Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 33

A submission from Yachting New Zealand

Purpose or Objective

To enable both the compass direction and the direction of the change to be made when signalling a change of course.

Proposal

Amend rule 33(a) as follows:

33 CHANGING THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

The race committee may change a leg of the course that begins at a rounding mark or at a gate by changing the position of the next mark (or the finishing line) and signalling all boats before they begin the leg. The next mark need not be in position at that time.

(a) If the direction of the leg will be changed, the signal shall be the display of flag C with repetitive sounds and either with:

(1) the new compass bearing and/or

(2) a green triangle for a change to starboard or a red rectangle for a change to port.

Current Position

As above.

The current rule only allows either the compass direction or the direction of change to be displayed.

Reasons

1. In classes where sailors can choose to use a compass some sailors choose to sail with a compass and some choose to sail without a compass. By only being able to signal the change by one method race management chooses which group of sailors to advantage. By being able to display both the compass direction and the direction of the change both groups of sailors are equally advantaged.

2. Furthermore In a situation where a change is made at a mark for two classes at the same time, one where the change would be displayed by the compass direction and one would be displayed by the direction of change, under the current wording of the rule only one method can be used which could disadvantage one class.