Racing Rules of Sailing

Basic Principle – Sportsmanship and Rules

A submission from US SAILING

Proposal

BASIC PRINCIPLE

SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE RULES

Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that, when a boat breaks a rule and is not exonerated, she will promptly take a penalty, which may be to retire.

Current Position

As above

Reason

The current Basic Principle has an unintended and undesirable feature. It suggests that a boat should take a penalty for a breach even if she is will be exonerated for that breach under rule 64.1(c), 18.5 or 20.2. If the proposal is accepted, this feature of the principle will be removed.

Also, the proposal changes the reference to ‘competitors’ to a reference to ‘a boat’, which seems more appropriate given the wording of virtually all the other rules in the rulebook.

This is a companion submission to the other 2010 submission from US SAILING that deals with a new rule 44.1 and with current rule 64.1(c), which makes all exoneration concurrent with the incident. This submission is part of a ‘package’ of related submissions from US SAILING involving penalties, exoneration and rules compliance. The submissions in this ‘package’ are those involving Sportsmanship and the Rules, Rule 14, Rule 44.1, Rules 44 and 64.1(c), a new definition Exonerate and two submissions involving Rule 44.1(b).