

RRS / ERS from 2025 onwards

A single rules book covering the Racing Rules and Equipment Rules

A submission from the Equipment Committee Chair

Purpose or Objective

To aim for universality of the Equipment Rules of Sailing and provide stakeholders with a single rules book covering both the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS).

Proposal 1

Make the majority of the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) as from 2025-2028 universally applicable and indicate which content of the Equipment Rules of Sailing may be changed by Class Rules.

To this effect the current structure of the ERS would be maintained and rules considered optional would be listed in the introduction (similar to the statement about the ERS rules that Class Rules can change)

Proposal 2

Merge the two publications RRS and ERS into a single publication as from 2029-2032 with two equivalent sections:

- the Racing Rules of Sailing;
- the Equipment Rules of Sailing.

The first section remains under the responsibility of the Racing Rules Committee, the second section remains under responsibility of the Equipment Committee.

The Equipment Rules would in such a context include all equipment related rules, also the ones currently part of the Racing Rules of Sailing and their appendices.

Current Position

Currently the RRS 2021-2024 and ERS 2021-2024 exist as totally separate publications

Reasons

Proposal 1

1. Based on a first analysis, about 95% of the Equipment Rules of Sailing can be universally applied. The remaining 5% can be considered optional and may be changed by Class Rules.
 2. The last cycles see an increase in willingness of World Sailing Classes to convert their class rules to the SCR-format. Making the majority of the Equipment Rules of Sailing universal supports that process and allows to get all remaining classes to make the move to SCR-format. As such a single style of rules would become applicable to all.
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Proposal 2

1. With the Equipment Rules of Sailing to major extent universally applicable, both Rules sets reach a stage where universal applicability can be underlined and both sets brought into a single rules book.
 2. With rules books no longer automatically published in printed versions, an opportunity is being created to bring everything together.
 3. In order to keep a clear and workable setting, the Racing Rules section would remain under the responsibility of the Racing Rules Committee; the Equipment Rules section would be under the responsibility of the Equipment Committee. This separation of responsibilities doesn't exclude the need for consultation (e.g. through the joint WP)
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