

# THE WINDSURFING EXPRESSION COMPETITION RULES

These rules are approved by World Sailing as test rules in accordance with Regulation 28.1.3

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## World Sailing

As the leading authority for the sport, World Sailing promotes and supports the protection of the environment in all sailing competitions and related activities throughout the world.

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# INTRODUCTION

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The Windsurfing Expression Competition Rules (WECR) have been created as a convenient book for use at windsurfing expression competition events. The rules are published online only and can be found on the World Sailing website.

Windsurfing expression is a high-performance sport in which competitors are racing and doing expression figures. For the safety of the competitors and to make the rules more understandable for competitors, race officials and spectators, the Windsurfing Expression Competition Rules were written. These rules are as far as possible consistent with the way the competitors and officials already apply the rules in practice.

In Expression competition, boards compete in pairs and the best one advances to the next round.

## Terminology

A term used in the sense stated in the Definitions is printed in italics or, in preambles, in bold italics (for example, *racing* and ***racing***).

Each of the terms in the table below is used in *The Windsurfing Expression Competition Rules* with the meaning given.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Board	A sailboard and the competitor on board.
Competitor	A person who races or intends to race in the event.
Expression rule	A rule in <i>The Windsurfing Expression Competition Rules</i>
Head Judge	Contest Director
National authority	A World Sailing member national authority.
Vessel	Any boat or ship.
Heat	Elimination race.
Round	Several heats on the same level.
Elimination	One or more rounds, including finals

Elimination Series	One or more eliminations.
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Other words and terms are used in the sense ordinarily understood in nautical or general use.

**Revision** These expression rules are revised and published by World Sailing, the international authority for the sport. This edition becomes effective on 1 January 2020 except that for an event beginning in 2019 the date may be postponed by the notice of race and sailing instructions. No changes are contemplated before 2021 but they may be changed and the changes will be announced through national authorities and posted on the World Sailing website.

**World Sailing Codes** The World Sailing Codes are listed in the table below. The codes are published in the World Sailing Regulations.

Title	Expression Rule	Regulation
Advertising Code	80	20
Anti-Doping Code	5	21
Betting and Anti-Corruption Code	6	37
Disciplinary Code	7	35
Eligibility Code	75.2	19
Sailor Classification Code	79	22

These Codes are referred to in the definition *Rule* but are not included in this book because they can be changed at any time. The most recent versions of the Codes are published on the WS website; new versions will be announced through national authorities.

# DEFINITIONS

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**Coming In and Going Out** A board sailing in the same direction as the incoming surf is *coming in*. A board sailing in the direction opposite to the incoming surf is *going out*.

**Jumping** A board is *jumping* when she takes off at the top of a wave while *going out*.

**Overtaking** A board is *overtaking* from the moment she gains an *overlap* from *clear astern* until the moment she is *clear ahead* of the *overtaken* board.

**Possession** The first board sailing shoreward immediately in front of a wave has *possession* of that wave. However, when it is impossible to determine which board is first, the *windward* board has *possession*.

## **Rule**

- (a) The rules in this book, including the Definitions, Introduction, preambles and the rules of relevant appendices, but not titles;
- (b) World Sailing Advertising Code, Anti-Doping Code, Betting and Anti-Corruption Code, Disciplinary Code, Eligibility Code, Sailor Classification Code, respectively Regulations 20, 21, 37, 35, 19 and 22;
- (c) the class rules;
- (d) the notice of race;
- (e) the sailing instructions; and
- (f) any other documents that govern the event.

**Recovering** A board is *recovering* from the time her sail or, when water-starting, the competitor is out of the water until she has steerage way.

**Surfing** A board is *surfing* when she is on or immediately in front of a wave while *coming in*.

**Transition** A board changing *tacks*, or taking off while *coming in*, or one that is not *surfing*, *jumping*, *capsized* or *recovering* is in *transition*.

# BASIC PRINCIPLES

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## **SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE RULES**

Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of *rules* that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that

when competitors break a *rule* they will promptly take a penalty, which may be to retire.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Participants are encouraged to minimize any adverse environmental impact of the sport of sailing.

# **PART 1**

## **FUNDAMENTAL RULES**

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### **1 SAFETY**

#### **1.1 Helping Those in Danger**

A competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.

#### **1.2 Life-Saving Equipment and Personal Flotation Devices**

Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions.

### **2 FAIR SAILING**

A board and her owner shall compete in compliance with recognized principles of sportsmanship and fair play. A board may be penalized under this rule only if it is clearly established that these principles have been violated. The penalty shall be either disqualification or disqualification that is not excludable.

### **3 ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES**

**3.1** (a) By participating or intending to participate in a race conducted under these *rules*, each competitor and board owner agrees to accept these *rules*.

(b) A *support person* by providing support, or a parent or guardian by permitting their child to enter a race, agrees to accept the *rules*.

**3.2** Each competitor and board owner agrees, on behalf of their *support persons*, that such *support persons* are bound by the *rules*.

**3.3** Acceptance of the *rules* includes agreement

(a) to be governed by the *rules*;

- (b) to accept the penalties imposed and other action taken under the *rules*, subject to the appeal and review procedures provided in them, as the final determination of any matter arising under the *rules*;
- (c) with respect to any such determination, not to resort to any court of law or tribunal not provided for in the *rules*; and
- (d) by each competitor and board owner to ensure that their *support persons* are aware of the *rules*.

**3.4** The person in charge of each board shall ensure that the competitor and the board's owner are aware of their responsibilities under this rule.

#### **4 DECISION TO RACE**

The responsibility for a board's decision to participate in a race or to continue *racing* is hers alone.

#### **5 ANTI-DOPING**

A competitor shall comply with the World Anti-Doping Code, the rules of the World Anti-Doping Agency, and World Sailing Regulation 21, Anti-Doping Code. An alleged or actual breach of this rule shall be dealt with under Regulation 21. It shall not be grounds for a *protest*.

#### **6 BETTING AND ANTI-CORRUPTION**

Each competitor, board owner and *support person* shall comply with World Sailing Regulation 37, Betting and Anti-Corruption Code. An alleged or actual breach of this rule shall be dealt with under Regulation 37. It shall not be grounds for a *protest*.

#### **7 DISCIPLINARY CODE**

Each competitor, board owner and *support person* shall comply with World Sailing Regulation 35, Disciplinary, Appeals and Review Code (referred to as 'Disciplinary Code' elsewhere). An alleged or actual breach of this rule shall be dealt with under Regulation 35. It shall not be grounds for a *protest*.

## PART 2

# WHEN BOARDS MEET

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### 10 ON OPPOSITE TACKS

When no board is *coming in* or *going out*, and when boards are on opposite *tacks*, a *port-tack* board shall *keep clear* of a *starboard-tack* board.

### 11 COMING IN AND GOING OUT

A board *coming in* shall *keep clear* of a board *going out*. When two boards are *going out* or *coming in* while on the same wave, or when neither is *going out* or *coming in*, a board on *port tack* shall *keep clear* of the one on *starboard tack*.

### 12 BOARDS ON THE SAME WAVE, COMING IN

When two or more boards are on a wave *coming in*, a board that does not have *possession* shall *keep clear*.

### 13 CLEAR ASTERN, CLEAR AHEAD AND OVERTAKING

A board *clear astern* and not on a wave shall *keep clear* of a board *clear ahead*. An *overtaking* board that is not on a wave shall *keep clear*.

### 14 TRANSITION

A board in *transition* shall *keep clear* of one that is not. When two boards are in *transition* at the same time, the one on the other's port side or the one astern shall *keep clear*.

### 15 JUMPING

A board that is *jumping* shall *keep clear* of one that is not.

## PART 3

### CONDUCT OF A RACE

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#### 25 NOTICE OF RACE, SAILING INSTRUCTIONS AND SIGNALS

- 25.1 The notice of race and sailing instructions shall be made available to each board before a race begins.
- 25.2 The meanings of the visual and sound signals shall be stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions.
- 25.3 When the Head judge is required to display a flag as a visual signal, it may use a flag or other object of a similar appearance.

#### 26 STARTING AND ENDING HEATS

Rule 26 is changed to:

Heats shall be started and ended by using the following signals:

(a) STARTING A HEAT

Each flag shall be removed when the next flag is displayed.

<i>Minutes before starting signal</i>	<i>Visual signal</i>	<i>Sound signal</i>	<i>Means</i>
Beginning of transition period	Heat number with red flag	One	Warning
1	Yellow flag	One	Preparatory
0	Green flag	One	Starting signal

(b) ENDING A HEAT

<i>Minutes before ending signal</i>	<i>Visual signal</i>	<i>Sound signal</i>	<i>Means</i>
1	Green flag removed	One	End warning
0	Red flag	One	Ending signal



## **32 EXTENDING A HEAT**

After the starting signal and before the end warning signal, the Head judge may extend the duration of a heat by displaying a yellow flag with two sound signals, because for any reason affecting the fairness of the heat. The yellow flag shall be removed with the end warning signal.

## **37 ADVANCEMENT AND BYES**

- (a) The winner of each heat shall advance to the next round.
- (b) Any first-round byes shall be assigned to the highest-seeded boards.

## **38 REGISTRATION; COURSE AREA; HEAT AND TRANSITION DURATION; EXTENSION**

- (a) Boards shall collect a coloured lycra, coloured streamers and/or register with the Judges Panel the colours and other particulars of their sails, or their identification according to another method stated in the sailing instructions.
- (b) The course area shall be defined in the sailing instructions and posted on the official notice board no later than 30 minutes before the starting signal for the first heat. A board shall be scored only while sailing in the course area.
- (c) Possible extension duration shall be announced by the Head Judge no later than 30 minutes before the starting signal for the first heat in the next round.
- (d) Any change in heat and transition duration shall be announced by the Head Judge no later than 15 minutes before the starting signal for the first heat of that round.

## **39 SCORING A HEAT**

### **39.1 Expression Competition Scoring**

- (a) Expression competition shall be scored by a panel of three judges. However, the panel may have a greater odd number of members, and there may be two such panels. Each judge shall give points for each manoeuvre based on the scale stated in the Championship rules for Expression Events.
- (b) The criteria of scoring shall be decided by the Head Judge and announced on the official notice board no later than 30 minutes before the starting signal for the first heat.
- (c) A board's heat standing shall be determined by adding together the points given by each judge. The board with the highest score wins and others shall be ranked accordingly.

- (d) Both semi-final heats shall have been sailed for an elimination series to be valid.
- (e) Except for the Judges Panel responsible for scoring the event, only competitors in the heat shall be allowed to see judges' score sheets for the heat. Each score sheet shall bear the full name of the judge.

### **39.2 SERIES TIES**

- (a) In a heat, if there is a tie in the total points given by one or more judges, it shall be broken in favour of the board with the higher single score in the priority category. If the categories are weighed equally, in wave performance competition the tie shall be broken in favour of the board with the higher single score in wave riding, and in freestyle competition in favour of the board with the higher score for overall impression. If a tie remains, in wave performance competition it shall be broken in favour of the board with the higher single score in the category without priority, and in freestyle competition, the Head Judge shall decide the winner based on the overall impression.
- (b) If there is a tie in the series score, it shall be broken in favour of the board that scored better more times than the other board. All scores shall be used even if some of them are excluded scores.
- (c) If a tie still remains, the heat shall be resailed. If this is not possible, the tie shall stand as the final result.

## **PART 4**

# **OTHER REQUIREMENTS WHEN RACING**

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### **40 PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES**

When flag Y is displayed, competitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices. Flag Y shall be displayed at least 30 minutes before the first heat.

### **41 OUTSIDE HELP**

An assistant may provide replacement equipment to a board. The assistant shall not interfere with other competing boards. A board whose assistant interferes with another board may be penalized at the discretion of the Judges panel.

### **55 TRASH DISPOSAL**

A competitor shall not intentionally put trash in the water. This rule applies at all times while afloat. The penalty for a breach of this rule may be less than disqualification.

## **PART 5**

# **PROTESTS, HEARINGS, MISCONDUCT**

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## **SECTION A**

## **REDRESS**

### **62 RIGHT TO REQUEST REDRESS**

If a board believes that her score was not correct, she can immediately after the heat concerned, ask the Head Judge to see her score details and try to

convince the Head Judge that one or more moves has not been scored or was scored incorrect. The decision of the Head Judge is final.

## **SECTION C**

### **MISCONDUCT**

#### **69 MISCONDUCT**

##### **69.1 Obligation not to Commit Misconduct; Resolution**

- (a) A competitor, board owner or *support person* shall not commit an act of misconduct.
- (b) Misconduct is:
  - (1) conduct that is a breach of good manners, a breach of good sportsmanship, or unethical behaviour; or
  - (2) conduct that may bring the sport into disrepute.
- (c) An allegation of a breach of rule 69.1(a) shall be resolved in accordance with the provisions of rule 69. It shall not be grounds for a *protest* and rule 63.1 does not apply.
- (d) The Head Judge shall decide all possible breaches of this rule.

##### **69.2 Action by a Head Judge**

- (a) A judging panel acting this rule shall have at least three members, including the Head Judge.
- (b) When a judging panel, from its own observation or from information received from any source, including evidence taken during a hearing, believes a person may have broken rule 69.1(a), it shall decide whether or not to call a hearing.
- (c) When the judging panel needs more information to make the decision to call a hearing, it shall consider appointing a person or persons to conduct an investigation. These investigators shall not be members of the protest committee that will decide the matter.
- (d) When an investigator is appointed, all relevant information he gathers, favourable or unfavourable, shall be disclosed to the judging panel, and if he decides to call a hearing, to the *parties*.
- (e) If the judging panel decides to call a hearing, it shall promptly inform the person in writing of the alleged breach and of the time and place of the hearing:

- (1) unless a person has been appointed by World Sailing, a person may be appointed by the judging panel to present the allegation.
  - (2) a person against whom an allegation has been made under this rule shall be entitled to have an advisor and a representative with him who may act on his behalf.
- (f) If the person is unable to attend the hearing and
- (1) provides good reason, the judging panel shall reschedule it; or
  - (2) does not provide good reason and does not come to it, the judging panel may conduct it without the person present.
- (g) The standard of proof to be applied is the test of the comfortable satisfaction of the judging panel, bearing in mind the seriousness of the alleged misconduct. However, if the standard of proof in this rule conflicts with the laws of a country, the national authority may, with the approval of World Sailing, change it with a prescription to this rule.
- (h) When the judging panel decides that a competitor has broken rule 69.1(a), it may take one or more of the following actions
- (1) issue a warning;
  - (2) change their board's score in one or more races, including disqualification(s) that may or may not be excluded from her series score;
  - (3) exclude the person from the event or venue or remove any privileges or benefits; and
  - (4) take any other action within its jurisdiction as provided by the *rules*.
- (i) When the judging panel decides that a *support person* has broken rule 69.1(a), rule 64.3 applies.
- (j) If the judging panel
- (1) imposes a penalty greater than one DNE;
  - (2) excludes the person from the event or venue; or
  - (3) in any other case if it considers it appropriate,

it shall report its findings, including the facts found, its conclusions and decision to the national authority of the person or, for specific international events listed in the World Sailing Regulations, to World Sailing. If the protest committee has acted under rule 69.2(f)(2), the report shall also include that fact and the reasons for it.

- (k) If the judging panel decides not to conduct the hearing without the person present, or if the judging panel has left the event and a report alleging a breach of rule 69.1(a) is received, the organizing authority may appoint the same or a new protest committee to proceed under this rule. If it is impractical for the protest committee to conduct a hearing, it shall collect all available information and, if the allegation seems justified, make a report to the national authority of the person or, for specific international events listed in the World Sailing Regulations, to World Sailing.

### **69.3 Action by a National Authority and World Sailing**

The disciplinary powers, procedures and responsibilities of national authorities and World Sailing that apply are specified in World Sailing Regulation 35, Disciplinary Code. National authorities and World Sailing may impose further penalties, including suspension of eligibility, under that regulation.

## **SECTION D**

### **APPEALS**

#### **70 APPEALS AND REQUESTS TO A NATIONAL AUTHORITY**

Appeals and requests to a National Authority are not permitted in disciplines and formats with eliminations.

## **PART 6**

# **ENTRY AND QUALIFICATION**

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### **75 ENTERING A RACE**

**75.1** To enter a race, a board shall comply with the requirements of the organizing authority of the race. She shall be entered by

- (a) a member of a club or other organization affiliated to a World Sailing member national authority,
- (b) such a club or organization, or
- (c) a member of a World Sailing member national authority;

**75.2** Competitors shall comply with World Sailing Regulation 19, Eligibility Code.

### **76 EXCLUSION OF BOARDS OR COMPETITORS**

**76.1** The organizing authority or the Head Judge may reject or cancel the entry of a board or exclude a competitor, subject to rule 76.3, provided it does so before the start of the first heat and states the reason for doing so. On request the board shall promptly be given the reason in writing. The board may request redress if she considers that the rejection or exclusion is improper.

**76.2** The organizing authority or the race committee shall not reject or cancel the entry of a board or exclude a competitor because of advertising, provided the board or competitor complies with World Sailing Regulation 20, Advertising Code.

**76.3** At world and continental championships no entry within stated quotas shall be rejected or cancelled without first obtaining the approval of the relevant World Sailing Class Association or World Sailing.

### **78 COMPLIANCE WITH CLASS RULES; CERTIFICATES**

While a board is afloat, the competitor shall ensure that the board is maintained to comply with Championship rules for Expression Events, if any, remains valid. In addition, the board shall also comply at other times specified in the class rules, the notice of race or the sailing instructions.

**80      ADVERTISING**

A board and her competitor shall comply with World Sailing Regulation 20, Advertising Code.

**81      RESCHEDULED EVENT**

When an event is rescheduled to dates different from the dates stated in the notice of race, all boards entered shall be notified. The race committee may accept new entries that meet all the entry requirements except the original deadline for entries.



## PART 7

# RACE ORGANIZATION

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### 84 GOVERNING RULES

The organizing authority, the Head Judge, Judges and other race officials if any, shall be governed by the *rules* in the conduct and judging of races.

### 85 CHANGES TO RULES

**85.1** A change to a *rule* shall refer specifically to the *rule* and state the change. A change to a *rule* includes an addition to it or deletion of all or part of it.

**85.2** A change to one of the following types of *rules* may be made only as shown below.

<i>Type of rule</i>	<i>Change only if permitted by</i>
Expression rule	Rule 86
Rule in a World Sailing code	A rule in the code
Class rule	Rule 87
Rule in the notice of race	Rule 89.2(b)
Rule in the sailing instructions	Rule 90.2(c)
Rule in any other document governing the event	A rule in the document itself

### 86 CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES

**86.1** The notice of race or sailing instructions may change an expression rule but not the Definitions; the Basic Principles; a rule in the Introduction; Part 1, 2 or 7; rule 69, 75, 76.1, 76.2, 79 or 80; Appendix A; World Sailing Regulation 19, 20, 21, 22, 35, 37

**86.2** In exception to rule 86.1, World Sailing may in limited circumstances (see World Sailing Regulation 28.1.3) authorize changes to the racing rules for a specific international event. The authorization shall be stated in a letter of approval to the event organizing authority and in the notice of race and sailing instructions, and the letter shall be posted on the event's official notice board.

**86.3** The restrictions in rule 86.1 do not apply if rules are changed to develop or test proposed rules. The organizing authority shall report the changes and their results as soon as possible after the event ended to the International Funboard Class Association.

## **87 CHANGES TO CLASS RULES**

The notice of race or sailing instructions may change a class rule only when the class rules permit the change, or when written permission of the class association for the change is displayed on the official notice board.

## **89 ORGANIZING AUTHORITY; NOTICE OF RACE; APPOINTMENT OF RACE OFFICIALS**

### **89.1 Organizing Authority**

Races shall be organized by an organizing authority, which shall be

- (a) World Sailing;
- (b) a member national authority of World Sailing;
- (c) an affiliated club;
- (d) an affiliated organization other than a club and, if so prescribed by the national authority, with the approval of the national authority or in conjunction with an affiliated club;
- (e) an unaffiliated class association, either with the approval of the national authority or in conjunction with an affiliated club;
- (f) two or more of the above organizations;

- (g) an unaffiliated body in conjunction with an affiliated club where the body is owned and controlled by the club. The national authority of the club may prescribe that its approval is required for such an event; or
- (h) if approved by World Sailing and the national authority of the club, an unaffiliated body in conjunction with an affiliated club where the body is not owned and controlled by the club.

In rule 89.1, an organization is affiliated if it is affiliated to the national authority of the venue; otherwise the organization is unaffiliated.

## **89.2 Notice of Race; Appointment of Race Officials**

- (a) The organizing authority shall publish a notice of race that conforms to rule J1.
- (b) The notice of race may be changed provided adequate notice is given.
- (c) The organizing authority or World Sailing as provided in its regulations, shall appoint a Head Judge and, when appropriate, appoint an international jury.

## **90 HEAD JUDGE; SAILING INSTRUCTIONS; SCORING**

### **90.1 Head Judge**

The Head Judge shall conduct races as directed by the organizing authority and as required by the *rules*.

### **90.2 Sailing Instructions**

- (a) The Head Judge shall publish written sailing instructions that conform to rule J2.
- (b) The sailing instructions may be changed provided the change is in writing and posted on the official notice board before the time stated in the sailing instructions or, on the water, communicated to each board before her attention signal. Oral instructions may be given if the procedure is stated in the sailing instructions.

### **90.3 Scoring**

- (a) The Judges shall score heats and eliminations as provided in Windsurfing Expression Championship rules, unless the notice of race or sailing instructions specify some other system. A heat shall be scored if it is not *abandoned* and if one board takes part in the heat, or if a board retires from the heat.
- (b) When the judges determine from its own records or observations that it has scored a board incorrectly, it shall correct the error and make the corrected scores available to competitors.

### **91 EXPRESSION JUDGES**

The judges shall be appointed by the organizing authority or the Head Judge.