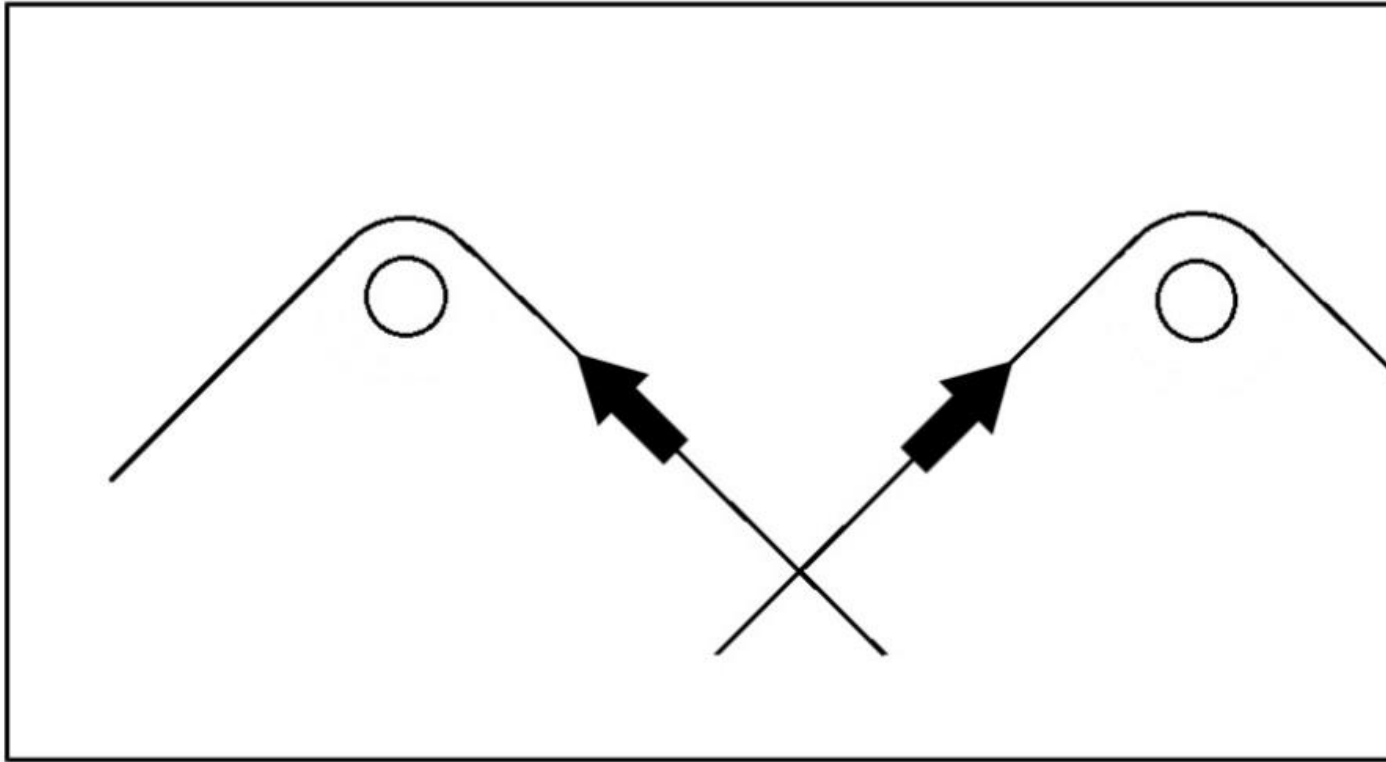


Proposal to Implementing a Windward Gate

A number of A-Class national fleets have been trialing windward gates as seen in SailGP, Americas Cup and Moth racing with a lot of success.

Mark 1 and 2 which normally provides the offset top marks is replaced with a windward gate and operates very similar to our current leeward gate.



Advantages

- Tactical options, it is no longer a follow the leader race around the top mark and out to the left hand side of the course. Both sides of the course can be utilized equally.
- It will discourage boats coming to the top mark on port and tacking in the 3 boat length zone.
- Boats are no longer forced to overlay the starboard lay line in fear of having to double tack at the windward mark if they underlay.
- The fleet is split and the race course is less congested

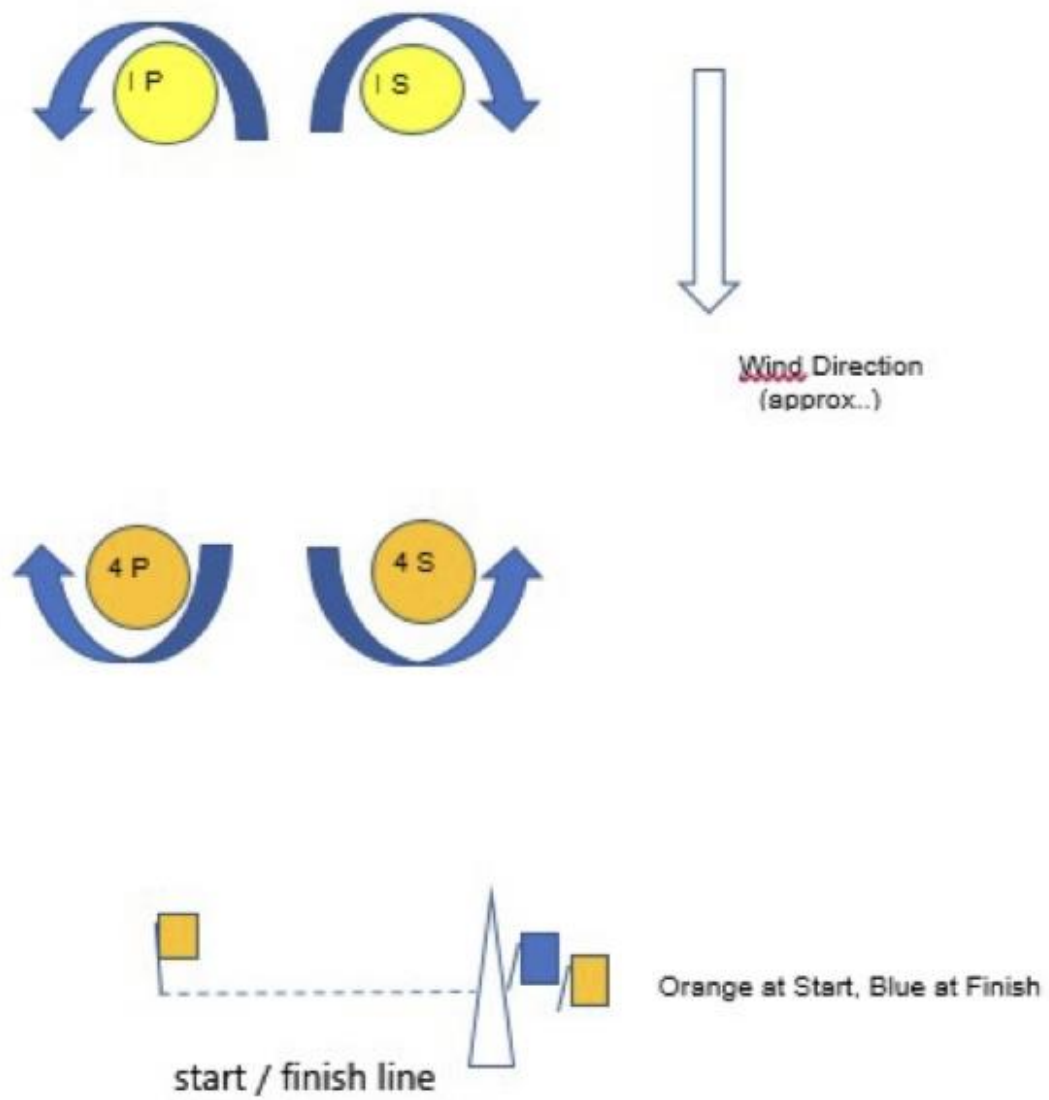
Disadvantage

- Potentially 1 more Port/Starboard encounter in a confined area but no different to the port boat coming into the current top mark to round to port.

The proposal is: Test of the Top Gate at the next three events (World and Continental Championships), starting in Spain and USA 2026 f. Afterwards based on the outcome of the test necessary adjustments and final decision making on the adaptation of the Championship Rules will be done.

A normal championship course would consist of the diagram below:

Start - 1P/1S - 4P/4S - 1P/1S - 4P/4S - 1P/1S - Finish.



Proposal: Test of the Early Finish Concept in the Open discipline

Punta Ala 2024 was a true highlight in many respects—not least thanks to the record participation of 170 sailors (86 in the Classic and 84 in the Open discipline). Following a few rough statistical insights, particularly regarding race duration, waiting times and DNF in the seven races of the – **Open** – discipline.

The regatta took place in fairly unpredictable weather, as a storm front from Spain swept across Tuscany during regatta week. The entire wind range was used for seven out of the planned twelve races. We saw a bit of everything: mixed conditions, with waves ranging from high to long. Besides three races in moderate wind conditions, we also faced four quite challenging races: two light-wind races that just barely allowed for trapezing and foiling, and two intense high-wind races, sometimes at the wind limit.

All over the fleet the **gaps were often significant**. In many races, the boats showed **large speed disparities, leading to numerous overlaps and some DNF entries**. On average, more than 30 of the roughly 80 sailors were lapped—sometimes between 40 and 50. Obviously not only the last places were affected; some top-10 and top-20 sailors also got caught in the pack.

Despite the generous 30-minute time window for crossing the finish line (66% of the 45-minute target time), an **average of 10 sailors** per race were marked as **DNF**, with that number climbing above 20 under more difficult foiling conditions. Incidentally, the first sailor to finish averaged about 40 minutes per race. The last sailors took around 30+ minutes longer to reach the start boat again.

Based on the experience we made at the last World Cups and the Meta Sail data from Punta Ala an **"Early Finish" concept** in the Open Class is recommended. This could **save around 15–20 minutes per race and it would avoid most of the DNF entries**.

The saved time could allow for an additional race per day. For the top sailors, the wait time would be cut roughly in half, and for the sailors further back, an extra race might provide similar overall rounds, potentially adding more scoring opportunities.

Major clubs are familiar with "Early Finish" concepts, as other foiling classes have practiced them for years.

What might this look like? We would use the gate as a second finish for the lapped sailors, as suggested by Darren Bundock - this has the advantage of immediately identifying who has been lapped.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Data is a rough proxy								
2	Wind	Strong	Medium	Medium	Medium	Light	Light	Strong	Average
3		R1 Foiler	R 2 Foiler	R3 Foiler	R4 Foiler	R5 Foiler	R 6 Foiler	R7 Foiler	
6	Race duration 1 st	00:35	00:46	00:35	00:36	00:40	00:42	00:33	00:38
8	Race duration last sailor finished	01:01	01:10	01:05	01:06	01:10	01:16	00:51	01:05
10	Race duration last sailor not lapped	00:52	01:02	00:49	00:50	DNF	01:01	00:47	00:53
11	Racing time last sailor at the gate	00:39	00:52	00:47	00:44	00:56	01:00	00:34	00:47
12	Saved time Early Finish	00:06	00:13	00:25	00:15	00:36	00:14	00:04	00:16
13	Last sailor back at RC	00:58	01:15	01:14	01:05	01:32	01:15	00:51	01:10
14	Position last sailor finished	60	69	67	67	53	67	39	60
15	Lapped sailors	30	19	43	38	34	51	13	33
16	DNF	0	7	14	10	26	13	1	10
17	DNC/DNS	19	5	5	5	2	2	38	10

Tab 1: proxy of the Meta Sail Data Punta Ala 2024

Proposed decision with request for approval (y/n):

Test of the "Early Finish" concept (wording below) in the - Open - discipline at the next three major events starting in 2026 (Spain and USA f.).

Necessary adjustments and final decision making on the adaptation of the Championship Rules (for the Open discipline only) will be done after the test.

The wording in the sailing instructions could be as following:

"When the leading boat completes the course and finishes, the Race Committee signal boat shall immediately display a chequered flag (or similar, as detailed in the sailing instructions) with a sound signal at the leeward gate. This indicates that the gate is now a finishing gate for lapped boats. All boats that cross the finishing gate after the leading boat has finished, shall be deemed to be finished irrespective of number of laps they have completed.

Boats that are on the same lap as the leader will complete the original course and finish at the original finish line and shall avoid the gate on the way to the finish line.

(DP) The leeward gate on the third lap shall be an obstruction and not crossed on the way to the finish line.

Boats failing to complete one lap will be scored did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

Boats that complete 3 laps and finish at the original finish line will be scored above those boats that are finished at the gate. Boats that complete 2 laps and that are finished at the gate will be scored above those boats that are finished with 1 lap completed.