



## Ten Commandments of Racing

The Racing Rules of Sailing can be daunting and confusing to new sailors, but like any sport, we need rules to keep our sport orderly and enjoyable. These commandments are a very abbreviated list of the rules and are intended to give new sailors a minimum set of rules for local pond or club racing. They do not replace the RRS, but will help skippers gain familiarity with racing rules and how they apply on the water.

### ***Definitions***

The following definitions are key to understand how to apply the rules

Term	Definition
Clear Astern, Clear Ahead, Overlapped	A boat is clear astern of another when her hull and equipment are behind a line abeam of the aft-most part of the other boat. The other boat is clear ahead. They overlap when neither is clear astern.
Finish	A boat finishes when any part of her hull or equipment crosses the finish line from the course side.
Keep Clear	A boat keeps clear if a right-of-way boat can sail her course without having to take avoiding action, or if they are overlapped the right-of-way boat can change course in either direction without making contact.
Leeward, Windward	A boat's leeward side is the side on which her mainsail lies. The other side is her windward side. A boat is the windward boat when the other boat is on her leeward side.
Room	The space a boat needs in the existing conditions while manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way.
Start	A boat starts when having been entirely on the pre-start side of the line, any part of her hull or equipment crosses the line.
Tack, Starboard or Port	A boat is on the tack, Starboard or Port, corresponding to her windward side.
Zone	The area around a mark within four boat lengths of the mark.

## Rules

#	Rule	Comment
10	<b>On opposite tacks</b> When boats are on opposite tacks, a port-tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard-tack boat.	This is a fundamental rule and applies between boats on any point of sailing.
11	<b>On The Same Tack, Overlapped</b> When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat shall keep clear of a leeward boat.	See Definitions
12	<b>On The Same Tack, Not Overlapped</b> When boats are on the same tack and not overlapped, a boat clear astern shall keep clear of a boat clear ahead.	See Definitions
13	<b>While Tacking</b> After a boat passes head to wind she shall keep clear of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course.	You can luff a boat as far as head to wind. Further than that and you lose rights and must keep clear
14	<b>Avoiding Contact</b> A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible	A right-of-way boat need not act to avoid the contact until it's clear the other boat is not keeping clear
15	<b>Acquiring Right Of Way</b> When a boat acquires the right-of-way she shall initially give the other boat room to keep clear.	

#	Rule	Comment
16	<b>Changing Course</b> When a right-of-way boat changes course she shall initially give the other boat room to keep clear.	
17	<b>On The Same Tack; Proper Course</b> If a boat clear astern becomes overlapped within two of her hull lengths to leeward of a boat on the same tack she shall not sail above her proper course while they remain on the same tack and overlapped within that distance.	<p>“Proper course” is the course a boat would sail to finish as soon as possible in the absence of other boats. This doesn’t have to be a straight line to the next mark.</p> <p>Note that there is no proper course prior to the start.</p>
18	<b>Mark room</b> (i) When boats are overlapped approaching a mark, the outside boat must give the inside boat room to round, provided the overlap was established prior to the lead boat entering the Zone. (ii) A boat clear astern entering the zone must give room to a boat clear ahead. (iii) At the windward mark, a boat that enters the zone on port and tacks on to starboard tack to round the mark, must give room to any boat that entered the zone on starboard and is fetching the mark.	<p>This rule does not apply at a starting mark (so don’t barge in at the start), but does apply at a finishing mark.</p> <p>Part (ii) means that if you are not overlapped when you enter the zone, you cannot sail your boat between the mark and a boat ahead.</p> <p>Part (iii) means that at the windward mark, if you enter the zone on port then tack on to starboard to round the mark, you must not cause any boat coming into the zone on starboard to sail above close hauled.</p> <p>Note the definition of Room – in heavy weather you need to give an inside boat more space to execute the rounding manoeuvre.</p>

#	Rule	Comment
20	<b>Room To Tack At An Obstruction</b> A boat may hail for room to tack if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She is approaching an obstruction and;</li> <li>• Must make a substantial course change to avoid it and;</li> <li>• Is close hauled.</li> </ul>	The hailed boat must respond by tacking as soon as possible or responding “you tack”. The hailing boat must then tack as soon as possible. Note: The hailing boat only gets room to tack. Once the tack is completed, Rule 20 ceases to apply.

## Course Map For 10 Commandments

Basic Rules:  
 10 On Opposite Tacks  
 11 On Same Tack Overlapped  
 12 On Same Tack Not Overlapped  
 13 While Tacking  
 14 Avoiding Contact  
 15 Acquiring Right Of Way  
 16 Changing Course  
 20 Room To Tack At An Obstruction

