

This first year of the newly appointed Racing Rules Committee has been an unusual one. The Olympic Regatta in Summer and other qualifying and major events being held this year required a quick start of the committee. After the new Racing Rules of Sailing started to apply in January 1st and within a few weeks after being appointed, the committee had to review, update and approve up to nine different sets of rules, including the rule 42 interpretations, the Misconduct Guide and the Medal Race Addendum Q to be used in the Olympic Regatta and the Olympic qualifiers.

The Racing Rules Committee includes eighteen members, eight of whom are new to the committee. Some of the previous members who have served in the committee for a long term are still involved as members of the different working parties, contributing to transmit their experience and knowledge to those who are in the committee or its working parties for the first time.

The Racing Rules Committee has established sixteen working parties to cover the different areas of the sport in which the racing rules are included. Seventy-six volunteers, sailors and race officials are engaged. Apart from spreading the workload, this will help us to identify future members of the racing rules committee among those who are interested in working in the rules area and so assure the continuity of the committee.

Without getting into deep detail, I would like to highlight the following activities the Racing Rules Committee and its working parties are working on:

- Revision of the different rules sets. Currently racing rules can be found in different levels of application and published in different ways. We have the Rule Book, there are Appendices in the Rule Book, there are official appendices published on the website, test rules that are appendices, other test rules, rules approved for specific events, etc. Each of these are approved under the correspondent regulation and following a specific route. The Racing Rules Committee think it is time to review the full picture and establish a clear pathway for the rules from an initial stage as test rules to their eventual addition to the rule book.
- Set up a consistent way to present the rules to the world, especially the several appendices for the different disciplines where there is no need to have different formats.
- Make a deep review of the Rule Book Part 5 in order to give the appropriate response to the evolution of the sport in the last years with the addition of up to five different types of hearings. Eventually, all the process on hearings will be more user friendly for competitors, race officials, event organisers and all those involved. Appendices M and N will be also reviewed as part of this project. Initial submissions on these changes will be presented next year.
- Revision of rule 18. US Sailing and World Sailing RRC agreed to set up a working party to review rule 18 once again. In the last years different classes and events have been given the possibility to test variations of rule 18. Some of these tests have proven to be very successful and welcomed by the competitors as they eliminate part of the difficulties they find in the rule as it is written today. Although some changes will be unavoidable, the initial approach of the working party is to avoid changing the game as it is played on the water.
- The Q&A panel has been re-appointed and is servicing race officials and classes providing answers to the questions they are submitted. Up to October, they have answered 10 questions, 7 of which have been published.

- Rules for specific disciplines and test rules have been updated and the working parties are receiving the feedback from the users. They will analyse this feedback and propose new changes where necessary in order to develop these test rules.

We know the next two years will be much busier as the Rule Book 2025-2028 has to be approved in June 2024 and the last opportunity to incorporate changes will be October 2023, but we aim not only to produce the Rule Book but also to give the rules a structure and a standard format that will help the users and the future members of the Racing Rules Committee.

We want to thank Vice President Philip Baum for his continuous support and involvement and Maddie Dunn and Megan Griggs for helping the Committee and being our link to the executive office.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ana Sanchez del Campo Ferrer
Racing Rules Committee, Chairman

Report Closed 18 October, 2021