

# **Racing Rules**

International Sailing Federation (ISF)  
Unofficial Summary

## Part I

1. Safety
  - 1.1 Helping Those in Danger
  - 1.2 Life Saving Equipment
2. Fair sailing
3. Acceptance of rules
4. Decision to Race
5. Drugs

## Part II – When Boats Meet **Section A – Right of Way**

### 10 Opposite Tacks

Port tack keeps clear of Starboard tack.

### 11 On Same Tack, Overlapped

Windward boat keeps clear.

### 12 On Same Tack, not overlapped

Boat clear astern keeps clear of boat clear ahead.

### 13 While Tacking

Boat tacking shall keep clear of other boats until on a close-hauled course.

## **Section B – General Limitations**

### 14 Avoiding Contact

Avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible.

### 15 Acquiring Right of Way

When acquiring right of way, a boat shall initially give the other boat *room and opportunity to keep clear*.

### 16 Changing Course

16.1 When R/W changes course, she shall give room to keep clear

16.2 When a port-tack boat is keeping clear, the starboard-tack boat shall not change course to require the port-tack boat to further change course to keep clear

### 17 On Same Tack, proper course

17.1 If a boat clear astern becomes overlapped to leeward of a boat on the same tack, she shall not

- sail above proper course while they remain overlapped. Does not apply if overlap begins while the windward boat is changing tacks.
- 17.2 Except on a beat to windward, while a leeward boat is within 2 boat lengths of a windward boat, the windward boat shall sail below her proper course.

### **Section C – At Marks and Obstructions**

*This section takes precedence over sections A & B*

#### 18 Rounding & Passing Marks or Obstructions

18.1 Applies when boats are about to round or pass a mark or obstruction on the same side until they have passed it. Does not apply when:

- a) at a starting mark surround by navigable water;
- b) between boats on opposite tacks when the proper course for one or both boats to round the mark or obstruction is to tack

#### 18.2 Giving Room; Keeping Clear

- a) *Overlapped* – Outside boat shall give inside boat room to pass mark or obstruction;
- b) *Overlapped at the Zone* – If overlapped before or at the two-length zone, then outside shall keep clear;
- c) *Not Overlapped at the Zone* – If not overlapped at the two-length zone, but overlap is established after reaching the two-length zone, then inside boat has no rights;
- d) *Changing course to Round or Pass* – Rule 16 (Changing Course) does not apply;
- e) *Overlap Rights* – If an outside boat cannot give room then 18.2(a) and 18.2(b) do not apply.

#### 18.3 Tacking at a Mark

Rule 18.2 does not apply when boats are approaching a mark on opposite tacks and one of them completes a tack within the two-length zone and the other is fetching the mark. The boat that tacked:

- a) shall not cause the other boat to sail above a close hauled course to avoid her or prevent the other boat from passing the mark; and
- b) shall give room if the other boat becomes overlapped inside her in which Rule 15 (Acquiring Right of Way) does not apply.

#### 18.4 Gybing

An inside boat shall sail no further from the mark or obstruction than needed to gybe at a mark.

#### 18.5 Passing a Continuing Obstruction

Rule 18.2(a) and 18.2(b) do not apply when boats are passing a continuing obstruction. A clear astern boat that obtains an inside overlap is entitled to room *only if* at the moment that the overlap begins, there is room to do so.

#### 19 Room to Tack at an Obstruction

19.1 When a close hauled boat needs to tack in order to avoid an obstruction but cannot tack and avoid another boat on the same tack, she shall hail for room to tack. Before tacking, the hailed boat shall either:

- a) tack as soon as possible, in which case the hailing boat shall also tack as soon as possible; or
- b) immediately reply "You tack", in which case the hailing boat shall tack as soon as possible and the hailed boat shall give room. Rules 10 & 13 do not apply.

19.2 Rule 19.1 does not apply at a starting mark surrounded by navigable water or at its anchor line from the time boats are approaching them to start until they have passed them or at a mark that the hailed boat can fetch.

### **Section D - Other Rules**

20 Starting Errors, Penalty Turn, Moving Astern

21 Capsized, Anchored or Aground, Rescuing

22 Interfering with another Boat

22.1 Boats not racing shall not interfere with boats that are racing;

22.2 A boat shall not deliberately interfere with a boat making penalty turns to delay her.

### **Part 3 - Conduct of a Race**

Rules 25 through 36