

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule D4

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To clarify some ambiguities and provide more consistency in scoring team racing, particularly for a knock-out stage.

Proposal

Delete rule D4 and replace with the following.

Text which has moved within rule D4 but is otherwise unchanged is not highlighted.

D4 SCORING AN EVENT

D4.1 Terminology

- (a) The format of an event consists of one or more stages.
- (b) In a round-robin stage, teams are divided into one or more groups, and each group is scheduled to sail one or more round-robins.
- (c) A round-robin consists of each team in a group sailing one race against each other team in that group.
- (d) A knock-out stage consists **of one or more rounds in which each team sails one match**. A match is one or more races between two teams.

D4.2 Event Format

- (a) **The sailing instructions shall state the format and stages of the event, and any special scoring rules.**
- (b) In order to conclude an event, the race committee may **change or terminate any part of the format** at any reasonable time taking into account the entries, weather, time constraints and other relevant factors.

D4.3 Scoring a Round-Robin Stage

- (a) Teams in a round-robin group shall be ranked in order of number of race wins, highest first. If the teams have not completed an equal number of races, they shall be ranked in order of the percentage of races won, highest first.
 - (b) **However,** if a round-robin is terminated when fewer than 80% of its scheduled races have been completed, its race results shall not be included, but shall be used to break ties between teams in the group **who all sailed each other in the terminated round-robin.**
 - (c) **Results from a previous round-robin stage shall only be carried forward if stated in the sailing instructions.**
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D4.4 Round-Robin Tie-Breaks

Ties in a round-robin stage shall be broken using results from that stage only.

- (a) **If the tied teams have all sailed each other at least once in the stage, the tie shall be broken in the order below.**
- (1) Percentage of races won in all races between the tied teams, highest first;
 - (2) Average points per race in all races between the tied teams, lowest first;
 - (3) If two teams remain tied, the winner of the last race between them;
 - (4) Average points per race in all races against common opponents, lowest first
 - (5) A sail-off if possible, otherwise a game of chance.
- (b) **Otherwise, the tie shall be broken using only steps (4) and (5) above.**
- (c) **When a tie is partially broken by one of the above, the remaining tie shall be broken in accordance with D4.4(a) or (b) as appropriate.**

D4.5 Scoring a Knock-Out Stage

- (a) **A round shall not be scored unless at least one race has been completed in each match in that round. The final and petit-final are separate rounds.**
- (b) The winner of a match shall be the first team to score the number of race wins stated in the sailing instructions. If a match is terminated, the winner shall be the team with the higher number of race wins at that time **or, if this is a tie, the team that won the last race of the match.**
- (c)
 - (1) **Teams that win in a round shall be ranked ahead of those that lose.**
 - (2) **Teams that lose in a round and do not sail again shall be equally ranked.**
 - (3) **In a round that is not scored, teams will be ranked in order of their places in the previous stage of the event, with teams from different groups ranked separately.**

Current Position

See above.

Reasons

D4 Title changed to “Scoring an Event” which App D needs to cover.

D4.1 is now just terminology. Format elements are moved to D4.2. Most text is as current. Round-robin terminology split into (b) and (c) to highlight that a RR is one round of one group to clarify application of 80% rule. Knock-out terminology clarifies that knock-out is a single stage sub-divided into ‘rounds’ in their normal sense. Both these clarifications are important for later scoring rules.

D4.2(a) requires format and stages to be stated in the SIs. To help, we include as much “standard text” as possible in D4.

D4.2(b) expanded to state reason (“In order to ...”) and add “change” [as defined in rule 85.1]. It does not permit changing scoring rules during an event.

Shorter D4.3 now covers all RR scoring.

D4.3(a) corrected so that we only rank within a RR group, not across "parallel" RR groups (unless SIs so state).

D4.3(b) is big simplification. Only half of current D4.2(b) is necessary and can be combined with other current rules that cover the same topic. "Its" emphasises that 80% applies to a single RR. Use to break ties should be mandatory. (Currently D4.2(b) says "may" whereas D4.5 says "shall").

D4.3(c) added to give a standard for scoring multiple round-robins; no carry forward of wins from a previous round-robin stage unless stated in SIs.

D4.4 retained with improved order and wording.

(a)(1) and (a)(2) help assure a fair tiebreak when three or more tied teams have sailed each other at least once, but not necessarily the same number of times in the RR stage

(b) is added to cover more fairly the situation when three or more tied teams have not all sailed each other in a terminated, >80% complete, single round-robin.

(c) is similar to the last sentence in D4.4 except that it directs the scorer to either (a) or (b) to continue breaking ties.

D4.5 is mostly new. It covers all scoring direction for a knock-out stage, whereas current D4.7 focuses only on tie-breaks.

(a) one race in each match must be completed to score a round; there cannot be any 0:0 tie breaks. A petit-final needs to be a separate round for the application of D4.5(c).

(b) the tie-break for any terminated match in a scored round is now determined by the race-wins in that match.

(c) (1) and (2) provide a standard ranking method for teams participating in the knock-out stage.

(c) (3) prescribes how teams are ranked when a round is not scored, so will determine final rankings if the knock-out is terminated before the final and which teams advance if a round is cancelled or is terminated before one race has been sailed in each match. The last part covers ranking when teams came from "parallel" round-robins.
