

Civic COLREGs

Rules for Rough Water

What one person can do about corruption—without joining anything.

THE OLDEST RULE

You still answer for your vessel

KEEP YOUR BEARINGS

1. Apply the same standard to your own side
2. Questions are not betrayal
3. State what would change your mind

CHECK BEFORE YOU CARRY

4. Take time to verify
5. Repetition is not proof
6. Where retaliation is credible, silence is not agreement

WATCH WHAT CHANGES —AND WHAT'S MISSING

7. Look for the change behind the scandal
8. Notice what has stopped

Corruption does not always need to be hidden.
It can move faster than anyone can reasonably check.

Misleading claims do not have to convince you.
They only need you to carry them.

No one can check everything.
No one has to.

Keep your bearings.
Check what you carry.

Watch what changes
—and what is missing.

When it is safe, say what you see to the people nearest you.

Keep your stretch of the trail walkable.

No one has to see the whole to help make the whole
more navigable.



Full rules, sources, and printable copies
transilience.org/civic
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.22003783/>



Civic COLREGs Card — Version 1.0
© 2026 Karen Judd Smith (CC BY-ND 4.0)
Copy and share unchanged with credit • transilience.org/civic

Civic COLREGs

Rules for Rough Water

What one person can do about corruption—without joining anything.

THE OLDEST RULE

You still answer for your vessel

KEEP YOUR BEARINGS

1. Apply the same standard to your own side
2. Questions are not betrayal
3. State what would change your mind

CHECK BEFORE YOU CARRY

4. Take time to verify
5. Repetition is not proof
6. Where retaliation is credible, silence is not agreement

WATCH WHAT CHANGES —AND WHAT'S MISSING

7. Look for the change behind the scandal
8. Notice what has stopped

Corruption does not always need to be hidden.
It can move faster than anyone can reasonably check.

Misleading claims do not have to convince you.
They only need you to carry them.

No one can check everything.
No one has to.

Keep your bearings.
Check what you carry.

Watch what changes
—and what is missing.

When it is safe, say what you see to the people nearest you.

Keep your stretch of the trail walkable.

No one has to see the whole to help make the whole
more navigable.



Full rules, sources, and printable copies
transilience.org/civic
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.22003783/>



Civic COLREGs Card — Version 1.0
© 2026 Karen Judd Smith (CC BY-ND 4.0)
Copy and share unchanged with credit • transilience.org/civic