

2024-2025 ICOSA Rules Committee

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The rules committee met several times this fall season. We recognize that as a committee, we need to be meeting more often, specifically after each ICOSA meeting to implement any changes to the PRs that were voted on and approved. Additionally, a large amount of time was spent reviewing the new RRS for 2025-2028. Every four years, a lengthy review needs to be conducted to ensure that our Procedural Rules are referencing the correct RRS numbers with the changes made. In this review process we noted a couple areas where our PRs had at some point through formatting or oversight, started to refer to different rules.

[Redlined Version of PRs with Rule Changes](#)

At this meeting, we have four areas of review for the Board of Directors to look at.

1. New rule number references that have changed with the 2025-2028 RRS
 - a. These have no substantive change
 - b. A handful of changes have been made where the PRs referenced themselves, but the incorrect rule was referenced, these also have no substantive change
2. Procedural rules that have been changed or omitted accidentally at some point
3. Rule changes or additions from the 2024 Annual Meeting that were approved, but not yet implemented
4. Rules or ideas that our committee thinks the board should consider

1. New Rule Numbers

As always there are rules that were changed and we need to reflect that in our PRs. This quad of the rules there was a significant re-write to Part 5 of the rules which govern all hearings.

These changes can be found here: [Rule Number Changes](#)

2. Rules that have been accidentally changed or omitted

- Procedural Rule 4
 - This is the rule that states what procedural rules are allowed to be modified by SIs or notices of race.
 - Has always said “may change only Procedural Rules of Part IV (except PR18(e) and 21), PR 29, 30, 32 and appendices E, F, or G.”
 - However, rule 21 used to be regatta reports, and now rule 21 is conduct of regattas.
 - We are proposing Rule 4 be modified to read “(except PR 18(e) and 20)”

- Life jackets
 - PR 13c is the rule that states that PFDs must be worn at all times
 - Somehow we lost the language that says its ok to take it off for brief periods of time to change clothing, we are proposing adding this wording back in

3. Rule changes from 2024 Annual Meeting

- Practice at national championship sites
 - This option was voted on at the annual meeting via a straw poll. This received 100% of the vote during the straw poll
 - We propose PR 27 be changed to read as follows: “Once the selected colleges for an ICSA National Championship are announced, members of the colleges that have qualified for that Championship shall sail neither at the site or in the boats to be used in the Championship until the first day of competition for that Championship.”
- Two changes to the championship conditions were approved at the 2024 annual meeting. We have worked with the competition committee to ensure that the wording is an accurate reflection of the intent of the vote

4. Areas that our committee thinks the board should consider

- For action - Procedural Rule 4
 - Hosts are currently able to change A LOT of what we consider to be fundamental rules to college sailing
 - A list of some completely legal SIs modifications is here: [Examples of PR Changes by SIs](#)
 - We advise that the board direct either the rules committee, competition committee, or a joint working group, to review PR 4 and come to the annual meeting with a recommendation for changes
- For discussion - Team race spins
 - In 2025, RRS D2.2(b) now states: “An umpire may penalize any boat that broke a rule, is not exonerated, and did not take the appropriate penalty.”
 - This means that boats can now do a “safety spin” and still protest
 - This rule was written in to the 2024 Hinman SIs, Chief umpire said his team utilized this rule a lot, and liked being able to penalize the “correct” boat
 - Is this what ICSA wants?
- For discussion - Damage Chart for Team Racing
 - This idea was brought to our committee by one of MAISA’s regular umpires, Doc Sullivan
 - This is standard practice for Match Racing
 - Would help to ensure standardization of penalties when damage is involved
 - An example of a damage chart is linked here: [Damage Appendix DRAFT](#)
- For discussion - PR 26 Excluding a school from an event after damage
 - Recommend adding in some guidelines here for when this can be done, or requirements for a jury of non college coaches in order to exclude a team from using boats
- For discussion - PR 29c & Appendix E- Race committee / Judge protesting a competitor
 - Recommend changing the word “may” to shall

- Allows the sailor(s) to take a penalty in the moment
- For discussion - [US Sailing Appeal 127](#) - Rule 41 Outside Assistance and defining “danger”
 - Recommend adding a procedural rule to “revert” rule 41 back to the 2017-2020 set of rules
 - This allows a boat to receive assistance for safety reasons, continue racing and be scored, BUT if a competitor feels like the boat gained an advantage they can be protested and disqualified for breaking rule 41