

Racing Rules of Sailing

Definition Finish

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

Amend the definition Finish to require the crew to be in contact with the boat when finishing.

Proposal

Finish A boat *finishes* when, **with all her crew in physical contact with the boat** any part of her hull, or crew or equipment in normal position, crosses the finishing line in the direction of the course from the last *mark*, either for the first time, or after taking a penalty under rule 44.2 or, after correcting an error made at the finishing line, ~~under rule 28.1.~~

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

ISAF Racing Rules Q&A 2008-002 states that a boat will finish with a crew member detached from the boat provided the crew as a whole are not attempting to progress the boat in the race. The implications of the answer given include a scenario that, perhaps downwind or in a favourable tide, the boat will finish correctly if the crew member is swept across the finishing line while the boat is swept outside the line. This is an undesirable outcome and is open to abuse.

The proposed change states the boat will not finish a race unless the crew are in contact with the boat when finishing but, as in the current rules, the boat may be capsized. If the boat crosses the finishing line without all crew being in contact, she may recover her crew and then cross the finishing line again as this will be "correcting an error made at the finishing line". This is analogous to taking a turns penalty and then recrossing the finishing line.

The words "under rule 28.1" are redundant in relation to errors such as hook finishes and must be deleted to allow a boat to refinish after recovering a crew member who may have fallen overboard.

This revised definition will not prevent sailing instructions amending rule 47.2 for some big boat or long distance events to allow crew changes during the race. The word 'crew' in the definition can only refer to the crew at the time.
