

May 1, 2022

TO: Organizers of sailors testing the **2022 Test Rule 18**
FROM: Dave Perry, Chair of the WS Rule 18 Working Party
RE: testing the **2022 Test Rule 18**

Thank you for your interest in helping us try to simplify rule 18, Mark-Room.

Test Rule Period

The 2022 Test Rule period is from May 15 – July 15, 2022. We need to submit a 2022 version of rule 18 to the WS Racing Rules Committee by August 1, 2022. There will be a subsequent testing period in 2023 as well.

How the Test will be Conducted

The WS Racing Rules Committee has approved the language for the **2022 Test Rule 18**, so individual fleets, etc. can simply use the test rule with no additional permissions needed.

Simply put this language in the Notice of Race (NoR): “The current version of Development Rule DR22-01 Rule 18, the preamble to Section C, and Mark-Room shall apply. See Addendum X.”

If the NoR has already been published, please publish an amendment to the NoR stating: “Amendment to the NoR. Add new NoR 1.x: ‘The current version of Development Rule DR22-01 Rule 18, the preamble to Section C, and Mark-Room shall apply. See Addendum X.’”

Here is the link to the **2022 Test Rule 18** (Addendum X):

[2022 Test Rule 18, Addendum X](#)

You can also find the **2022 Test Rule 18, Addendum X** at the end of this paper.

Translations

It is up to you if you want to translate the **2022 Test Rule 18** into a different language. Much of the language in the test rule is currently in the 2021-2024 RRS. For instance, the test definition Mark-Room is in Appendix C, rule C2.2, and the test rule 18.2(a) is also in Appendix C, rule C2.9 (with the omission of the term “thereafter”). Much of the other test rule language is in the current rules. If you do choose to translate the rule, please report to us any difficulties you encounter with particular words or phrases.

Zoom Sessions to Learn about the 2022 Test Rule 18

I will be holding three one-hour Zoom sessions in mid-May for any sailors and race officials using the **2022 Test Rule 18** in which I will explain what the significant differences are in the **2022 Test Rule 18**, what the specific things are that we are looking forward to getting feedback on, and answer any questions people may have before they start using the test rule.

Each session will be the same presentation, just staggered in days and times to make it easier for everyone around the world to find a session they can join. There will be no advance sign-up for these sessions; just show up. It will be expected that those joining will have read the **2022 Test Rule 18** before the session. The sessions will be in English. Please tell your sailors and race officials about these sessions.

The three mid-May Zoom sessions:

Tuesday, May 17 @ 2300 GMT (7:00 – 8:00pm New York, USA time)

Wednesday, May 18 @ 1700 UTC/GMT (7:00 – 8:00pm Paris, France time)

Thursday, May 19 @ 1100 UTC/GMT (7:00 – 8:00pm Perth, Australia time)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88291906388?pwd=L1psbmVlemhGN2huc25ickNhelJEZz09>

Mid-testing period Zoom Sessions

I will be holding three Zoom sessions in early June for anyone who has been using the **2022 Test Rule 18** to share any feedback, issues, questions they may have at that time.

The three early June sessions are (same Zoom link as in May):

Tuesday, June 7 @ 2300 UTC/GMT (7:00 – 8:00pm New York, USA time)

Wednesday, June 8 @ 1700 UTC/GMT (7:00 – 8:00pm Paris, France time)

Thursday, June 9 @ 1100 UTC/GMT (7:00 – 8:00pm Perth, Australia time)

End-of-test period Zoom Sessions

I will be holding three Zoom sessions in early July for anyone who has been using the **2022 Test Rule 18** to share any feedback, issues and ideas they may have at that time.

The three July sessions are (same Zoom link as in May):

Tuesday, July 5 @ 2300 UTC/GMT (7:00 – 8:00pm New York, USA time)

Wednesday, July 6 @ 1700 UTC/GMT (7:00 – 8:00pm Paris, France time)

Thursday, July 7 @ 1100 UTC/GMT (7:00 – 8:00pm Perth, Australia time)

End-of-test period Feedback

The World Sailing Racing Rules Committee and the Rule 18 Working Party want to hear from you on your experience with the **2022 Test Rule 18**. Below is the link to the **Feedback Form**, which will be available after June 1, 2022. Thank you for taking a few minutes to give us your feedback, issues, ideas, etc. on the **2022 Test Rule 18**. Your feedback will be sent to rules@sailing.org. Feedback can also be sent directly to rules@sailing.org.

[2022 Test Rule 18, Feedback Form](#)

Two informational papers on the 2022 Test Rule 18

At the link below, you will find two papers that give some more information on the **2022 Test Rule 18**:

- 1) A summary of the simplifications in the **2022 Test Rule 18**
- 2) A summary of the game changes caused by the **2022 Test Rule 18**

[2022 Test Rule 18, Information Papers](#)

Five specific differences in the 2022 Test Rule 18

Here are five (5) differences we would specifically like sailors and race officials to give us feedback on...

- 1) The change to the preamble to Section C means that the rules of Part 2, Section C, no longer apply at any time at a race committee boat that is one end of the starting line before boats have started. Those rules are rule 18 (Mark-Room), rule 19 (Room to Pass an Obstruction), and rule 20 (Room to Tack at an Obstruction).

The primary game change is that now leeward boats do not need to give windward boats room to pass to leeward of the race committee boat that is one end of the starting line at any time. This includes well before the starting signal when boats are passing astern of the committee boat to check the course board, get a line sight, or ping the end of the starting line, etc.

Please let us know if this is a good simplification, or if it causes any problems.

- 2) The change to the definition Mark-Room means that an inside boat entitled to mark-room can now sail her proper course (swing wide and cut close) to and around or past the leeward mark, whether she has the right of way or is the keep-clear boat. This means an inside keep-clear boat can sail a little wider than before when she was only entitled to sail her “seamanlike course.”

Please let us know if this is a good simplification, or if it causes any problems.

- 3) The changes to the definition Mark-Room and rule 18.1(b) mean that if a boat’s proper course at a mark that begins a downwind leg includes gybing, the boat can bear away and gybe as long as she remains “overlapped” with the mark. Once the mark is astern of her and she is on a course to begin sailing the next leg, rule 18 no longer applies, and the boat is no longer “protected” by rule 18.

Please let us know if this is a good simplification, or if it causes any problems.

- 4) The deletion of rule 18.2(f) means that a boat is required to give mark-room even if “she was unable to give mark-room from the time the overlap began.” This will require sailors to plan ahead so they don’t find themselves in the rare situation where they might not be able to give mark-room from the time the overlap begins.

Please let us know if this is a good simplification, or if it causes any problems.

- 5) The deletion of the second sentence in rule 18.4 means that, in the zone of a gate mark, when an inside overlapped boat has to gybe to sail her proper course, she can’t sail farther from the mark than her proper course and attack or interfere with an outside boat.

Note that if the inside boat is a right-of-way boat and her proper course is to sail over to and round the other mark, she can do that, just as she can under the current rule 18.4. The reason is because rule 18.4 only applies to a boat that must gybe at a mark in order to sail her proper course.

Please let us know if this is a good simplification, or if it causes any problems.

Please read this note before adding Addendum X to the Notice of Race:

Under Regulation 28.1.5(b), World Sailing has approved the use of these rules to determine if rule 18, the preamble to Section C, and the definition Mark-Room can be improved. When used, all the rules outlined below shall be adopted without any change.

These development rules shall not be used at an event where the marks being used are also used by events who are not using these development rules.

Races may be sailed under these rules only if the notice of race so states, with reference to the relevant version of these development rules, and that the rules are made available to all competitors.

These rules may be invoked by a NoR rule: “The current version of Development Rule DR22-01 Rule 18, the preamble to Section C, and Mark-Room shall apply. See Addendum X.”

If the NoR has already been published, an amendment to the NoR must be published stating: “Amendment to the NoR. Add new rule 1.x: ‘The current version of Development Rule DR22-01 Rule 18, the preamble to Section C, and Mark-Room shall apply. See Addendum X.’”

The rules shall be published as an attachment to the event NoR, or a description of where to find the rules shall be included.

Feedback in the form of a report to World Sailing is required, and suggestions for improvement shall be sent to rules@sailing.org within one month of the completion of any event adopting these rules.

When DR22-01 is used, the paragraphs above should be deleted.

Addendum X (for insertion in the NoR or amendment to the NoR)

Development Rule DR22-01 Rule 18, the preamble to Section C, and Mark-Room

This Development Rule has been approved by World Sailing in accordance with Regulation 28.1.5 (b) and shall be published as part of the NoR.

Version April 2022

Definition Mark-Room

Room for a boat to sail her proper course to round or pass the mark, and room to pass a finishing mark after finishing.

Preamble to Section C

*Section C rules do not apply at a starting **mark** surrounded by navigable water or at its anchor line.*

(more)

18 MARK-ROOM

18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

- (a) Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and at least one of them is in the *zone*. However, it does not apply
- (1) between boats on opposite *tacks* on a beat to windward or when the *proper course* at the *mark* for one but not both of them is to tack;
 - (2) between a boat approaching a *mark* and one leaving it, or
 - (3) if the *mark* is a continuing *obstruction*, in which case rule 19 applies.
- (b) Rule 18 no longer applies between boats when the boat entitled to *mark-room* has left the *mark* astern and is on a course to begin sailing the next leg, or is no longer *racing*.

18.2 Giving Mark-Room

- (a) When the first of two boats reaches the *zone*,
- (1) if the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat at that moment shall give the inside boat *mark-room*.
 - (2) if the boats are not *overlapped*, the boat that has not reached the *zone* at that moment shall give the other boat *mark-room*.
- (b) When a boat is required to give *mark-room* by rule 18.2(a), she shall continue to do so even if later an *overlap* is broken or a new *overlap* begins.
- (c) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* before the first of two boats reached the *zone*, it shall be presumed that she did not.
- (d) Rule 18.2(a) no longer applies if the boat entitled to *mark-room* passes head to wind or leaves the *zone*.
- (e) When rule 18.2(a) does not apply and the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat shall give the inside boat *mark-room*.

18.3 Tacking in the Zone

If a boat has passed head to wind in the *zone* and another boat was *fetching* the *mark* at that time,

- (a) rule 18.2 does not apply between them, and
- (b) at a *mark* to be left to port, if the other boat has been on *starboard tack* since entering the *zone*, the boat that tacked shall
 - (1) not cause the other boat to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact, and
 - (2) give *mark-room* if the other boat becomes *overlapped* inside her.

18.4 Gybing in the Zone

When an inside *overlapped* boat must gybe at a *mark* to sail her *proper course*, she shall not sail farther from the *mark* than needed to sail her *proper course* if this affects the choice of course of an outside boat.