Racing Rules of Sailing

New Rule 21

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

Replace existing rules 18.5 and 20.2 with a common exoneration rule to apply to all rules of Part 2 Section C.

Proposal

Add new rule to Part 2 Section C:

21 Exoneration

When a boat is sailing within the room or mark-room to which she is entitled under a rule of Section C she shall be exonerated if, in an incident with a boat required to give her that room or mark-room, she breaks a rule of Section A, rule 15 or rule 16.

Delete existing rules 18.5 and 20.2.
Renumber rules 21 to 23 as 22 to 24.

Current Position

18.5 Exoneration

When a boat is taking mark-room to which she is entitled, she shall be exonerated

(a) if, as a result of the other boat failing to give her mark-room, she breaks a rule of Section A, or

(b) if, by rounding the mark on her proper course, she breaks a rule of Section A or rule 15 or 16.

20.2 Exoneration

When a boat is taking room to which she is entitled under rule 20.1(b), she shall be exonerated if she breaks a rule of Section A or rule 15 or 16.

Reasons

1. This new Section C rule is simpler and improved when compared to the current rule 18.5.

2. For some rule 19 scenarios alongside obstructions (for example on opposite tacks downwind) it is appropriate that an inside keep clear boat is exonerated for breaking rule 10 or 11, and the rule clarifies this.

3. Using the same structure and wording for all rules in Section C provides a consistency of principle across the three rules and is a simplification for competitors and judges.
4. Including exoneration when rule 19 applies provides appropriate protection to an inside keep-clear boat entitled to room under rule 19.2(b).

This submission was prepared by the ISAF Section C Working Party.