Racing Rules of Sailing

Test Rule 17

A submission from the Chairman of Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To test the deletion of RRS 17 for potential deletion in RRS 2021-24

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 17 for all racing and to define the specific events or categories of events that may adopt the test rule.

The test rule would read: ‘Delete RRS 17.’ 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 17’ will apply.’

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

Current Position

A number of events currently delete RRS 17. Match Racing, High Speed Rules and 2K keelboat team racing are examples.

Reasons

1 RRS 17 is a rule that relies on the definition of proper course. There are seven Cases in the Case Book devoted to this issue, demonstrating the complexity of the rule.

2 There are many rules discussions about the application of this rule – ‘To which boat does the proper course restriction apply, for example’, demonstrating the rule is often misunderstood.

3 There are a number of events and categories of events that have deleted RRS 17 for some years and this has found favour with competitors and officials alike.

4 More modern boats tend to have well defined maximum Vmg courses downwind as they become faster. A consequence of this is that the benefit of luffing a boat is generally more detrimental to the luffing boat.

5 By providing a test rule we can gain real experience and evidence of its affects in order to properly evaluate any future submission to delete the rule entirely.

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.