

SAIL THE COURSE

A boat *sails the course* when

- (a) she *starts*;
- (b) a string representing her track until she *finishes*, when drawn taut,
 - (1) passes each *mark* of the course for the race on the required side and in the correct order (including the starting *marks*),
 - (2) touches each *mark* designated in the sailing instructions to be a rounding *mark*, and
 - (3) passes between the *marks* of a gate from the direction of the course from the previous *mark*; and then
- (c) she *finishes*.

A *mark* that does not begin, bound or end the leg the boat is sailing does not have a required side.

This definition is often called the “string rule.” It clarifies what it means to “sail the course,” a phrase used in rule 28.1 (Sailing the Course) and throughout the rule book. Note that the race committee is required to score a boat NSC (did not *sail the course*) without a protest hearing if it knows a boat did not *sail the course* in compliance with rule 28.1 (see rule A5.1, Scores Determined by the Race Committee).