

## Racing Rules of Sailing

### Definition Obstruction

A submission from Australian Sailing

#### Purpose or Objective

To clarify which rules apply at a finishing mark if that mark is a relatively large vessel.

#### Proposal

Amend the Definition - Obstruction as follows:

**Obstruction** 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. An object that can be passed on only one side and an object, area or line so designated by the sailing instructions are also *obstructions*. 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. ~~A vessel under way, including a boat racing, is never a continuing obstruction.~~ **A vessel under way, including a boat racing and a committee vessel which is also a mark are never continuing obstructions.**

#### Current Position

See above.

#### Reasons

It is possible that, in some conditions, a large Committee Vessel could be considered to be a continuing obstruction and we are aware of this matter being discussed at some events.

It is desirable for rule 18 to apply throughout the passing of the finish mark and not to confuse things by having to consider if the CV might be a continuing obstruction where rule 19 would apply.

This language makes it clear that a vessel used as a mark is never a continuing obstruction.

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