

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 86.1(b)

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To allow the Notice of Race to properly change a racing rule.

Proposal

1. Change rule 86.1(b) as follows:

86 CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES

86.1 A racing rule shall not be changed unless permitted in the rule itself or as follows:

(a) Prescriptions of a national authority may change a racing rule, but not the Definitions; a rule in the Introduction; Sportsmanship and the Rules; Part 1, 2 or 7; rule 42, 43, 69, 70, 71, 75, 76.3, 79 or 80; a rule of an appendix that changes one of these rules; Appendix H or N; or ISAF Regulation 19, 20, 21 or 22.

(b) Sailing instructions **or the notice of race** may change a racing rule by referring specifically to it and stating the change, but not rules 76.1 or 76.2, Appendix R, or a rule listed in rule 86.1(a).

2. Change rule J1.2(1) to incorporate the principles contained in rule J2.2(3).

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Rule changes that are needed by competitors to decide if they should enter the event or are needed well in advance for adequate preparation must be included in the Notice of Race. Consequently, notice of the future change is included in the notice of race and the actual change occurs in the sailing instructions. This adds unnecessary complexity to managing these documents.
 2. By the definition *Rule*, the notice of race and the sailing instructions have equal standing. Including (a) the intention to change a rule and (b) the actual change of the rule in two separate documents with different wording can lead to differences of interpretation which rule 63.7 cannot resolve.
 3. Many current event documents contain invalid '*rules*', as rule changes included in the Notice of Race that are not repeated in the Sailing Instructions. While it is easy to criticise the
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authors for poor drafting, this situation remains unhelpful for competitors and officials. Disputes will be avoided by this submission and that is for the benefit of all enjoying the sport.

4. In general, duplication between documents should be avoided where ever possible. This reduces the chances of conflicting rules and simplifies the documents that govern our sport.
 5. The RRC has a working party established that is reviewing the current Appendices J, K, L and LE to bring them into line with current practice, to make them more user friendly to the authors of event documentation and to make them easier for competitors by making them clearer, simpler and more consistent from event to event. This submission is important to give direction for this work.
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