

Summary of changes for the new RRS 2021 - 2024. By John Ball

The new rules may be downloaded from

<https://www.sailing.org/documents/racingrules/index.php>

As you read them, most changes are noted by a change bar in the right margin.

These new rules come into effect on Jan 1st, 2021, however any event that began in late December 2020 into 2021, may continue to use the 2017-2020 version.

Overall impressions – Some re-numbering. Some wording changes for style that do not affect the meaning. Some items have moved to consolidate 'like' items. Some wording changes are meant to clarify rules to eliminate highly technical interpretations for Protest Hearings.

Some items have moved to Definitions.

Revised Definition of Start - Only hull counts as starting, not crew, nor equipment. – (Affects 29.1 Individual Recall, Rule 30, (I Z U and Black Flags). Should not affect RC sailing.

"Sail the Course" 'the string rule' is now a definition. Moved from RRS 28.

Hails A language other than English may be used for a hail required by the rules provided that it is reasonable for it to be understood by all boats affected. However, a hail in English is always acceptable.

Changes to Part 2 – the main racing rules section,

Some wording changes for style, but the intent of the new wording is similar to the old version. Items involving Exoneration have been moved from R 14 and R 21 and are now consolidated under RRS 43.1. As a result, R 21 was eliminated, and then R 22 through 24 were renumbered to 21 through 23.

Other wording changes to clarify when and how Exoneration applies. With the substitution of 'is exonerated' for 'shall be exonerated', and the removal of the 'when a boat is compelled' provision from R 64.1, it is now clear that Exoneration is immediate, and a penalty not required. Exoneration occurs at the time of the incident, and boats acting in the belief that they are exonerated are not breaking rule 2.

R 16.2 is reworded (P ducking S)

R 18 ends when mark room has been given (moved to 18.1 from 18.2)

R 18.3 "Tacking in the Zone" has been changed to "Passing Head to Wind in the Zone". The effect is exactly the same, and reflects that a tack begins when you pass HTW.

Protest Hearing Changes

Hearsay allowed in hearings

Standard of proof, PC chairman gets additional vote to break tie.

Removes the DSQ option for R2, so the only penalty for that will be DNE (Do not Exclude- ie non-droppable).

New Scoring Option - RC may score a boat that does not complete the course as NSC (did not sail the course) without a hearing.

Appendix E Changes for RC sailing

Various rules are reworded for style without change to meaning.

There are some important changes.

E1.3 Changes to Parts 1, 2, and 7

E1.3(b) requires that hails for Room to Tack under rules 20.1 and 20.3 shall include the words **'room'** and **'tack'** and the **sail number of the hailing boat**, in any order.

E2 Additional Rules while racing

E2.1 Hailing Requirements

(a) A hail shall be made and repeated as appropriate so that the competitors to whom the hail is directed might reasonably be expected to hear it.

As a result of this change, the phrase 'and repeat' has been removed from several other rules.

E3.9 Disabled Competitors

The race committee may make or permit reasonable arrangements to assist disabled competitors to compete on as equal terms as possible. A boat or the competitor controlling her that receives any such assistance, including help from a support person, does not break rule 41.

Note. There is a suggested wording to be included in your event NOR that will compliment this wording.

E4.2 Outside Help – help from RC is more general than previous.

(c) when the boat is disabled or in danger, help from the race committee;

E4.3 Taking a Penalty

E4.3(b) if the boat gained an advantage in the heat or race by her breach despite taking a penalty, her penalty shall be additional One Turn Penalties until her advantage is lost;

This clarifies that multiple turns may be required and removes the ambiguous wording of the old version.

A suggested wording for your NOR for sailors with disabilities.

For your NOR, here is some suggested wording for your **Section 2 Eligibility**, that works in conjunction with the new E9.

Competitors with a disability who require any form of help or special requirements should, prior to entry, get in touch with the club contact to confirm that suitable arrangements can be made. The onus is on the competitor to establish whether the available facilities are suitable and, if necessary, provide a suitable support person