

STUDY RACING RULES OF SAILING (RRS)

Knowing sailing rules is a MUST in sailboat racing, particularly in one design and around the buoys racing. Such racing is in close proximity to other boats, many of whom are using racing tactics. A working knowledge of rules is necessary in order to make quick and correct decisions on the race course.

Generally, the "Fundamental" rules (part 1 RRS) and "When Boats Meet" rules (part 2 RRS) plus penalties and starting procedures are the most important items to know.

Interestingly, the Racing Rules of Sailing are covered in 6 pages. Seems rather simple one would think!! However, Dave Perry's book "Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing" takes 200 larger pages to further explain the rules and gives examples.

A simplified and concise summary of the basic rules follows:

FUNDAMENTAL RULES PART 1 RRS

- help others in trouble, may need to stop racing
- fair sailing, adhere to Rules, and be a good sport

RACING RULES SIMPLIFIED PART 2 RRS

10. Starboard tack has Right Of Way (ROW), port tack keeps clear

11. Windward boat keeps clear of leeward boat

12. Boat astern keeps clear of boats ahead

13. Boat tacking keeps clear of other boats

14. Avoid collisions

15/16 ROW boat shall give time for others to keep clear

17. If gaining an overlap from clear astern, do not sail above proper course (there are exceptions)

18. Give inside boat room at marks (more complicated parts)

- WHEN VIOLATING A RULE, TAKE PENALTY!
- AVOID COLLISIONS!