North U.

Match Racing

PLAYBOOK

4ed.

By Dave Perry

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This Playbook is based, in part, on the *WIMRA North U. Match Racing Playbook*, which is no longer in print.

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Match racing is an exciting game in which just two boats race against each other at a time. The racing highlights precise boat handling, timing and positioning, as well as the traditional tactics and strategies of fleet racing. The more you match race, the better you will get in fleet racing, as boat handling and reaction times improve, and knowledge of how to handle tactical situations with just one other boat arise (as they often do within a fleet race).

However, match racing involves some tactics and strategies that are not commonly used in fleet racing, particularly at the start, on the downwind legs, and when you or the other boat has a penalty. This Playbook describes some of the tactics and strategies that are particular to traditional keelboat match racing. It is not a comprehensive textbook on Match Racing. Your study should include reading:

\* the rules for match racing, located in Appendix C of *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

\* the umpire calls for match racing, located in the World Sailing Match Racing Call Book, available from World Sailing.

In particular, on January 1, 2017, the 2017-2020 *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) went into effect. The new match racing rules were called “The 2016 Test Rules for Match Racing.” They are now in RRS Appendix C, Match Racing. The significant changes included the deletion of rule 17, On the Same Tack; Proper Course and changes to rule 18, Mark-Room. The game changes caused by these new rules are incorporated into this edition of the *Match Racing Playbook*. For a complete study of these new rules, go to the US Sailing Match Racing webpage (address in the Resources section of this Playbook).

This Playbook focuses on the tactics and strategies used by the sailors. For more information about running and umpiring match races, as well as how match races work, see the following resources:

*Match Racing*, a CD with some video, available from North U.

*Welcome to Match Racing*, a DVD with Dave Perry commentary, available from North U.

The World Sailing Match Racing Umpire Manual, available from World Sailing

***Address Information on all the above-mentioned items can be found in the Resources section of this Playbook.***

Dave Perry

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Two-time Congressional Cup winner