Racing Rules of Sailing

Definition Proper Course

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose

To clarify a definition that was changed as a result of submissions approved in 2018.

Proposal

Change the definition Proper Course as follows:

Proper Course A course a boat would **choose in order** to **sail the course** and **finish** as soon as possible in the absence of the other boats referred to in the rule using the term. A boat has no **proper course** before her starting signal.

Current Position

The wording of this definition for the 2021-2024 RRS, based on changes approved as a result of Submissions 142-18 and 139-18, is:

Proper Course A course a boat would sail to **sail the course** and **finish** as soon as possible in the absence of the other boats referred to in the rule using the term. A boat has no **proper course** before her starting signal.

Reason

1. The change from 'sail to **sail the course**' to 'choose in order to **sail the course**' is proposed to make the rule easier to read and to translate.

2. The word 'choose' is appropriate because, as Case 14 states, 'Two boats in the same fleet on the same leg sailing very near one another can have different proper courses.' A boat’s proper course is a course her crew chooses because they believe that it will result in them completing the course and finishing sooner than they would if they chose a different course.