Racing Rules of Sailing

Introduction

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

To resolve inconsistencies in distinguishing between different types of person on board a boat.

Proposal

Amend the meaning of Boat in the Terminology section of the Introduction as follows:

Terminology

A term used in the sense stated in the Definitions is printed in italics or, in preambles, in bold italics (for example, racing and racing).

Each of the terms in the table below is used in The Racing Rules of Sailing with the meaning given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boat</td>
<td>A sailboat and the crew all persons on board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitor</td>
<td>A person who races or intends to race in the event.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No further changes

If this submission is approved, the RRC is requested to review all rules that include the words "crew", "persons on board" or "competitor" and amend as necessary for consistency.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

There are over 20 references in the RRS to the word "crew" but they do not all have the same meaning. In a few instances, a guest, observer or media person standing or otherwise at the back of a boat that is racing has been in contact with the bowsprit, spinnaker or other item being part of a boat astern and required to keep clear under RRS12. Currently, such a person is not part of the crew of the boat so the boat astern cannot be penalised.
With the increasing number of people on board racing boats who are not competitors (working members of the crew), from a safety perspective a boat should be discouraged from getting so close to another that any person on board either boat may be at risk.

If this change is approved the Match Racing Rules Working Party may wish to consider revising Match Racing Call L4.