Racing Rules of Sailing

Appendix F Definition “Clear Ahead, Clear Astern; Overlap”

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee and the International Kiteboarding Association

Purpose or Objective

To change the overlap from hull and kite, to hull only.

Proposal

Add a new amended definition “Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap” to Appendix F as follows:

Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap One kiteboard is clear astern of another when her hull is behind a line abeam from the aftermost point of the other kiteboard’s hull. The other kiteboard is clear ahead. They overlap when neither is clear astern. However, they also overlap when a kiteboard between them overlaps both. These terms always apply to kiteboards on the same tack. They do not apply to kiteboards on opposite tacks unless rule 18 applies or both kiteboards are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind.

Current Position

Current definition “Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap”

Reasons

1. Establishing an overlap and the definition of windward/leeward by including the kite creates loopholes in other rules as kiteboards may be overlapped but neither of them is on the others leeward side. It is also difficult to judge for both sailors and jury when an overlap is established or broken due to the three-dimensional movement of the kite. A sailboat usually has the sail above (within the outline) of the hull and not 30m away. This proposal brings the application of rules closer to standard RRS.

2. It is not always possible under the current definition for anyone, let alone the kiteboarders, to tell if they are overlapped with another kiteboard particularly when the kites are moving around and the boards are not close to each other. The main game change here would be that a clear astern kiteboard whose kite is overlapped to leeward of another kiteboard would now be the give way kiteboard (rule 12) instead of the right of way kiteboard (rule 11). This would not have a major impact on how kiteboards are sailed but would result in the sailors being able to better judge their rights far more easily and accurately.

3. Corresponding surveys have been made and the proposal finds the support of the sailors.