

Racing Rules of Sailing

Test Rule 13

A submission from the Chairman of Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To test the deletion of RRS 13 for potential deletion in RRS 2025-28

Proposal

Racing Rules Committee to provide a test rule as permitted by Regulation 28.1.5(b) [Test rules] to test the effect of the deletion of RRS 13 and to define the specific events or categories of events that may adopt the test rule. Initially, the events selected would be limited to those likely to give good feedback on the test.

The test rule would read: 'Delete RRS 13.' Then, provided the event specified in accordance with the Regulation, its Notice of Race would state:

'As approved by World Sailing, Test Rule 'Delete RRS 13' will apply.'

Racing Rules Committee are to provide a guidance document for competitors and officials describing the consequences of this change.

Current Position

A limited number of events have tried deleting RRS 13, approved by the Board under RRS 86.2 and Regulation 28.1.3 and it is deleted in the High Speed Test Rules.

Reasons

- 1 Racing Rules Committee is constantly attempting to clarify and simplify the Racing Rules. The deletion of RRS 13 has been identified as an opportunity to do so, but need significant further testing.
 - 2 The mechanism used by the current events is cumbersome and limited to specific international events only. This excludes the possibility of testing at other events. It also means that those attending one of the specific international events cannot practice at other events.
 - 3 Deleting the rule removes the critical judgement of when a boat is on a close-hauled course.
 - 4 Some safety benefits have been identified when rule 13 has been deleted, There are fewer occasions when boats engage at (near) 90 deg.
 - 5 This deletion has not been tested in other than small fleets and so any testing should be introduced in a controlled manner and it is unlikely that Racing Rules Committee would have the confidence to suggest deleting this rule before 2025.
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Note: Under Regulation 28.1.5, Racing Rules Committee do not strictly need this submission to test the rule, but believe making a submission at this time will give proper notice that the deletion of this rule is under consideration.