

Racing Rules of Sailing

Terminology, Competitor

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose

To clarify the meaning of a term used frequently in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

Proposal

Terminology A term used in the sense stated in the Definitions is printed in italics or, in preambles, in bold italics (for example, *racing* and ***racing***). ‘Racing rule’ means a rule in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*. ‘Boat’ means a sailboat and the crew on board; ‘vessel’ means any boat or ship. **‘Competitor’ means a person who races or intends to race in the event.** ‘Race committee’ includes any person or committee performing a race committee function. A ‘change’ to a *rule* includes an addition to it or deletion of all or part of it. ‘National authority’ means an ISAF member national authority. Other words and terms are used in the sense ordinarily understood in nautical or general use.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

It is important for some rules – in particular, rule 5, Anti-Doping, rule 6, Betting and Anti-Corruption, and rule 69, Allegations of Gross Misconduct – to make it clear (1) that a person is a ‘competitor’ throughout an event and not just while racing, and (2) that a person who intends to race in an event is a ‘competitor’ even if he or she never actually races during the event. The proposal does that.

The proposal places the meaning of ‘competitor’ in Terminology rather than Definitions because the definition is simple and easy to understand, and because the term is so frequently used (over 150 times) in the rules that it would be a distraction to readers to italicize it.
