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**THE  
RACING RULES  
OF  
SAILING**

**for 2021–2024**

**Includes changes and corrections approved by World Sailing as of  
1 January 2021**

**World Sailing**

# BASIC PRINCIPLES

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## **SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE RULES**

Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of *rules* that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when a boat breaks a *rule* and is not exonerated she will promptly take an appropriate penalty or action, which may be to retire.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Participants are encouraged to minimize any adverse environmental impact of the sport of sailing.

## **PART 1**

## **FUNDAMENTAL RULES**

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### **1 SAFETY**

#### **1.1 Helping Those in Danger**

A boat, competitor or *support person* shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.

#### **1.2 Life-Saving Equipment and Personal Flotation Devices**

A boat shall carry adequate life-saving equipment for all persons on board, including one item ready for immediate use, unless her class rules make some other provision. Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions.

### **2 FAIR SAILING**

A boat and her owner shall compete in compliance with recognized principles of sportsmanship and fair play. A boat may be penalized under this rule only if it is clearly established that these principles have been violated. The penalty shall be a disqualification that is not excludable.



### **3 DECISION TO RACE**



The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue *racing* is hers alone.



### **4 ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES**



- 4.1 (a) By participating or intending to participate in an event conducted under the *rules*, each competitor and boat owner agrees to accept the *rules*.
- (b) A *support person* by providing support, or a parent or guardian by permitting their child to enter an event, agrees to accept the *rules*.
- 4.2 Each competitor and boat owner agrees, on behalf of their *support persons*, that such *support persons* are bound by the *rules*.
- 4.3 Acceptance of the *rules* includes agreement
- (a) to be governed by the *rules*;
- (b) to accept the penalties imposed and other action taken under the *rules*, subject to the appeal and review procedures provided in them, as the final determination of any matter arising under the *rules*;
- (c) with respect to any such determination, not to resort to any court of law or tribunal not provided for in the *rules*; and
- (d) by each competitor and boat owner to ensure that their *support persons* are aware of the *rules*.
- 4.4 The person in charge of each boat shall ensure that all competitors in the crew and the boat's owner are aware of their responsibilities under this rule.
- 4.5 This rule may be changed by a prescription of the national authority of the venue.

## **5 RULES GOVERNING ORGANIZING AUTHORITIES AND OFFICIALS**

The organizing authority, race committee, technical committee, protest committee and other race officials shall be governed by the *rules* in the conduct and judging of the event.

## **6 WORLD SAILING REGULATIONS**

**6.1** Each competitor, boat owner and *support person* shall comply with the World Sailing Regulations that have been designated by World Sailing as having the status of a *rule*. These regulations as of 30 June 2020 are the World Sailing:

- Advertising Code
- Anti-Doping Code
- Betting and Anti-Corruption Code
- Disciplinary Code
- Eligibility Code
- Sailor Categorization Code

**6.2** Rule 63.1 does not apply unless *protests* are permitted in the Regulation alleged to have been broken.