

Racing Rules of Sailing

Definition Proper Course

A submission from the Chair of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To solve a problem created by the change made to the definition Proper Course.

This submission is to be considered as a late submission under World Sailing regulation 15.7.

Proposal 1

Proper Course A course a boat would choose in order to ~~complete the leg she believes she is on as soon~~ ***sail the course*** as quickly as possible in the absence of the other boats referred to in the rule using the term. A boat has no *proper course* before her starting signal.

Proposal 2

Proposal 1 is an urgent matter of pressing importance that she should be approved to take effect on January 1, 2025.

Current Position

As above

Reasons

After the 2025-2028 RRS were published, some rule experts drew the RRC's attention to an unintended consequence of the new definition of "Proper Course" that will affect how rule 18.4 is applied and how boats sail when rounding a leeward mark.

The RRC agrees that the safest solution is to replace the 2025-2028 RRS definition with the one from the 2021-2024 RRS (with a minor change) for the next four years and to continue discussing a possible change in the future.

The proposed change in Proposal 1 is urgent, as the 2025-2028 RRS will take effect on January 1, 2025. The definition of "Proper Course" appears in several rules and is a concept frequently used in everyday racing. If not updated, sailors, coaches, and officials might understand and apply this fundamental definition inconsistently.
