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## Rules Specialist Group 2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing

### Waypoints as marks

Issued 30 November 2021

#### Background

Running offshore races out of Beauty point into Bass Strait we use a number of virtual marks, for safety, convenience and navigation.

#### Question

How do you apply rule 18, (mark room) on a virtual mark when working with systems that have a margin of error, which may differ between different hardware and software?  
The GPS on two different boats may have slightly different physical location for the same waypoint.

#### Answer

The correct terminology for virtual marks is Waypoint.  
World Sailing has issued Appendix WP – Rules for Waypoints.  
This can be found at  
[https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/AppendixWPRulesforWaypoints-May2021-\[27276\].pdf](https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/AppendixWPRulesforWaypoints-May2021-[27276].pdf)

Providing this document is included in the Notice of race or Sailing Instruction the specified Waypoint meets the definition of a Mark and rule 18 applies as it does at any other mark.

If a boat is entitled to mark-room and that room has not been given to her satisfaction and she is unsure as to whether or not she has properly passed or rounded the waypoint she should protest the other boat and the protest committee should examine all the information and decide the protest accordingly.  
Similarly, if a boat believes another boat has taken excess room her remedy is again to protest.

On behalf of Australian Sailing Rules Specialist Group  
John Standley (Chair)  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2021



