Racing Rules of Sailing

Definition Finish

A submission from the Federation Francaise de Voile

Proposal

Finish  A boat finishes when any part of her hull, or crew or equipment in normal position, crosses the finishing line in the direction of the course from the last mark, either for the first time or after taking a penalty under rule 44.2 or, after correcting an error made at the finishing line, under rule 28.1.

As a consequence:

APPENDIX  C2.1 is changed to;

C2.1  The definition Finish is changed to

A boat finishes when any part of her hull, or crew or equipment in normal position, crosses the finishing line in the direction of the course from the last mark after completing any penalties.

However, when penalties are cancelled under C7.2(d) after one or both boats have finished each shall be recorded as finished when she crossed the line.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

There are often disputes when interpreting the meaning of “normal position”. Furthermore there have been several high-profile cases where a spinnaker has been released to fly ahead and the sailor then argued that the spinnaker was in a normal position (which is sometimes true, but not always).

Another problem is the focus of the race committee at the finish trying to judge the crossing of a spinnaker which is high in the air and passing above pin end mark before the hull crosses the finishing line.

Last reason is to make the game easier and avoid interpretations as it was done in last sentence of the definition Zone “...when any part of her hull is in the zone”.

Note: It is intended that a fixed bowsprit would count as a part of the hull.