

# 5 000 miles added to race to avoid SA

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Chief Reporter

ANOTHER two legs, totalling 5 000 sea-miles, have been added to the course of the next Whitbread Round-the-World Race — so as to bypass Cape Town.

This will be the first time since the race was inaugurated in 1973/74 that the Whitbread fleet will not call here.

Instead of the usual 27 000 miles, over four legs, the course will now be 32 000 miles, over six legs.

The next race is scheduled to start from Portsmouth, England, in September 1989.

Although many of the international skippers and crews of yachts that have taken part in the four Whitbread races have described Cape Town as the most popular port of call in the race, political pressures have forced the sponsors and organizers to give South Africa a wide berth.

In London at the weekend the sponsors announced that for the first time, a North American port — Fort Lauderdale in Florida — would be included as a stop-over.

Whitbreads have also announced their biggest-ever sponsorship deal for the race — £4-million (about R12 million) — which more than quadruples its previous biggest sponsorship.

● Last year the chairman of the organizing committee of the Whitbread race, Rear-Admiral Charles Williams, said that as much as the yachtsmen would like to call at Cape Town, sponsors had made it clear that sponsorships would not be forthcoming if the fleet had to call at a South African port.