

Rules Specialist Group 2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing

RRS 44.2 One-Turn and Two-Turn Penalties

Issued 27 September 2023

Question

At a local radio sailing club, there has been some discussions on taking a penalty turn and RRS Rule 44.2.

The scenario is as follows:

1. A boat has infringed another boat by contact and takes Penalty turn.
2. During the course of the penalty turn it hits another boat.
3. What is the correct action for that boat to take?
 1. Is it another penalty turn?
 2. Is it another penalty turn plus a second penalty turn as the boat has not done the first turn continuously?
 3. Is it to retire as the boat has not cleared the fleet sufficiently to perform its penalty turn and has infringed a rule not part of Part 2?

Answer

When a boat breaks a rule of part 2 or rule 31 there are two options:

1. Take a penalty at the time of the incident in accordance with rule 44.
2. Retire from the race.

Assuming the boat takes option 1 they need to comply with rule 44 by taking a two-turns penalty or whatever penalty is specified in the sailing instructions or, in the case of RC boats the one-turn penalty as specified in E4.3.

The requirements for a turns penalty are set out in rule 44.2 and they are:

- i. To sail well clear of other boats as soon as possible after the incident
- ii. To make the required number of turns in the same direction with each turn including one tack and one gybe.

If a boat does not carry out the above actions it has not completed a penalty turn correctly and, if they do not subsequently retire they would be subject to protest and disqualification.

Should a boat infringe another boat while taking a penalty turn there are two possible scenarios:

Australian Sailing Limited
ABN 26 602 997 562

120 High Street
Sub Base Platypus
North Sydney NSW 2060

Locked Bag 806
Milsons Point NSW 1565
Australia

E office@sailing.org.au
W www.sailing.org.au

Program Partners



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

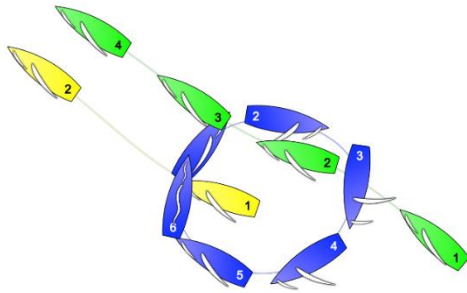


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Scenario 1

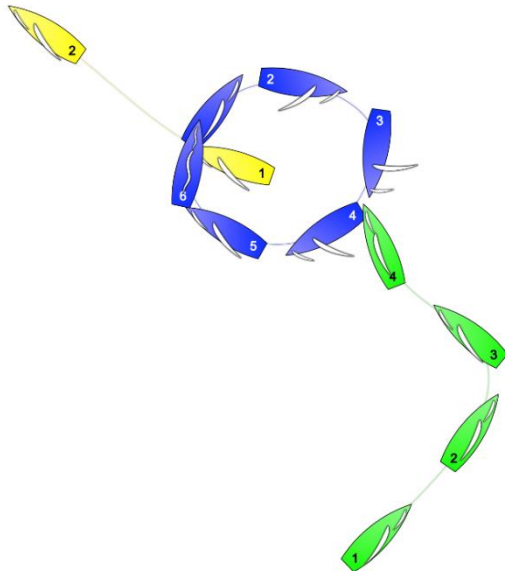


In the diagram at position 1 Blue breaks rule 10 against Yellow and immediately bears away and breaks rule 10 against green.

As Blue has not sailed well clear of the other boats as soon as reasonably possible it has not complied with the requirements of rule 44.2 so is not taking a penalty for the incident with Yellow.

Although they break rule 10 against Green and a turns penalty option is available to them for that incident there is little point in doing so as it is now too late for her to take a penalty for the incident with Yellow so her only option is to retire or be subject to disqualification if protested.

Scenario 2



Blue again breaks rule 10 at position 1. However Blue is clear of other boats and bears away to take a penalty. Green then tacks and, whilst taking the penalty, Blue infringes Green and breaks rule 21.2.

Note: Blue does not break rule 11 as the preamble to Section 2, part D states that when a section D rule applies Section A rules do not.

As rule 21.2 is in part 2 Blue is now permitted to take another turns penalty to exonerate itself for interfering with Green.

On behalf of Australian Sailing Rules Specialist Group

John Standley (Chair)

27th September 2023