**Racing Rules of Sailing**

**Rule 14**

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

**Purpose**

To impose an additional obligation on a boat to avoid or minimize damage or injury

**Proposal**

Change rule 14 as follows:

**14 AVOIDING CONTACT**

A boat shall avoid contact with another boat, **damage and injury** if reasonably possible.

However, a right-of-way boat or one sailing within the entitled to room or mark-room to which she is entitled

(a) need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not keeping clear or giving room or mark-room, and

(b) shall be exonerated if she breaks this rule and the contact does not cause damage or injury

**Current Position**

As above

**Reasons**

A boat should not merely avoid contact, but also damage and injury. A boat should take action that should avoid damage or minimize damage, even though she cannot avoid contact. Under the current rule where contact is inevitable, there is no obligation to avoid damage, further damage or injury.