

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 42.3(c)

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose

To simplify rule 42.3(c) and to permit an action that is consistent with the other actions permitted by the rule.

Proposal

Change rule 42.3(c) as follows:

- (c) ~~Except on a beat to windward, when~~ **When** surfing (rapidly accelerating down the front of a wave) or planing is possible, the boat's crew may pull in any sail in order to initiate surfing or planing, but each sail may be pulled in only once for each wave or gust of wind.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

The original purpose of the words 'except on a beat to windward' was to prohibit a boat on a beat to windward from pumping as she went down the windward or back side of an oncoming wave. However, in 2013 the phrase 'the front side of a wave' replaced 'the leeward side of a wave'. That change prohibits boats on a beat to windward from pumping down the backs of the oncoming waves, even if the words 'except on a beat to windward' are deleted.

In those rare instances when a wave is moving upwind (as when it is caused by a passing power boat or a long ocean surge), the proposed change would allow a boat on a beat to windward to pump once to catch a wave, which is exactly the kind of action this rule is intended to permit.

Also, removing the indicated words simplifies this rule.

Note that there is a related submission from US Sailing that proposes to delete Case 132.