

Sport Terminology

Terminologie du sport

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Term	Definition
Boom	The horizontal pole or spar attached to the mast and the clew of the sail.
Buoy	A floating marker.
Capsize	When a boat overturns.
Centreboard	An adjustable fin primarily used to stop the boat moving sideways through the water. Also called a daggerboard.
Class	A class is made up of a single type of boat or board. Also known as "Equipment".
Course	The route which the boats must sail to complete a race.
Daggerboard	An adjustable fin primarily used to stop the boat moving sideways through the water. Also called a centreboard.
Digital Officiating	The use of technology to enhance the decision making of officials.
Disqualification	A ruling by officials that a competitor or team has broken the rules of the sport and cannot be considered for placing in an event unit, phase or an event.
Downwind	Boats sailing downwind have the wind behind them.
Eye of the Wind	Direction from which the wind is blowing.
Fleet Racing	Competition format with a mass start in which boats race against each other around a course.
Foil	A hull appendage primarily used to affect leeway and/or produce vertical lift.
General Recall	If the Race Committee is unable to identify boats that are on the course side of the start line at the time of the start, or if there has been an error in the starting procedure, the Race Committee may signal a general recall (by display of the First Substitute with two sounds).
Gybe	Turning the boat so the stern passes through the eye of the wind.
Hike Out	To lean out over the side of the boat to balance the boat against the force of the wind. Also known as Hiking.
Individual Recall	If at the starting signal, any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line, the Race Committee signals an Individual Recall (by display of the flag X with one sound). The flag is displayed until all boats subject to the Individual Recall are completely on the pre-start side of the starting line, but no later than four (4) minutes after the starting signal, or one (1) minute before any subsequent starting signal, whichever is earlier.
Jury	In Sailing competitions, the Jury is responsible for resolving disputes and penalising parties that breach the rules.
Knot	A measure of wind speed. One knot = 1 nautical mile per hour, 1.15 mph or 1.85 km/h.
Leeward	The side of the boat furthest away from the wind.
Mark	A buoy which the sailing instructions require a boat to leave on a specified side, or a race committee vessel from which the starting or finishing line extends.

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Mast	The vertical spar or pole to which the sails are attached.
OCS	A scoring abbreviation used for recording that a boat was On the Course Side of the starting line at her starting signal and failed to start correctly, or broke the Racing Rules of Sailing.
Penalty	A boat may take a One-Turn or Two-Turns Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules in an incident while racing. Alternatively, the notice of race or sailing instructions may specify the use of the Scoring Penalty or some other penalty.
Port	The left hand side of a boat when looking forward. A boat is on a "port tack" when the wind is coming from the left.
Protest	A claim that another boat has broken the rules.
Race	The race is an event unit.
Race Area	The area in which the course is set where a boat may sail from the time of the warning signal until she has finished.
Rank	Placing in an event. Boats are ranked according to World Sailing rules.
Sheet	A rope used to control a sail.
Slalom	A technical course for the windsurfing and kite events involving multiple changes of direction in quick succession, usually going downwind.
Starboard	The right hand side of a boat when looking forward. A boat is on a "starboard tack" when the wind is coming from the right.
Tacking	Turning the boat so the bow passes through the eye of the wind.
Team Leader	Each nation is responsible for providing one Team Leader. If possible, the Team Leader should not be a competitor. A Team Leader cannot undertake any other official organising function at the competition.
Upwind	Sailing upwind means to sail towards the direction the wind is coming from. A boat cannot sail directly into the wind so it must sail a zig zag course to reach the upwind (windward) mark.
Windsurfer	A sailboard, with a mast and sail, on which the athlete stands up.
Windward	The side of the boat closest to the wind.

Note:
For further information please consult: www.sailing.org