



Dinghy Safety

A MESSAGE FROM ROYAL FRESHWATER BAY YACHT CLUB



Know Your Rules

There are 92 rules of sailing that govern behaviour and situations on the race course, preventing collisions and ensuring races are sailed fairly. These are the 10 most important:

1. Rule 1: A boat, competitor or support person shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.
2. Rule 2: A boat shall compete in compliance with principles of sportsmanship and fair play.
3. Rule 3: The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue racing is hers alone.
4. Rule 14: A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if feasibly possible.
5. Rule 10: When boats are on opposite tacks, a port tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard tack boat.
6. Rule 11: When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat shall keep clear of a leeward boat.
7. Rule 12: When boats are on the same tack and not overlapped, a boat clear astern shall keep clear of a boat clear ahead.
8. Rule 13: After a boat passes head-to-wind, she shall keep clear of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course.
9. Rule 18: Mark-room. A very complex rule, but the main point is that a boat with inside overlap is entitled to room to round the mark in a seamanlike manner.
10. Rule 42: Propulsion. A boat shall compete by using only the wind and water to increase, maintain or decrease her speed.

RFBYC recommends all competitors and support persons read the full rulebook, which can be found online by searching 'Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024.'

Safety - its everyone's responsibility