Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 28.2

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To resolve a long term issue correcting an error when sailing the course.

Proposal

Change rule 28.2 as approved in November 2018 as follows:

28.2 A boat may correct any errors in sailing the course, provided she has not crossed the finishing line to finish. When a boat passes the wrong side of a mark, she may correct that error until she has passed the next designated mark of the course, which may be a gate or finishing mark. If there is doubt that a boat has not passed the next designated mark, it shall be presumed she has not.

Current Position

As above

Reasons

1. Currently there is a long term issue to what extent a boat may correct errors after crossing the finishing line.

2. If a boat has unlimited opportunity to correct errors it can be argued that the race committee must wait for the time limit to expire before closing the race.

3. This proposal is very similar to the concept that has been tested in Medal Racing under addendum Q. It actually comes from downhill skiing when a competitor misses a gate, they are disqualified when they pass through the next gate.

4. It does mean that the opportunities for correcting errors is reduced, but in practice, such an error is very unlikely to be corrected to avoid a poor race result and the benefit of the doubt clause will act in her favour when it is difficult to establish exactly when she passed the next designated mark.

5. The proposal means that when all boats have passed through the finishing line, they can move on, either to go home, or to set up the next race.

6. There may be a consequential change required to the Definition of Finish, depending on which other submissions are approved.