

Racing Rules of Sailing

Definition Obstruction

A submission from the Chair of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To solve a problem created by the changes made to the definition Obstruction.

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

Proposal 1

Obstruction An *obstruction* is

- (a) an object that a boat could not pass without changing course substantially, if she were sailing directly towards it and one of her hull lengths from it;
- (b) an object, **area or line** that is so designated in a *rule*; or
- (c) an object that can be safely passed on only one side.
- ~~(d) an area or line in a rule that boats are prohibited from entering or crossing.~~

However, a boat *racing* is not an *obstruction* to other boats unless they are required to *keep clear* of her or, if rule 22 applies, avoid her.

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 the RRC has found an unintended consequence of the current point (d) in the definition, which will affect how rules apply in the starting area. Proposal 1 will eliminate the problem.

The proposed change in Proposal 1 is urgent, as the 2025-2028 RRS will take effect on January 1, 2025. The current definition of Obstruction will change the game at every start.
