

ISORA – Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association



Night Races

Sailing instructions contain the following words:-

Except when otherwise stated in the Sailing Instructions, the rules of RRS Part 2 shall not apply between the times of local sunset and sunrise and shall be replaced with the corresponding rules of IRPCAS (INTERNATIONAL Regulations FOR Prevention Collisions At Sea).

This is a short note to examine what this means.

Between Sunset and Sunrise a boat cannot be sure what status another boat has, it may be a racing boat, a sailing cruiser, or a motorboat.

It is important therefore that all boats navigate in a safe manner, and are sure of the other boats response.

Special rules of the Racing Rules of sailing in Part 2 WHEN BOATS MEET are removed.

These are rules such as, 10 on opposite tacks, 11 same tack overlapped, and 12 on the same tack not overlapped are removed. In fact other rules are affected from tacking 13 to 17 proper course (luffing) to Mark room and Obstructions.

All these rules become during the operative period (sunset to sunrise) the same as the ordinary Collision Regulations.

These regulation should be to hand on every boat, but include Opposite tacks port gives way, same tack windward gives way, if in doubt port tack gives way. However an overtaking boat gives way (how often have we heard this) and any stand on vessel shall keep her course and speed (no luffing).

TSS ZONES

In a separate matter on sailing generally, there are other obligations between boats when the law has set up Traffic Separation Zones. These are part of the Collision Regulations and all boats are required to abide by the law. Court proceedings can and have been taken by authorities for breaches because of the safety concerns.

Yachts racing are always governed by this law and to ensure they can be penalised in the race RRS 48.2 says it is a racing Rule that boats comply with TSS Zones.