

TEACHING THE RACING RULES... AND MANAGING OPEN PROTEST HEARINGS

Dave Perry





You know you have
effectively taught sailors
the rules when_____



I hear.....and I forget
I see.....and I remember
I do.....and I understand

- ancient Chinese proverb



Learning the rules is like
learning a language...



- Make it age and level appropriate
- Be aware of different learning styles

- Ages 8-11 or beginner: show the patterns and “what” to do (not necessarily the “why”) – make it situational. Don’t discuss numbers or memorizing text.
- Ages 12-14 or intermediate: discuss the structure of the rules and what they actually say – focus on the “biggies:” rules of Part 2, Section A and B; basic rules in Section C; rules on touching marks (31), taking penalties (44) and propulsion (42); rules on how to protest (Part 5).
- Ages 15 and up or more advanced: expand into more tactical uses of the rules, and the nuances in the appeals for a deeper understanding and application.



Make it FUN !!!
Enthusiasm is Contagious !!!



You have three classrooms...

- On land – indoors
- On land – outside
 - On the water

- **On Land – indoors**
- use magnetic dry-erase marker board and model boats (available from US Sailing)
- have kids give an explanation of a rule (give them a day to prepare)
- put scenarios on board (live or hypothetical) and work through them
- look at video of situations and work through them
- create a “Rule of the Day” poster. Put pictures, rules quotes, appeals quotes, etc.
- create “mock hearing”
- do a quiz format (use quizzes from my book “100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes” published by US Sailing)

PART 2 – WHEN BOATS MEET

SECTION A – Right of Way

- 10 - On Opposite Tacks
- 11 - On the Same Tack, Overlapped
- 12 - On the Same Tack, Not Overlapped
- 13 - While Tacking

SECTION B – General Limitations

- 14 - Avoiding Contact
- 15 - Acquiring Right of Way
- 16 - Changing Course
- 17 – On the Same Tack; Proper Course

SECTION C – At Marks and Obstructions

- 18 – Mark-Room
- 18.1 – When Rule 18 Applies
- 18.2 – Giving Mark-Room
- 18.3 – Tacking in the Zone
- 18.4 – Gybing

SECTION C – At Marks and Obstructions (cont.)

- 19 - Room to Pass an Obstruction
- 19.1 - When Rule 19 Applies
- 19.2 – Giving Room at an Obstruction
- 20 - Room to Tack at an Obstruction
- 20.1 – Hailing
- 20.2 – Responding
- 20.3 – Passing on a Hail to an Additional Boat
- 21 - Exoneration

SECTION D – Other Rules

- 22 - Starting Errors; Taking Penalties; Moving Astern
- 23 - Capsized, Anchored or Aground; Rescuing
- 24 - Interfering with Another Boat

AN OVERVIEW OF THE RULES...

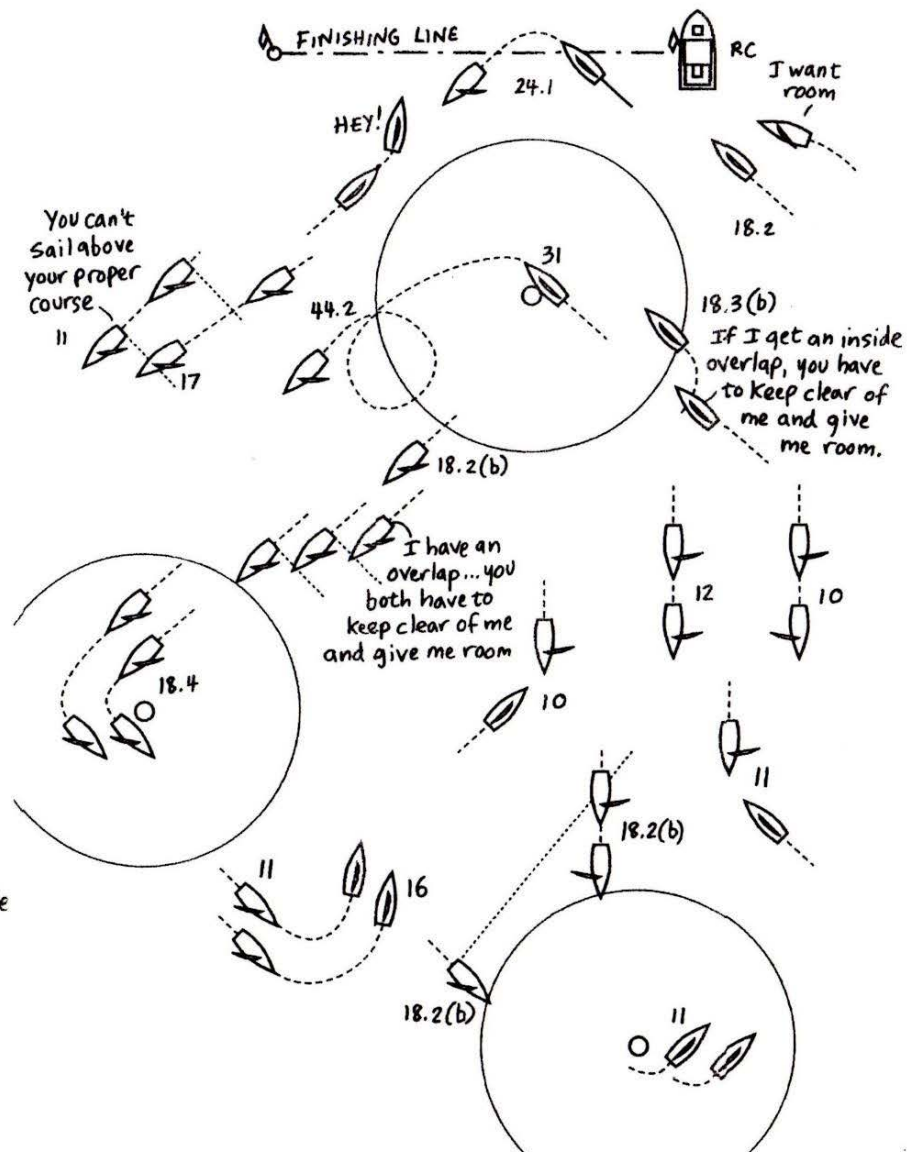
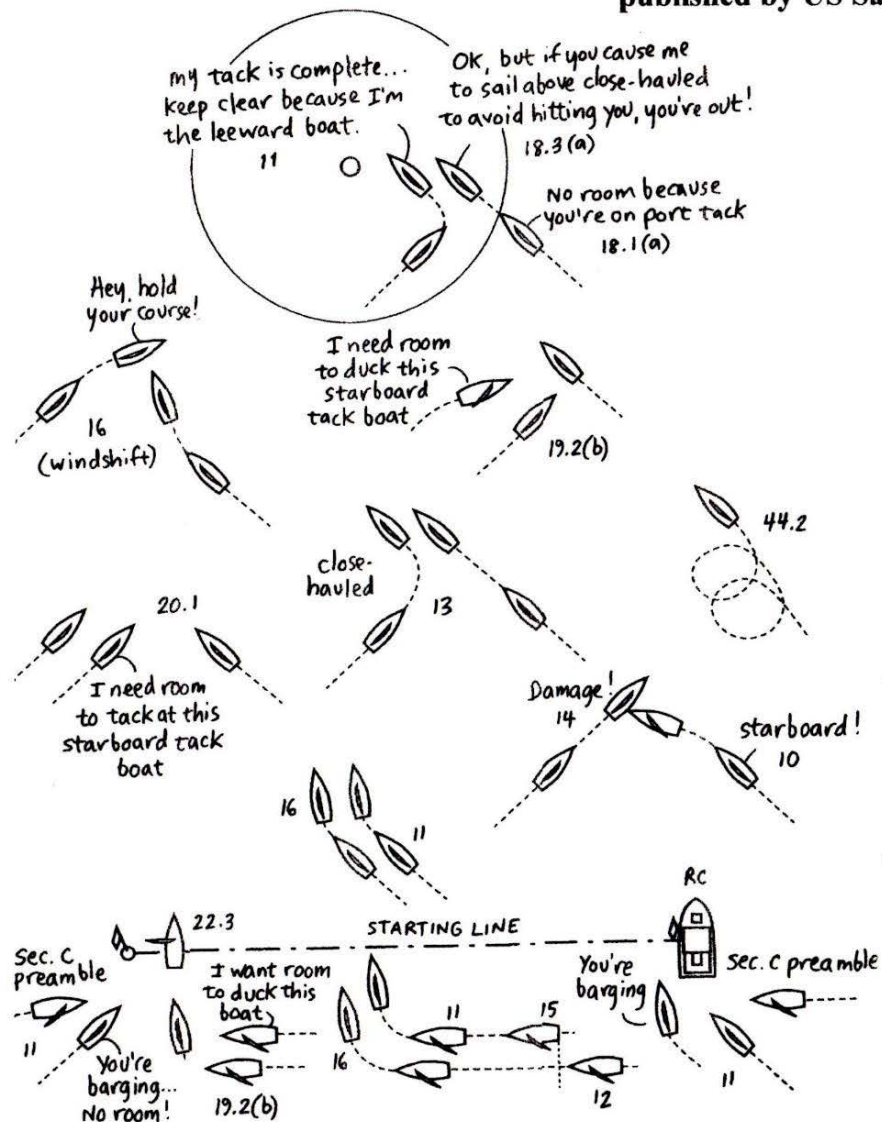
From Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing

by Dave Perry

illustration by Brad Dellenbaugh

published by US Sailing: www.ussailing.org

...FROM START TO FINISH



- **On Land – outside**
- “walk” boats through scenarios - use actual boats when possible
- set up marks, zones (with line), starting lines, etc.
- have sailors move boats, give explanations, etc.
- put smaller kids in the boats for more fun and interaction

- **On the Water**

- Practice starts with “live coaching” (vary the favored end)
- Starting line too short for all boats to fit at same time
- Extremely short beat (upwind start) or run (downwind start) – or start upwind, then reverse fleet and have them race to a nearby leeward mark
- Videotape races or sessions and do debrief on shore
- Pull boats aside right after incident and debrief while still fresh (have small dry-erase board in coach boat)
- Race around tiny track, keeping boats compressed
- Have sailors raise hands as they enter the zone; give feedback
- Create drills for ducking / slam dunking / lee-bowing
- Simulate rules situations right off the dock (with good sailors in boats and class on dock watching with an instructor doing “play by play”)



US Sailing JUDGES MANUAL

- Arbitration Process – section 9.5
- Open Hearing Process – section 6.7 & 8.4

An Arbitration Meeting

see RRS Appendix T, Section D



An Open Hearing





You can't teach well what
you don't know well!

- **Resources** (all available from US Sailing):
- *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (the rules book)
- *The Appeals Book and World Sailing Cases*
- *Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing*, by Dave Perry (includes the rule book and appeals quotes)
- *Dave Perry's 100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes*
- Dave Dellenbaugh's *Learn the Racing Rules* (a DVD also available from www.northu.com)
- US Sailing's *Sailor's Guide to the Racing Rules* (a simple, colorful explanation)
- Dick Rose's Rules column – *Sailing World* magazine
- Model boats (US Sailing Store > Racing > Race Management)
- Boat drawing programs (google TSS or Boat Scenario)
- Sail X online racing (www.sailx.com)

Orderly Competitive Racing!



Your Opinion Matters

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Thank you for attending this session