



WASZP International Class Association

Rule 42 Guidance and Interpretation



The class rule amendments to RRS 42 aim to allow early foiling in the WASZP class. It is important that the rule is controlled to protect the boats, keep the racing fair, and keep the class accessible to sailors of all ages and abilities.

This guidance should be read in context with all parts of RRS 42 and the World Sailing [‘Interpretations of Rule 42, Propulsion’](#).

Sailors can view a basic pumping video tutorial [here](#).

THE RULE

Note: This rule changes RRS 42.3(C)(2). All other elements of RRS 42 still apply.

C.1.1 RRS 42.3(C)(2) is amended to read:

- (a) to initiate foiling:
 - (i) the sail may be pulled in any number of times; and/or
 - (ii) repetitive body movements may be used providing the crew is seated or has a minimum of three points of contact with the wing tramps and/or foot straps and at least three points of contact are inside the inner surfaces of the wing bars.
 - (iii) these actions shall not be used to gain advantage other than to initiate foiling.
- (b) to consolidate foiling immediately after completing a tack or gybe:
 - (i) the sail may be pulled in up to three times.



Interpretation

In this section:

- **Yellow light** area is a phrase used when it is not clear that the action is prohibited. It is unlikely that a boat in the yellow light area would be penalized, but it is possible. If the action is repeated, the likelihood of a penalty will rapidly increase.
- **Red light** area means the action is prohibited and the boat should be penalised.

When can I pump?

You can pump at any time to **initiate** foiling providing foiling is possible. If you pump when foiling is clearly not possible, you go directly to the 'red light' area. If you pump when you are already foiling, you go directly to the 'red light' area, except as permitted in class rule C.1.1(b).

What does "at least three points of contact are inside the inner surfaces of the wing bars" mean?

This part of the rule exists because pumping outside of the wing frame can bend or break the wing bars.

A sailor may extend their head and shoulders beyond the wing frame and may place a hand or foot on top of the wing frame whilst body pumping providing at least three points of contact are inside the inner surfaces of the wing bars.

If you are seated on or hiked outside of the wing bar and you body pump, you go directly to the 'red light' area.

What is foiling?

Foiling is when the entire hull is clear of the water. If part of the hull is touching the water, you are not foiling.

What if foiling is not possible?

You must not pump.

Where you pump to attempt to initiate foiling and there is very little wind and sustained foiling is not possible without further pumping, you go directly to the 'red light' area.

If foiling is possible but requires pumping



If you are on a close-hauled course and pump without bearing away at all; or if you are sailing on a deep downwind angle and pump without heading up, you go directly to the 'red light' area.

How long do I have to initiate foiling?

From the first pump, you have 5 seconds to foil. If you are not foiling after 5 seconds, you must stop or you go directly to the 'red light' area. If after 5 seconds, your hull is just clearing the water, you are allowed an extra 2 seconds to get the boat to full height. Once the boat is at full height, regardless of time, you must stop pumping.

What happens if I pump but do not initiate foiling and gain a tactical advantage?

You have broken class rule C.1.1(a)(iii). Examples of this include: if your pumping gains or breaks an overlap before entering the zone; pumping off the start line to get bow-forward of your competitors; pumping just before the finishing line to gain (or not lose) a position. In these instances, you go directly to the 'red light' area.

If I pump but do not initiate foiling and do not gain a tactical advantage, can I try again?

If you pump but do not initiate foiling, you enter the 'yellow light' area. Try and fail again and you go to the 'red light' area. Repeated failed attempts are prohibited. Something significant should change before making another attempt – for example, a significant change of course or change in wind.

Can I pump standing up?

No. Standing up pumping is now prohibited. If you stand up and pump with the body, you go directly to the 'red light' area.

Can I pump on the exit of a foiling tack or gybe?

Yes – but pumping is restricted to sail pumping only (not body pumping). You may pump the sail up to three times on the exit of a tack or gybe, even if you are foiling. The sail pumps must be immediately after the tack or gybe as an extension of the manoeuvre.



Comments from the judges

1. It is very easy to see if you are inside the wing bars from almost any angle!

From behind, it is obvious. From the windward side, if you are sitting on or outside the wing bar, the straight line of the wing bar is interrupted as in the picture below. You can also get a similar appreciation of this from the leeward side.



2. Do not body pump on the exits of gybes until the hull touches the water

If you slow down in the gybe and feel you are going to drop off the foils, you may pump the sail up to three times but you cannot body pump until a part of your hull touches the water. Body pumping on the exit of the gybe can be very obvious.

3. Sheet pumping is only permitted on the exits of tacks and gybes and to initiate foiling – it is not permitted whilst foiling other than on the exits of a manoeuvre.

We know that the WASZP requires a large amount of aggressive mainsheet trimming to keep the boat stable when foiling. Our approach on sheet pumping is to penalise a sailor when we are certain that the sailor is pumping the sheet to propel the boat. This happens most often in marginal conditions and as people slow down on the foils and attempt to pump the sail to keep flying, which is prohibited.

4. The other elements of RRS 42 are still relevant to a WASZP



In low-riding conditions, rocking is common. We understand that the WASZP is difficult to keep stable in low-riding mode, especially downwind. However, it is still possible to gain an unfair advantage from rocking. If we see a boat rocking, she will be penalised. Sailors should also note that heeling the WASZP in low-riding mode induces very little turn in comparison to conventional boats. Heeling and flattening the boat with no course change is prohibited. Sailors should be sure they are changing course before flattening off heel when turning with this technique.

Although much less prevalent than in conventional classes, sculling is still relevant to the WASZP and a sailor would be penalised if they scull and are not protected by the exceptions given in R42.