Racing Rules of Sailing

Definition Sail the Course

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

Clarify for sailors and race committees that the string rule only must touch a mark that is designated by the sailing instructions as a rounding mark

Proposal

Change the definition as follows:

Sail the Course  A boat sails the course provided that a string representing her track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its pre-start side to start until she finishes, when drawn taut,
(a) passes each mark of the course for the race on the required side and in the correct order,
(b) touches each rounding mark that is designated in the sailing instructions as a rounding mark, and
(c) passes between the marks of a gate from the direction of the course from the previous mark.

Current Position

See above

Reasons

1. Submission makes it clear that the string must pass all marks, but it must only touch marks defined as rounding marks.
2. Provides guidance in the rules as to what is a rounding mark. Current language does not define what a rounding mark is.