

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 14

A submission from the Chair of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

Improve rule 14 to include other forms of contact that should be avoided.

Proposal

Delete the text of rule 14 and replace it with:

14 AVOIDING CONTACT

If reasonably possible, a boat shall

- (a) avoid contact with another boat,**
- (b) not cause contact between boats, and**
- (c) not cause contact between a boat and an object that should be avoided.**

However, a right-of-way boat or one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not *keeping clear* or giving *room* or *mark-room*.

Current Position

14 AVOIDING CONTACT

A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible. However, a right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the *room* or *mark- room* to which she is entitled, need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not *keeping clear* or giving *room* or *mark-room*.

Reasons

1. The current rule 14 only refers to contact with another boat. The rule should also require boats to not cause contact.
 2. This rule has been used since 2019 in the America's Cup, since 2020 in the High Speed Rules and since 2021 in Appendix UF. There have been no negative experiences with racing using this rule.
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