Racing Rules of Sailing

RRS Part 2 Preamble

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To require the intention to replace the rules of Part 2 to be placed in the Notice of Race

Proposal

1. Change the preamble to RRS Part 2 as follows.

WHEN BOATS MEET

The rules of Part 2 apply between boats that are sailing in or near the racing area and intend to race, are racing, or have been racing. However, a boat not racing shall not be penalized for breaking one of these rules, except rule 14 when the incident resulted in injury or serious damage, or rule 24.1.

When a boat sailing under these rules meets a vessel that is not, she shall comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) or government right-of-way rules. If the sailing instructions notice of race so state, the rules of Part 2 are the right-of-way rules of the IRPCAS or government right-of-way rules.

2. Insert new rule (n) in J1.2 as follows. The new rule number will be determined at a later date and approved by the Racing Rules Committee.

J1.2 The notice of race shall include any of the following that will apply and that would help competitors decide whether to attend the event or that conveys other information they will need before the sailing instructions become available:

(n) replacement of the rules of Part 2 with the right-of-way rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea or other government right-of-way rules, the time(s) or place(s) they will apply, and any night signals to be used by the race committee;

3. Delete rule J2.2(2).

J2.2 The sailing instructions shall include those of the following that will apply:
(2) replacement of the rules of Part 2 with the right-of-way rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea or other government right-of-way rules, the time(s) or place(s) they will apply, and any night signals to be used by the race committee;
Current Position
See above.

Reasons
1. Currently, a race organizer can state in the notice of race that the regatta will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing. When the competitors arrive at the event and get the sailing instructions, they find out that the IRPCAS replaces the rules of Part 2 between sunset and sunrise. That might leave insufficient time to locate the IRPCAS and prepare for the different set of rules.

2. Competitors should be told of the anticipated use of the IRPCAS or government right-of-way rules before deciding to attend the event. Therefore, the notice of race should state that the IRPCAS will apply.