

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is centered in a clean, sans-serif font.

# Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024

# A snapshot of some of the more pertinent RRS changes for 2021-2024

- ▶ Not an all encompassing analysis of the rules changes.
- ▶ This is just my opinion of more pertinent changes for a quick online talk.
- ▶ Obviously, there are a lot of changes to the book. Many are relocation, renumbering, or have relatively small impact. Those can be covered by a comprehensive reading of Dave Perry's document.
- ▶ My topics tonight are listed in the order of the RRS Book. Not in order of significance.
- ▶ All information is my take on the rule changes, and I do not claim to be the expert. Quite the contrary. When Commodore Henderson contacted me for this project, I strongly suggested, and then solicited Dave Perry to conduct this online talk to the DRYA. Regretfully, the DRYA budget had been sacked, and I was a freebie. So be advised, you get what you pay for.

# If you want “real” expert advice on RRS changes for 2021-2024

Dave Perry developed a detailed list of significant rule changes in the 2021-2024 RRS, and it is readily available in the public domain at:

<https://cdn.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/URRS-Significant-Changes-by-Dave-Perry-December-10-2020.pdf>

Additionally, Dave has two new learning tool books available,

- ▶ Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing thru 2024, and
- ▶ The 100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes

These can be purchased:

<https://shop.ussailing.org/racing/racing-rules/>

If your really a nerd, a red-lined study version of the rules changes can be found at:

[https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/StudyVersion20212024WorldSailingRacingRulesofSailing-\[26383\].pdf](https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/StudyVersion20212024WorldSailingRacingRulesofSailing-[26383].pdf)

# Pertinent Rules Changed

## RRS - Definitions

- ▶ The Definition of Start and, the Definition of Finish  
~~*“Crew or Equipment in normal position”*~~  
has been eliminated.
- ▶ When the “Hull” breaks the plane
  - ❑ Bow Sprits are not “Hull”.
  - ❑ Makes close calls easier for Race Committees.
- ▶ Has been used on Match Racing for years.

# Pertinent Rules Changed

## RRS - Definitions

### The Definition of Start and, the Definition of Finish (Continued)

- ▶ So all associated rules have incorporated this nuance. OCS, returning to start, Individual Recall, U Flag, Black Flag, I Flag, Z Flag.
- ▶ When finishing, Easing halyards, sheets, or guy won't help.
- ▶ This most likely is in anticipation of a future where electronic units will be placed on the bow, and sending / recording starts and finishers.
- ▶ **Don't confuse this when considering overlap!**

## Pertinent Rules Changed

### RRS - 16.2 Changing Course

In my opinion, this is the most significant change in the new rulebook.

- **Change in language** - In addition, on a **beat to windward** when **after the starting signal** a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass **astern** to leeward of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not **change course** **bear away** if as a result the *port-tack* boat **would immediately need to** must change course immediately to continue *keeping clear*.

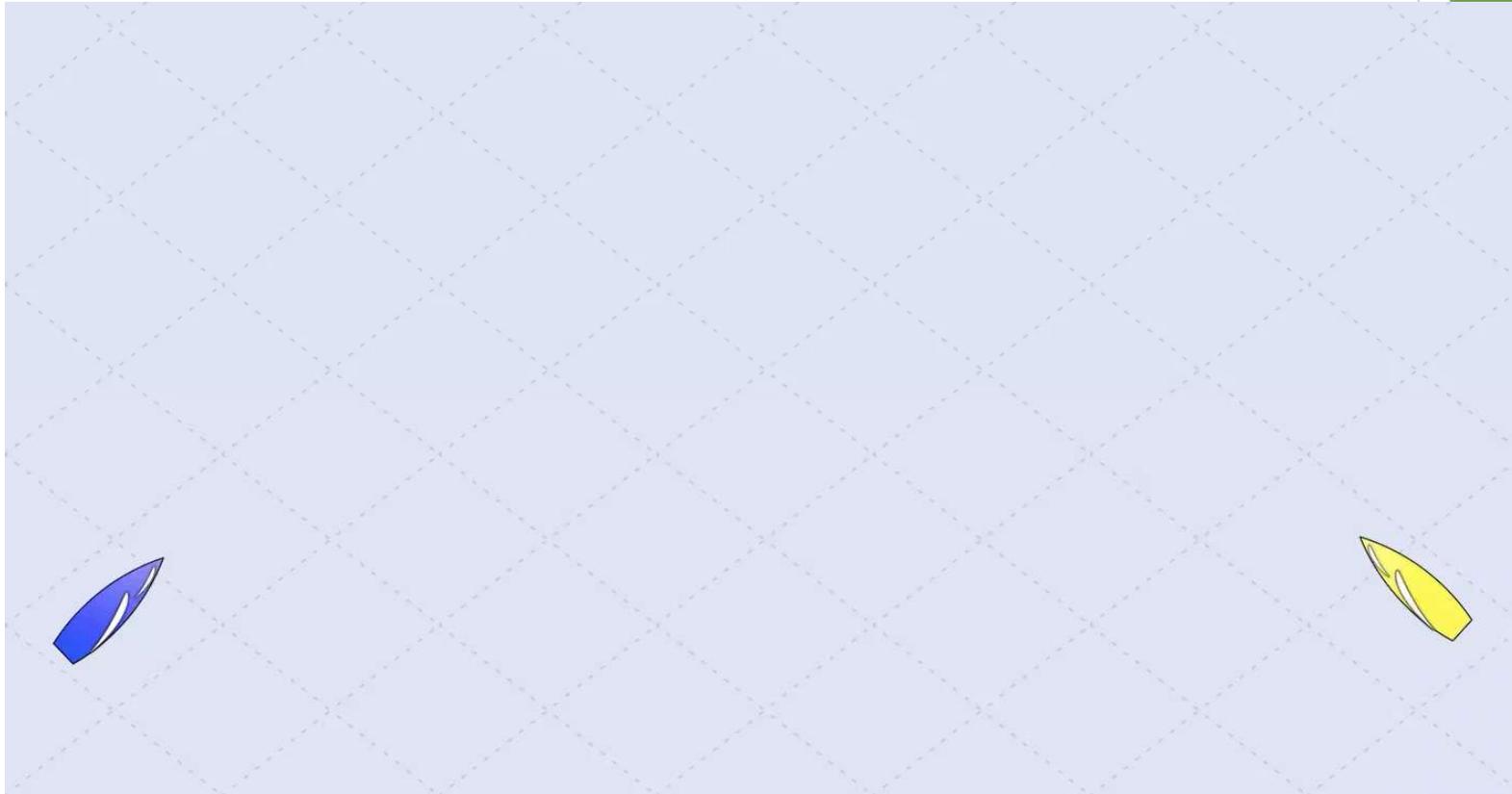
## Pertinent Rules Changed

### RRS - 16.2 Changing Course

#### (Continued)

- ▶ 16.2 **ONLY** applies on the beat to windward.
- ▶ Deleted “**after the starting signal**” but hunting is still legal before the start, because you are not on a beat to windward yet.
- ▶ On a beat to windward, like in the old rules, Starboard **STILL** can't bear away to hunt as Port starts her duck, but **NOW**, Starboard can change course the other way, and luff up.

## Bear Away Hunt - It's still illegal



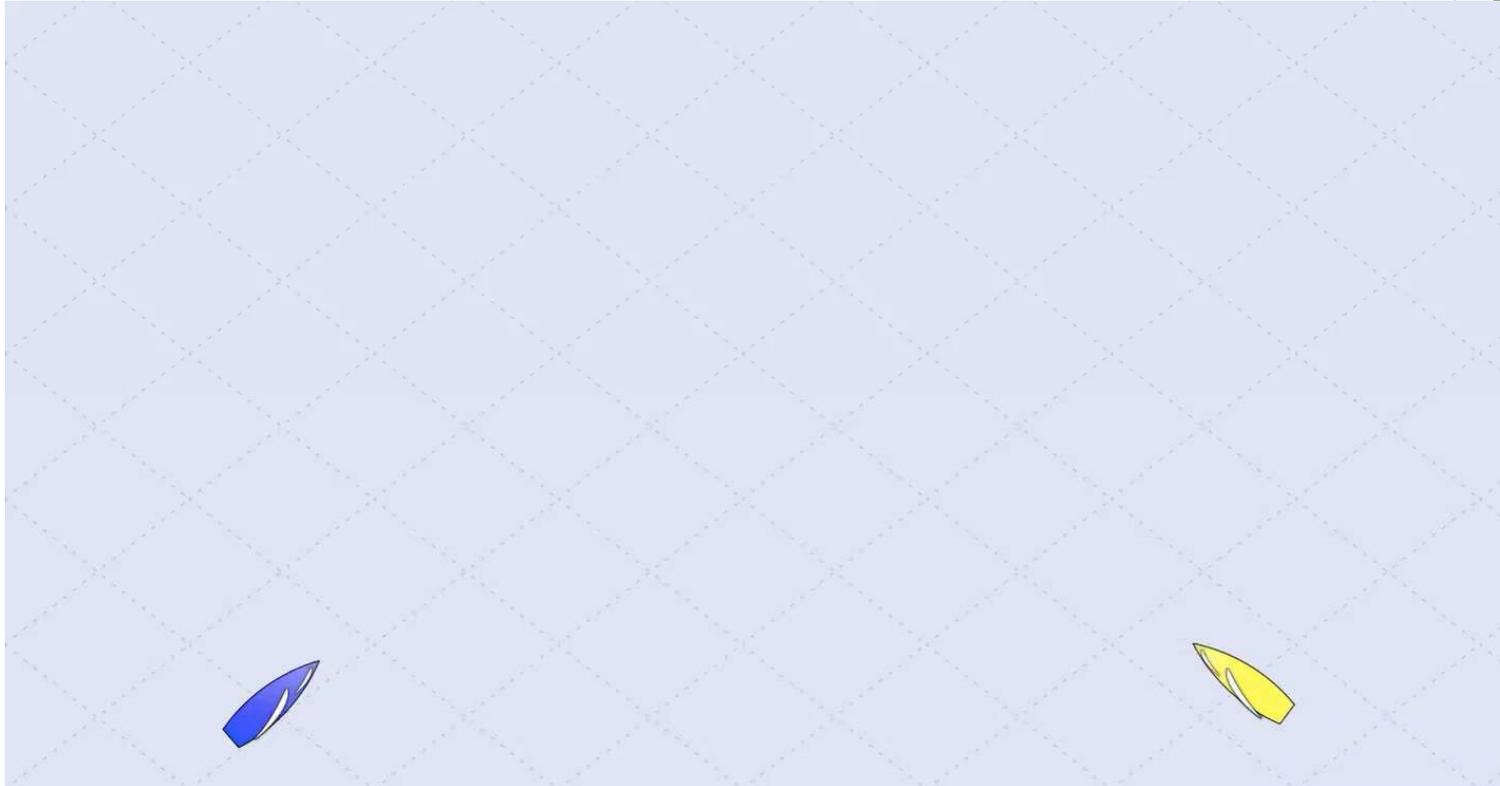
## Pertinent Rules Changed

### RRS - 16.2 Changing Course

(Continued)

- ▶ Starboard can now slow up causing Port duck further, or;
- ▶ Starboard's transom swings towards Port as she ducks, and Port has to alter further and harder down to avoid.
- ▶ That used to break 16.2 but not anymore. But remember, Starboard is still bound by RRS 16.1 when making this move, allowing room for Port to keep clear!
- ▶ The language also changed from "astern" to "to leeward". This was to close a loophole that happened mostly in team racing dial-downs when both boats went below 90°.

Changing course (up) during the duck is now legal. This move may not make a lot of sense now, but just wait.....



## Pertinent Rules Changed

### RRS - 16.2 Changing Course

#### (Continued)

Finally, on the upwind,

- ▶ This rule change could free Starboard up to begin her luff early on the “Slam Dunk”. As long as she doesn’t go through head to wind, she won’t be “tacking too close” but she can still impede Port’s escape from the slam dunk by forcing her further downwind in the duck.

“Hold you course” in the old rules gave Port a chance to escape the slam dunk



Now, Starboard can start the luff early, forcing Port to dive down further.



# Pertinent Rules Changed

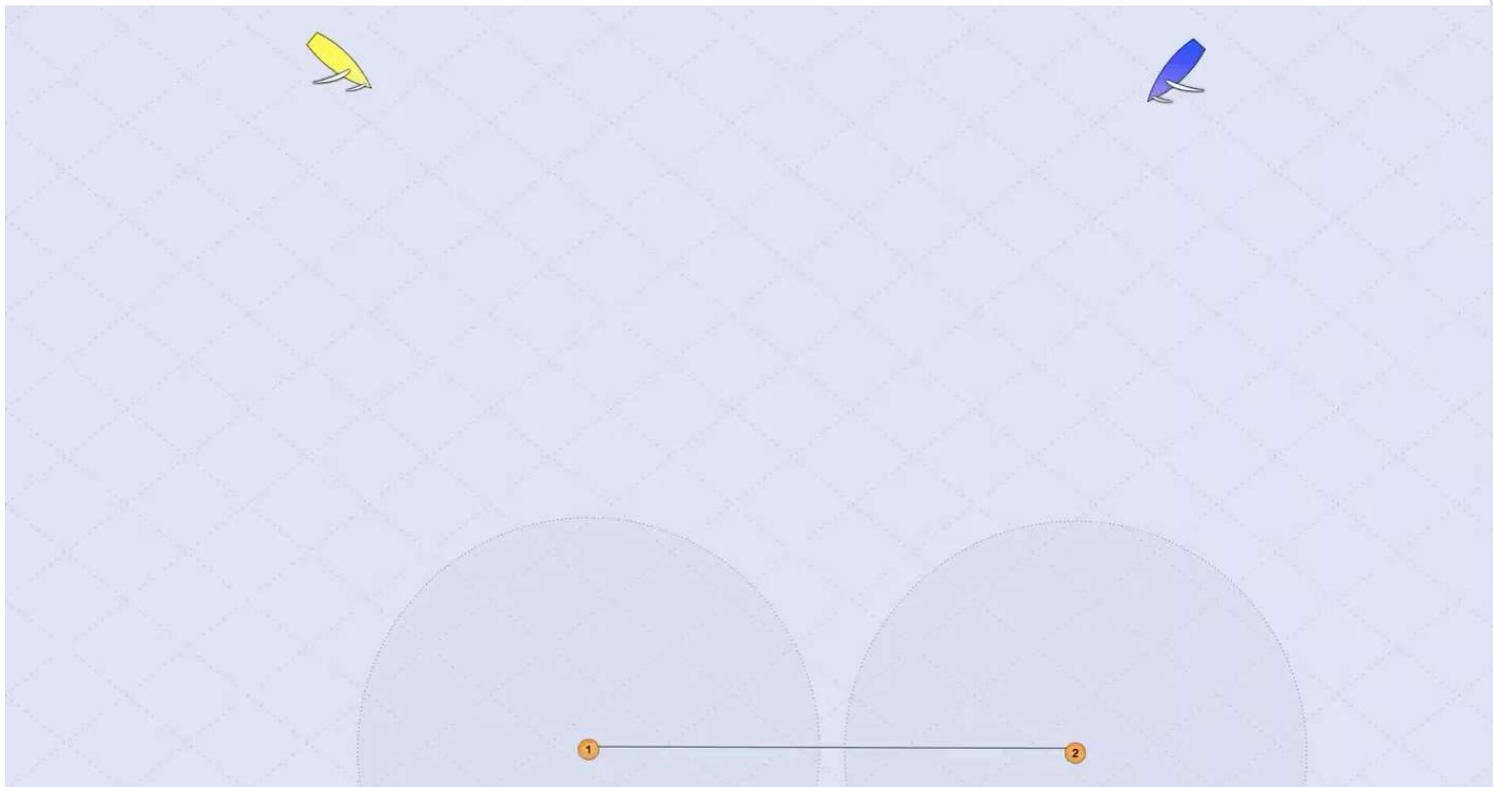
## RRS - 16.2 Changing Course

(Continued)

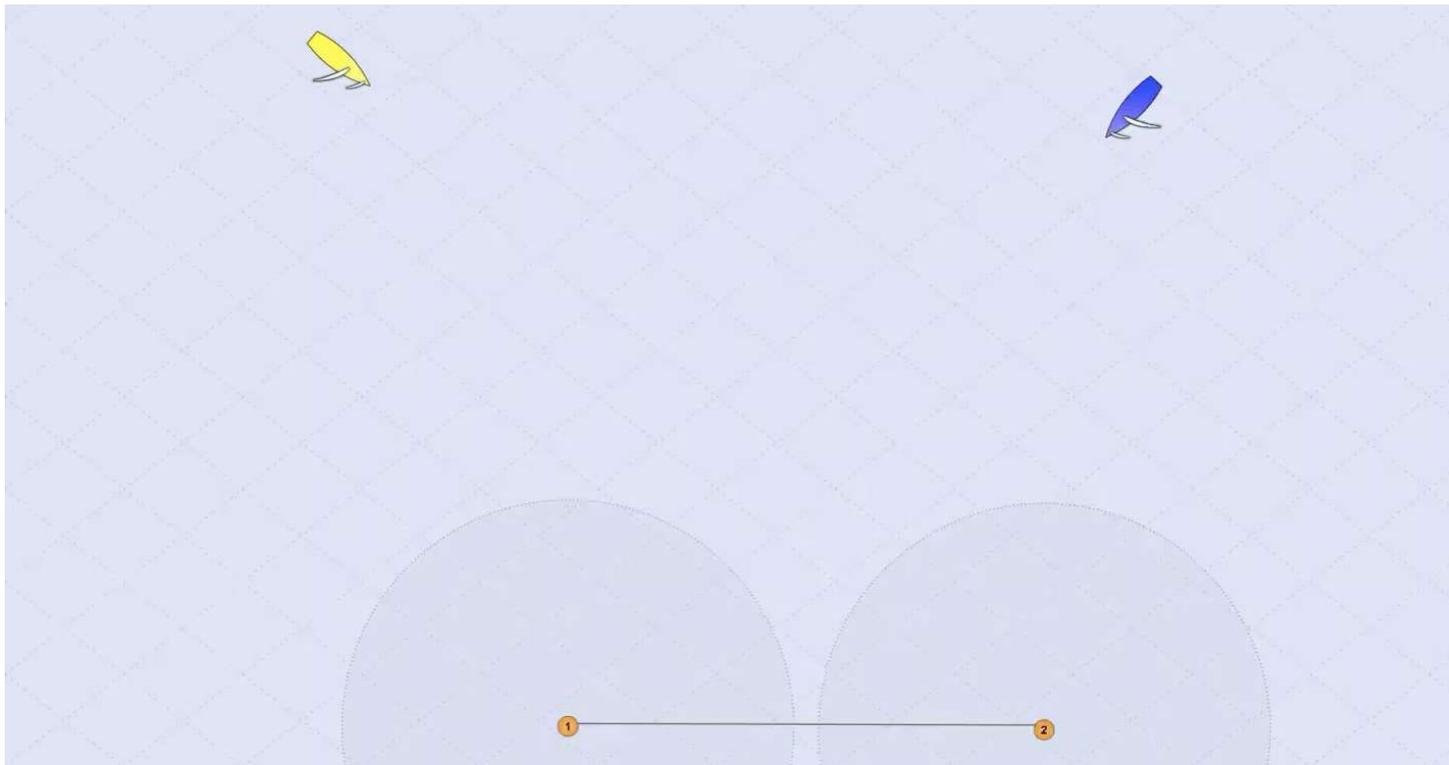
### Most importantly;

- ▶ Downwind, starboard gybe *is now allowed to hunt* (Once again, allowing room for port to keep clear - RRS 16.1)
- ▶ More likely will come into play later in downwind legs, prior to approaching the zone of a mark, gate, or finish line as Starboard tries to gain, or maintain position control.

Old Rules finish (or mark rounding) with Port hailing  
“Room to Finish” for the win!



Now, Starboard “hunts Port” and forces her to continue to avoid, for the win!



# Pertinent Rules Changed

## RRS - 20 Room to tack at an obstruction

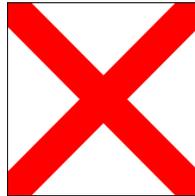
### 20.4(a) Additional Requirements for hails

- ▶ Language - When conditions are such that a hail may not be heard, the boat shall also make a signal that clearly indicates her need for *room* to tack or her response.
- ▶ As example, arm signals which have been a part of match racing for several years.
- ▶ Pointing to windward, and waving the boat to come on and tack.

# Snapshot of some key RRS changes for 2021-2024

## RRS 37 and Race Signals SEARCH AND RESCUE INSTRUCTIONS

- ▶ A new flag V (Victor) has been added.



- ▶ When the race committee displays flag V with one sound, all boats and official and support vessels shall, if possible, monitor the race committee communication channel for search and rescue instructions.

# Pertinent Rules Changed

## RRS - 43 Exoneration

- ▶ Exoneration which was mentioned in several places in the old book, has been consolidated and into the new rule 43. There has been a slight change in wording.
- ▶ Exoneration used to be a decision that a protest committee made. Now, exoneration happens at the time the incident happens, IF the boat was sailing within her room or mark-room.
- ▶ One subtle change is that the term “compelled” is not used regarding mark room in 43.1(b). Which means a boat that believes she is owed mark room, may “go in there” now knowing that if she hits (or even “creams” the mark) due to a boat not giving her room, she is exonerated. But NOT touching the other boat, as damage or injury turns exoneration off!
- ▶ Remember, Sportsmanship and the Rules says; A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when a boat breaks a *rule* and is not exonerated she will promptly take an appropriate a penalty or action, which may be to retire.

# Pertinent Rules Changed

## RRS - 62 Redress

### 62.1(b)

- ▶ To be eligible for redress based on injury or physical damage caused by another boat that was racing, the offending boat **MUST** have taken her penalty, or be penalized by the protest committee.
- ▶ This will now require the aggrieved boat to protest the offending boat if she does not take her penalty at the time of incident to be entitled to have redress given.

# Pertinent Rules Changed

## RRS - 63.6 Taking Evidence

- ▶ Protest committees “shall” take “hearsay evidence”
- ▶ For example:
  - Oral Statements, Written Statements, Photographs, Videos, Drone Footage
- ▶ Hearsay evidence used to be mostly excluded because you couldn’t cross examine or question statements or photographs. (Where were you situated when that photo was taken, how many seconds before the start gun, etc.)
- ▶ The right to cross examine is still there for the opposition, but this could certainly have unintended consequences such as needing to reconvene the hearing later while the PC chases witnesses or originators of statements, photographers, etc.
- ▶ The protest committee is allowed to assign “weight” of such evidence based on all factors.

# Snapshot of some key RRS changes for 2021-2024

## RRS - Appendix A5. Scores determined by the Race Committee

- ▶ A5.1 requires the race committee to disqualify without a hearing, boats that do not sail the course correctly.
- ▶ A new abbreviation is introduced “NSC”.
- ▶ In the previous RRS, RC was required to protest a boat if they saw she did not sail the course. Now they just score her NSC. Boom... it’s done.
- ▶ In the new rules, the boat that was scored NSC will need to request redress if they feel the RC scored them incorrectly.
- ▶ I anticipate that this will be a real mess when it happens. So RC must be 100%, absolutely sure, no doubt, before they score a boat NSC.

## Pertinent Rules Changed

### Appendix J - NOR and SI's

- ▶ Race officials jokingly say, if you want to hide something from a competitor, put it in the sailing instructions. If you REALLY want to hide it from them, put it in the NOR. New for 2021, Appendix J says it is no longer necessary to repeat items on the sailing instructions that were already itemized on the NOR.
- ▶ How many of you carry the SI's on the boat with you? Most? How many of you carry the NOR?
- ▶ How many copies of the SI booklet are laying around your cockpit for the Mac Race? 4, 6? Do you have even one copy of the NOR???
- ▶ There could be critical items that are “left off” the SI's now since they were indicated on the NOR, and you better know what they are!

Examples -

# Pertinent Rules Changed

## Appendix J - NOR and SI's

(Continued)

*2 weeks ago at the Bacardi Cup in Miami - Items in the NOR that were not found in the SI's*

- ▶ *STAR International Class Rule allowing “rocking” on reach legs was deleted.* (Appendix P was in place.) That buys you a penalty.
- ▶ *P2.1 applies, P2.2 and P2.3 do not.* If you didn't catch this, you would retire from the race with a second or subsequent penalty, when you DIDN'T NEED TO.
- ▶ Melges 24 Class - It blew over 20. The NOR stated *“Crew weight limit will not apply for this regatta”*. Would you still have gone with 4?
- ▶ So, you better start reading and highlighting critical info in the NOR, “in case” the OA decides not to repeat it in the SI's.

Questions?

