

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 40

A submission from the German Sailing Federation (Deutscher Segler-Verband)

Purpose or Objective

Amendment of rule 40 to the effect that class rules may prescribe that personal flotation devices shall be worn.

Option 1

40.1 Basic Rule

When rule 40.1 is made applicable by rule 40.2, each competitor shall wear a personal flotation device except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices. **Class rules may prescribe that rule 40.1 applies at all times while afloat.**

Option 2

40.2 When Rule 40.1 Applies

Rule 40.1 applies

- (a) if flag Y was displayed afloat with one sound before or with the warning signal, while *racing* in that race; or
- (b) if flag Y was displayed ashore with one sound, at all times while afloat that day.

However, rule 40.1 applies when so stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions. **Class rules may prescribe that rule 40.1 applies at all times while afloat.**

Option 3

40.2 When Rule 40.1 Applies

Rule 40.1 applies

- (c) if flag Y was displayed afloat with one sound before or with the warning signal, while *racing* in that race; or
- (d) if flag Y was displayed ashore with one sound, at all times while afloat that day.

However, rule 40.1 applies when so stated in the **class rules,** notice of race or sailing instructions.

Current Position

as above

Reasons

1. More and more dinghy and multihull classes (e.g., Cadet, Contender, Europe, Formula 18, Nacra 15, Nacra 17, O'pen Skiff, OK Dinghy, Optimist) specify in their class rules that personal flotation devices shall be worn. However, based on rule 86.1(c) class rules cannot change rule 40 and any changes are not valid (see Case 85) Therefore the application of rule 40 has to be re-stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions to take effect. This is not practicable and may cause confusion.
 2. Especially for youth classes wearing a personal flotation device at all times while afloat is an important part of the safety concept and has become the class standard in many classes.
 3. Adding the class rules in either way of Options 1 to 3 to rule 40 would allow to apply the class rules and by this create consistency as it is no longer the decision of the organising authority to apply the class standard and the intended rule.
 4. The change would only allow to opt-in (make rule 40.1 applicable) and to opt-out (a class would not be able to create a class rule prescribing that no personal flotation devices are needed/to be worn which would be the case if rule 40 was added to the list of rules that may be changed by the class rules in rule 86.2(c)).
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