

Team Racing Jargon

Old Webster's: Jargon, n. Confused, unintelligible talk; gibberish; phraseology peculiar to a sect or profession.

Rules Questions:

Coach, I'm port windward (pw) hailing for room to duck starboard (s) and port leeward (pl) hails "starboard boat" and immediately tacks into to me. Can he do that? Answer: No, unless *S* is a legal obstruction and *pl* gives you time to respond before tacking, according to rule 19.

Here is some rules jargon that sailors need to know to efficiently communicate rules concepts.

Note: abbreviations in parentheses for faster e-mails, etc.

Quick rules

- 10 port/starboard (p/s)
- 11 windward/leeward (w/l)
- 12 clear astern/clear ahead or behind/ahead (b/a)
- 13 while tacking (t)
- 14 avoiding contact
- 15 acquiring right of way (r-o-w)
- 16.1 changing course
- 16.2 changing course when crossing
- 17.1 without luffing rights (wo/lr)
- 17.2 windward or ahead's proper course
- 18 marks and obstructions
- 18.1 when 18 applies
- 18.2 room
- 18.3 tacking at a mark
- 18.4 gybing
- room to tack

Other rule jargon:

- starboard (s)
- port windward (p/w)
- inside leeward (i/l)
- inside windward (i/w)
- leeward w/luffing rights (l w/lr)
- leeward wo/luffing rights (l wo/lr)
- etc.

Team Racing:

Question: I'm 1st of a 1-5-6 at the windward mark, what do I do?

Answer: Keep the 1st and trust your teammates to execute a Hi-Lo on 4.

Question: I'm 1st of a 1-5-6 at the leeward mark, what do I do?

Answer: Execute a compression mark trap and keep the 1 unless you can take out two opponents.

Team Racing Jargon:

Combos: Winning combinations

Stable combos: Winning combos that only require covering on the last beat such as 1-2-x and 2-3-4.

Unstable combos: Winning combos that require pass backs to become stable combos.

Team Racing Starts:

Geographical: 1: windward end; 2: middle; 3: pin end.

Match Racing while team racing:

Pull position: Leading an opponent into the start, sailing low to sucker opponent to windward but not sailing so low as to be late.

Push position: Following opponent into start, sailing low to get to leeward or to force opponent to be early or late.

Dialing up, Dialing down: Changing course while aiming at your opponent on the opposite tack to force them away since 16.2 does not apply before the start.

Pick: Using r-o-w to force an opponent away from your teammate.

First beat tactics:

Pairs: One boat from each team sailing near each other. Usually one boat is leading the pair while covering.

Breaking ties: Tacking on an opponent in a tied pair so your teammate can lead that pair.

Conversions: As the fleet converges on the first mark, turning two or three pairs into a combo.

Reach Leg Tactics:

Hi-Lo: Two teammates attack the opponent ahead by having the lead teammate sail high, causing the opponent to sail high to defend while the trailing teammate sails low to pass or, at least gain an overlap on the opponent.

Hooking: Really a match racing term; acquiring luffing rights on an opponent.

Mark Traps: Pass Back mark trap: Maneuver against an opponent at a mark until your Teammate passes.

Compression mark trap: Maneuver against two or more opponents until your teammates catch up.

Last windward leg tactics:

Pass Back (slow): Take the wind of an opponent continuously by blanketing that opponent while slowing yourself down until your teammate passes.

Ragging jib: Letting the jib luff to slow down in order to aim your mainsail wind shadow on the slowing opponent.

Windward trim: Trimming the jib (and/or main) all the way to windward to slow down while increasing your wind shadow.

Speed pass back: Momentarily blanketing an opponent without slowing yourself down which is hopefully just enough for your teammate to pass your opponent.

Gapping: 5th of a 1-4-5 holds 6th well back to increase the gap between teammates in 4-5; in order to make it harder for the opponents to achieve their combo.

Ungapping: 2nd and 3rd of a 2-3-6 double teaming to hold back the opponent in 4th until they are so close to the other opponent in 5th that 2 and 3 can split up to attack both without losing 3rd place.

Windward leg double team jargon:

Front door: Teammate that blankets opponent and prevents opponent from sailing out to leeward and ahead.

Back door: Teammate that prevents opponent from tacking.

Ladder rungs: Lines of position on a windward leg perpendicular to the wind direction.

Lanes: Tacking lanes parallel to the wind direction. Different from close hauled lanes (diagonal) in a fleet race.

Pinning: Preventing an opponent from tacking toward the finish. Carries a high risk of fouling or otherwise losing the opponent.

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