

## Racing Rules of Sailing

Definition Rule, Preamble to Basic Principles, Rule 86.1(a)

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

### Purpose or Objective

To make it clear that the Basic Principles are not *rules*.

### Proposals

Proposal 1. Change the definition *Rule* (a) as shown below:

#### ***Rule***

- (a) The rules in this book, including the Definitions, Race Signals, Introduction, preambles and the rules of relevant appendices, but not **the Basic Principles** titles;  
*No further change.*

Proposal 2. Change rule 86.1(a) as shown below:

## **86 CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES**

**86.1** A racing rule shall not be changed unless permitted in the rule itself or as follows:

- (a) Prescriptions of a national authority may change a racing rule, but not the Definitions; ~~the Basic Principles~~; a rule in the Introduction; Part 1, 2 or 7; rule 42, 43, 47, 50, 63.4, 69, 70, 71, 75, 76.3 or 79; a rule of an appendix that changes one of these rules; Appendix H or N; or a rule in a World Sailing Code listed in rule 6.1.  
*No further change.*

Proposal 3. Add the following preamble to BASIC PRINCIPLES:

*The Basic Principles shall not be changed.*

### Current Position

As above; however, in Proposal 3 the preamble is new.

### Reasons

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1. The current definition *Rule* and rule 86.1(a) are not consistent with one another. The current definition *Rule* does not include the Basic Principles and, therefore, the Basic Principles are not *rules*. However, rule 86.1, while stating that Basic Principles may not be changed, implies that the Basic Principles are rules. Now that this ambiguity has been publicized by Submissions 039-23 and 201-23 and the discussion of them, it is important and logical that the ambiguity should be removed.
  2. Proposals 1, 2 and 3 make it clear that the Basic Principles cannot be changed and, in addition, that they are not *rules*.
  3. These important changes are matters of pressing importance.
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