

**REPORTING COMMITTEE - RACING RULES  
OTHER COMMITTEE -**

**Racing Rules of Sailing  
Changing Course**

A submission from the Federación Argentina de Yachting

**PROPOSAL:**

Reject submission 133-00 and 122-01 so that rule 16.2 is kept.

**CURRENT POSITION:**

**16 CHANGING COURSE**

**16.1** When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room to keep clear*.

**16.2** In addition, when after the starting signal boats are about to cross or are crossing each other on opposite *tacks*, and the *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* of the *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not change course if as a result the *port-tack* boat would immediately need to change course to continue *keeping clear*.

**REASON:**

Without rule 16, rule 16.1 allows 'hunting', which would allow dangerous situations to develop, to no advantage for the sport.

Lately, at an important Optimist regatta A, close hauled on starboard tack, was about to finish ahead of B, who, on port tack, was about to take A's stern.

When the boats were about 2 or 3 lengths from one another, A bore away suddenly onto a head-on collision course. At the last instant, B bore away sharply and A luffed and the boats missed each other by about 30cm. B protested, A finished a boat-length ahead and was later disqualified under RRS 16.2.

Under rule 16.1, A would have given B 'room to keep clear'. After all, B managed to get out of the way. With a less alert helmsman or a less agile boat there would have been a serious accident. This sort of aggressive behaviour on the part of the right of way boat must stay banned.