

## Racing Rules of Sailing

### Rule 28.2

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

#### Purpose or Objective

To clarify that the string when drawn taut cannot pass over dry land or obstructions.

#### Proposal 1

##### Option 1

Change rule 28.2 as follows:

- 28.2** A string representing a boat's track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its pre-start side to *start* until she *finishes* shall, when drawn taut,
- (a) pass each *mark* on the required side and in the correct order,
  - (b) touch each rounding *mark*, ~~and~~
  - (c) pass between the *marks* of a gate from the direction of the previous *mark*, and
  - (d) lie in water that was navigable by the boat [at the time she sailed that leg].**
- She may correct any errors to comply with this rule, provided she has not *finished*.

##### Option 2

Change rule 28.2 as follows:

- 28.2** A string representing a boat's track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its pre-start side to *start* until she *finishes* shall, when drawn taut **but remaining in water that was navigable by the boat [at the time she sailed that leg].**
- (a) pass each *mark* on the required side and in the correct order,
  - (b) touch each rounding *mark*, and
  - (c) pass between the *marks* of a gate from the direction of the previous *mark*.
- She may correct any errors to comply with this rule, provided she has not *finished*.

#### Proposal 2

Change rule 28.2 as follows:

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- 28.2** A string representing a boat's track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its pre-start side to *start* until she *finishes* shall, when drawn taut,
- (a) pass each *mark* on the required side and in the correct order,
  - (b) touch each rounding *mark*, and
  - (c) pass between the *marks* of a gate from the direction of the **course from the** previous *mark*.

She may correct any errors to comply with this rule, provided she has not *finished*.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

1. There are some circumstances when a string drawn taut between marks (say A and C) would pass on the opposite side of an intermediate mark (say B) depending on the string being a straight line or following navigable water.
  2. In order to comply with rule 28.2 (a), this then requires the second mark to be looped, which is undesirable.
  3. This issue was resolved by a Case that has been submitted by the RYA. However, when a few words will clarify the rule and make the Case unnecessary, then the rule should be changed.
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