APPENDIX WP
RULES FOR RACING AROUND WAYPOINTS

Use of this appendix is recommended for offshore races when the race committee may wish to specify waypoints instead of physical marks which boats are required to pass to sail the course.

Races shall be sailed under The Racing Rules of Sailing as changed by this appendix only if the notice of race and sailing instructions so state.

WP1  CHANGES TO THE DEFINITIONS

WP1.1 The definition Start is changed to:

Start A boat starts when, having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull, crew or equipment crosses the starting line in the direction of the course.

WP1.2 Add new definition:

Waypoint A position, other than a mark, described by latitude and longitude coordinates that the course requires a boat to leave on a specified side.

WP2  Add new rule 18.5 in Part 2 of the RRS:

18.5 ROOM TO PASS A WAYPOINT

(a) Rule 18.5 applies between boats when they are required to leave a waypoint on the same side and at least one of them is approaching it. However, when rule 20 applies, rule 18.5 does not.

(b) When overlapped boats are approaching a waypoint to pass it on the required side, the outside boat shall give the inside boat room to pass the waypoint, unless the outside boat has been unable to do so from the time the overlap began.

(c) If the inside boat has reasonable doubt that she has room to pass the waypoint, she may hail the outside boat accordingly. The outside boat shall then give the inside boat additional space unless she is unable to do so.

WP3  Rule 28 is changed to:

28  SAILING THE COURSE

28.1 A boat shall start, sail the course described in the sailing instructions and finish. While doing so, she may leave on either side a mark or waypoint that does not begin, bound or end the leg she is sailing. After finishing she need not cross the finishing line completely.

28.2 A string representing a boat’s track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its pre-start side to start until she finishes shall, when drawn taut,

(a) pass each mark or waypoint on the required side and in the correct order,

(b) touch each rounding mark, touch a hypothetical object at each rounding waypoint, and
(c) pass between the marks or waypoints of a gate from the direction of the previous mark or waypoint.

She may correct any errors to comply with this rule, provided she has not finished.

28.3 The sailing instructions may specify criteria to determine whether a boat has rounded or passed a waypoint on the required side.

WP4 ELECTRONIC POSITION FIXING

When data from electronic position fixing systems is used to determine the position of a boat for the purpose of verifying compliance with the rules, precedence shall be given to data from the boat’s primary navigation system.

Note: Approved as an appendix to be placed on the World Sailing website for development of offshore racing with an option to use a Waypoint instead of a Mark. The appendix may be amended with the approval of the Chairman of the World Sailing Racing Rules Committee.