is very prescriptive with regard to procedures. Such procedures should be in working documents, not in Regulations.
3. The reference to specific calls books and specific working parties is to be removed, consistent with proposal 4.
4. There are now other race officials and committees such as; Technical Committee, International Classifiers and others, so the proposal generalises the regulation with regard to all Race officials.

Proposal 5

~~(f) Approve the sailing instructions for the Olympic Sailing Competition.~~

Current Position 5

As above

Reasons 5

- 1 Since this regulation was first written World Sailing has introduced Technical Delegates and an Olympic management group that includes a rules expertise to oversee all matters relating to the Olympic Games.
- 2 There are many other documents/rules besides the sailing instructions that govern the Olympic Games. The sailing instructions do not have special status relative to these documents/rules.

Proposal 6

1. House keeping items to maintain consistency with previously approved changes to the Regulations and to the Racing Rules of Sailing, add new Regulation 6.5.5.2(v)
2. **6.5.5.2 (v) a representative of the Racing Rules Committee**

2. Amend Regulation 6.11.7 as follows:

6.11.7 The Racing Rules Committee shall:

- (d) include in the Racing Rules the following:
 - (i) the authority given to national authorities, organizing authorities, race committees, protest committees, umpires, technical committees, and other race officials in the conducting of races;
 - (iii) the responsibilities of boats, competitors, support persons, and boat owners before, during and after racing;
 - (v) methods of dealing with breaches of rules (as defined in the RRS) and the imposition of penalties;
 - (viii) references to appropriate regulations, including the Eligibility, Advertising, Anti-Doping, Betting and Anti-Corruption and Disciplinary, Appeals and Review Codes
- (e) approve all authoritative interpretations made by World Sailing of the Racing Rules (including cases and calls) and reviewing all other educational material published by World Sailing concerning the Racing Rules;

3. Amend Regulation 28 as follows:

- 28.1.4 In exception to Regulations 28.1 and 28.2, Council may, at any time and without consulting with the Racing Rules Committee, change the Eligibility, Advertising, Anti-Doping and Sailor Classification Codes (see RRS 5, 75.2, 79, 80) Regulations which are incorporated by reference into the Racing Rules (the Codes).

Appeals to World Sailing

- 28.5 Except as expressly permitted by the Regulations, as provided in the World Sailing Eligibility Code, Regulation 19.5, the World Sailing shall not accept or decide an appeal concerning the Racing Rules from a decision of a Member National Authority.

Current Position 6

As above

Reasons 6

1. There are a number of previously approved submissions that are not consistent with the current regulations. This proposal seeks to correct these items. In particular these relate to Codes, Technical Committee, Support Persons.
2. Regarding 6.5.5.2, there was a representative of the RRC on the Class Rules Sub Committee, the predecessor of the Equipment Rules Sub Committee and new 6.5.5.2 is consistent with existing 6.11.5.