

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Rule 6, and L24

A submission from US SAILING

Purpose or Objective

To take a specific and enforceable step toward the goal of preserving the environment in which we compete.

Proposal

Add the following new rule to Part 1 – Fundamental Rules:

6 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Participants are encouraged to minimize the environmental impact of the sport of sailing. A competitor shall not intentionally put trash in the water.

Appendix L

24 TRASH DISPOSAL

~~Boats shall not put trash in the water.~~ Trash may be placed aboard support and race committee boats.

Current Position

Rule 6 is new. Appendix L, instruction 24: as above.

Reasons

This rule introduces, as a fundamental principle, the widely-accepted proposition that participants in the sport of sailing should take an active role in protecting the environment. There are many actions that all participants can and should take in that direction, but most are difficult or impossible to enforce or not practical for all events. However, a ban on putting trash in the water is enforceable and easily implemented at all events.

The proposed rule requires that the act of putting trash in the water be intentional, to prevent a boat from being penalized, for example, for capsizing and not being able to retrieve objects that might be categorized as trash.

The proposal moves a widely-used sailing instruction from the Sailing Instruction Guide (Appendix L) into the main body of rules.
