Racing Rules of Sailing

New Definitions - Gybing and Tacking

A submission from the Deutscher Segler-Verband

Purpose or Objective
RRS Definitions

Proposal
Add two new Definitions to the RRS:

**Gybing** A boat sailing downwind is gybing after the foot of her mainsail crosses the centreline until her mainsail has filled.

**Tacking** A boat is tacking after she passes head to wind until she is on a close-hauled course.

Current Position
There are no Definitions for tacking and gybing in the RRS 2009-12. Tacking is described in RRS 13

**WHILE TACKING**
After a boat passes head to wind, she shall keep clear of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course. During that time rules 10, 11 and 12 do not apply. If two boats are subject to this rule at the same time, the one on the other’s port side or the one astern shall keep clear.

Tacking is also mentioned in case 15 and case 17.

Currently there is no description for gybing in Fleetracing. RRS C 2.4 describes manoeuvres which could be understood as gybe according to the headline of the rule, without using the term in 13.2.

C2.4 Rule 13 is changed to

**WHILE TACKING OR GYBING**
13.1 After a boat passes head to wind, she shall keep clear of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course.
13.2 After the foot of the mainsail of a boat sailing downwind crosses the centreline she shall keep clear of other boats until her mainsail has filled.
13.3 While rule 13.1 or 13.2 applies, rules 10, 11 and 12 do not. However, if two boats are subject to rule 13.1 or 13.2 at the same time, the one on the other’s port side or the one astern shall keep clear.

Reasons
The terms “tacking” and “gybing” are used in all documents regarding the RRS as well as in RRS 18.1 (b), 18.2 (c), 18.3, 20.1, 44.2 (tacking) or 18.4, 44.2 (gybing) but there is no actual clear
Definition. The associated manoeuvres of the boats reflects important moments for switching between different rules, so a clear cut is important for sailors to be sure which rule is valid.