

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Case

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

A new case that provides useful interpretations on the definition *sail the course* and rule 28.1.

Proposal

Add the following new case to *The Case Book*:

CASE XXX

Definition, Sail the Course

Rule 28.1, Sailing the Race

A leg of a course does not end until the mark ending it has been left on the required side. When a boat leaves a mark on her wrong side, it is only at that mark that she must unwind and round to correct her course. Her course around any subsequent marks, between making her mistake and correcting it, is not relevant to the 'string test'.

Assumed Facts

A boat leaves a mark on her wrong side. She rounds one or more further marks correctly. She then realises her error.

Question

May she return directly to the mark concerned, there to correct her mistake? Or must she first retrace her course via the other marks to unwind her string?

Answer

She may return directly to the mark concerned. A leg has not been completed until the mark ending it has been left on the required side. A boat that makes an error by leaving a mark on the wrong side will fail the string test described in the definition Sail the Course unless she returns to correct her error. If she continues to sail the course, later marks have a required side as if she had not made an error. However, when a boat begins to return to correct an error, she resumes sailing the leg on which she made her error and all marks she has rounded or passed since making the error no longer have a required side. When her string is drawn taut, it will not catch on those later marks, which become relevant again only when her error has been corrected, after which they must be rounded or passed correctly.

Current Position

None. The case is new.

Reason

1. The case provides a clear interpretation of an aspect of the rule which is often confused.
-