

Here are the 99% of need-to-know rules for running a race - Produced by SSCBC to help our Volunteers

DEFINITIONS

A term used as stated below is shown in italic type or, in preambles, in bold italic type. The meaning of several other terms is given in Terminology in the Introduction.

Abandon A race that a race committee or protest committee *abandons* is void but may be resailed.

Conflict of Interest A person has a *conflict of interest* if he

- (a) may gain or lose as a result of a decision to which he contributes,
- (b) may reasonably appear to have a personal or financial interest which could affect his ab
- (c) has a close personal interest in a decision.

Finish A boat *finishes* when any part of her hull, or crew or equipment in normal position, crosses the finishing line from the course side. However, she has not *finished* if after crossing the finishing line she

- (a) takes a penalty under [rule 44.2](#),
- (b) corrects an error under [rule 28.2](#) made at the line; or
- (c) continues to sail the course.

Mark An object the sailing instructions require a boat to leave on a specified side, and a race committee vessel surrounded by navigable water from which the starting or finishing line extends. An anchor line or an object attached accidentally to a *mark* is not part of it.

Postpone A *postponed* race is delayed before its scheduled start but may be started or *abandoned* later.

Racing A boat is *racing* from her preparatory signal until she *finishes* and clears the finishing line and *marks* or retires, or until the race committee signals a general recall, *postponement* or *abandonment*.

Rule

- (a) The rules in this book, including the Definitions, Race Signals, Introduction, preambles and the rules of relevant appendices, but not titles;
- (b) World Sailing Advertising Code, Anti-Doping Code, Betting and Anti-Corruption Code, Disciplinary Code, Eligibility Code, Sailor Classification Code, respectively Regulations 20, 21, 37, 35, 19 and 22;
- (c) the prescriptions of the national authority, unless they are changed by the notice of race or sailing instructions in compliance with the national authority's prescription, if any, to [rule 88.2](#);
- (d) the class rules (for a boat racing under a handicap or rating system, the rules of that system are 'class rules');
- (e) the notice of race;
- (f) the sailing instructions; and
- (g) any other documents that govern the event.

Start A boat *starts* when, having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with [rule 30.1](#) if it applies, any part of her hull, crew or equipment crosses the starting line in the direction of the first *mark*.

Support Person Any person who

- (a) provides, or may provide, physical or advisory support to a competitor, including any coach, trainer, manager, team staff, medic, paramedic or any other person working with, treating or assisting a competitor in or preparing for the competition, or
- (b) is the parent or guardian of a competitor.

PART 3 - CONDUCT OF A RACE

25 NOTICE OF RACE, SAILING INSTRUCTIONS AND SIGNALS

25.1 The notice of race and sailing instructions shall be made available to each boat before a race begins.

25.2 The meanings of the visual and sound signals stated in Race Signals shall not be changed except under [rule 86.1\(b\)](#). The meanings of any other signals that may be used shall be stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions.

25.3 When the race committee is required to display a flag as a visual signal, it may use a flag or other object of a similar appearance.

26 STARTING RACES

Races shall be started by using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

Minutes before starting signal	Visual signal	Sound signal	Means
5*	Class flag	One	Warning signal
4	P, I, Z, Z with I, U, or black flag	One	Preparatory signal
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

*or as stated in the sailing instructions

The warning signal for each succeeding class shall be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class.

Australian Sailing prescribes that when handicap starts apply a boat's preparatory signal is deemed made four minutes before the boat's starting time.

27 OTHER RACE COMMITTEE ACTIONS BEFORE THE STARTING SIGNAL

27.1 No later than the warning signal, the race committee shall signal or otherwise designate the course to be sailed if the sailing instructions have not stated the course, and it may replace one course signal with another and signal that wearing personal flotation devices is required (display flag Y with one sound).

27.2 No later than the preparatory signal, the race committee may move a starting *mark*.

27.3 Before the starting signal, the race committee may for any reason *postpone* (display flag AP, AP over H, or AP over A, with two sounds) or *abandon* the race (display flag N over H, or N over A, with three sounds).

28 SAILING THE COURSE

28.1 A boat shall *start*, sail the course described in the sailing instructions and *finish*. While doing so, she may leave on either side a *mark* that does not begin, bound or end the leg she is sailing. After *finishing* she need not cross the finishing line completely.

28.2 A string representing a boat's track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its pre-start side to *start* until she *finishes* shall, when drawn taut,

- (a) pass each *mark* on the required side and in the correct order,
 - (b) touch each rounding *mark*, and
 - (c) pass between the *marks* of a gate from the direction of the previous *mark*.
- She may correct any errors to comply with this rule, provided she has not *finished*.

29 RECALLS

29.1 Individual Recall

When at a boat's starting signal any part of her hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line or she must comply with [rule 30.1](#), the race committee shall promptly display flag X with one sound. The flag shall be displayed until all such boats have sailed completely to the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions and have complied with [rule 30.1](#) if it applies, but no later than four minutes after the starting signal or one minute before any later starting signal, whichever is earlier. If [rule 30.3](#) or [30.4](#) applies this rule does not.

29.2 General Recall

When at the starting signal the race committee is unable to identify boats that are on the course side of the starting line or to which [rule 30](#) applies, or there has been an error in the starting procedure, the race committee may signal a general recall (display the First Substitute with two sounds). The warning signal for a new start for the recalled class shall be made one minute after the First Substitute is removed (one sound), and the starts for any succeeding classes shall follow the new start.

30 STARTING PENALTIES

30.1 I Flag Rule

If flag I has been displayed, and any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line or one of its extensions during the last minute before her starting signal, she shall sail across an extension to the pre-start side before *starting*.

30.2 Z Flag Rule

If flag Z has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first *mark* during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall receive, without a hearing, a 20% Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in [rule 44.3\(c\)](#). She shall be penalised even if the race is restarted or resailed, but not if it is *postponed* or *abandoned* before the starting signal. If she is similarly identified during a subsequent attempt to start the same race, she shall receive an additional 20% Scoring Penalty.



30.3 U Flag Rule

If flag U has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first *mark* during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, but not if the race is restarted or resailed.

30.4 Black Flag Rule

If a black flag has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first *mark* during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, even if the race is restarted or resailed, but not if it is *postponed* or *abandoned* before the starting signal. If a general recall is signalled or the race is *abandoned* after the starting signal, the race committee shall display her sail number before the next warning signal for that race, and if the race is restarted or resailed she shall not sail in it. If she does so, her disqualification shall not be excluded in calculating her series score.

31 TOUCHING A MARK

While *racing*, a boat shall not touch a starting *mark* before *starting*, a *mark* that begins, bounds or ends the leg of the course on which she is sailing, or a finishing *mark* after *finishing*.

32 SHORTENING OR ABANDONING AFTER THE START

32.1 After the starting signal, the race committee may shorten the course (display flag S with two sounds) or *abandon* the race (display flag N, N over H, or N over A, with three sounds),

- (a) because of foul weather,
- (b) because of insufficient wind making it unlikely that any boat will *finish* within the time limit,
- (c) because a *mark* is missing or out of position, or
- (d) for any other reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition.

In addition, the race committee may shorten the course so that other scheduled races can be sailed, or *abandon* the race because of an error in the starting procedure. However, after one boat has sailed the course and *finished* within the time limit, if any, the race committee shall not *abandon* the race without considering the consequences for all boats in the race or series.

32.2 If the race committee signals a shortened course (displays flag S with two sounds), the finishing line shall be,

- (a) at a rounding *mark*, between the *mark* and a staff displaying flag S;
- (b) a line the course requires boats to cross; or
- (c) at a gate, between the gate *marks*.

The shortened course shall be signalled before the first boat crosses the finishing line.

33 CHANGING THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

The race committee may change a leg of the course that begins at a rounding *mark* or at a gate by changing the position of the next *mark* (or the finishing line) and signalling all boats before they begin the leg. The next *mark* need not be in position at that time.

- (a) If the direction of the leg will be changed, the signal shall be the display of flag C with repetitive sounds and one or both of
 - (1) the new compass bearing,
 - (2) a green triangle for a change to starboard or a red rectangle for a change to port.
- (b) If the length of the leg will be changed, the signal shall be the display of flag C with repetitive sounds and a '-' if the length will be decreased or a '+' if it will be increased.
- (c) Subsequent legs may be changed without further signalling to maintain the course shape.

34 MARK MISSING

If a *mark* is missing or out of position, the race committee shall, if possible,

- (a) replace it in its correct position or substitute a new one of similar appearance, or
- (b) substitute an object displaying flag M and make repetitive sound signals.

35 TIME LIMIT AND SCORES

If one boat sails the course as required by [rule 28](#) and *finishes* within the time limit, if any, all boats that *finish* shall be scored according to their finishing places unless the race is *abandoned*. If no boat *finishes* within the time limit, the race committee shall *abandon* the race.

36 RACES RESTARTED OR RESAILED

If a race is restarted or resailed, a breach of a *rule* in the original race, or in any previous restart or resail of that race, shall not

- (a) prohibit a boat from competing unless she has broken [rule 30.4](#); or
- (b) cause a boat to be penalised except under [rule 30.2](#), [30.4](#) or [69](#) or under [rule 14](#) when she has caused injury or serious damage.

62 REDRESS

62.1 A request for redress or a protest committee's decision to consider redress shall be based on a claim or possibility that a boat's score or place in a race or series has been or may be, through no fault of her own, made significantly worse by

- (a) an improper action or omission of the race committee, protest committee, organising authority or technical committee for the event, but not by a protest committee decision when the boat was a *party* to the hearing;
- (b) injury or physical damage because of the action of a boat that was breaking a rule of [Part 2](#) or of a vessel not *racing* that was required to keep clear;
- (c) giving help (except to herself or her crew) in compliance with rule 1.1; or
- (d) an action of a boat, or a member of her crew, that resulted in a penalty under [rule 2](#) or a penalty or warning under [rule 69.2\(h\)](#).

81 RESCHEDULED EVENT

When an event is rescheduled to dates different from the dates stated in the notice of race, all boats entered shall be notified. The race committee may accept new entries that meet all the entry requirements except the original deadline for entries.

89.2 Notice of Race; Appointment of Race Officials

- (a) The organising authority shall publish a notice of race that conforms to [rule J1](#).
- (b) The notice of race may be changed provided adequate notice is given.
- (c) The organising authority shall appoint a race committee and, when appropriate, appoint a protest committee, a technical committee and umpires. However, the race committee, an international jury, a technical committee and umpires may be appointed by World Sailing as provided in its regulations.

90 RACE COMMITTEE; SAILING INSTRUCTIONS; SCORING

90.1 Race Committee

The race committee shall conduct races as directed by the organising authority and as required by the *rules*.

90.2 Sailing Instructions

- (a) The race committee shall publish written sailing instructions that conform to [rule J2](#).
- (b) When appropriate, for an event where entries from other countries are expected, the sailing instructions shall include, in English, the applicable national prescriptions.
- (c) The sailing instructions may be changed provided the change is in writing and posted on the official notice board before the time stated in the sailing instructions or, on the water, communicated to each boat before her warning signal. Oral changes may be given only on the water, and only if the procedure is stated in the sailing instructions.

90.3 Scoring

- (a) The race committee shall score a race or series as provided in [Appendix A](#) using the Low Point System, unless the notice of race or sailing instructions specify some other system. A race shall be scored if it is not *abandoned* and if one boat sails the course in compliance with [rule 28](#) and *finishes* within the time limit, if any, even if she retires after *finishing* or is disqualified.
- (b) When a scoring system provides for excluding one or more race scores, any score that is a Disqualification Not Excludable (DNE) shall be included in a boat's series score.
- (c) When the race committee determines from its own records or observations that it has scored a boat incorrectly, it shall correct the error and make the corrected scores available to competitors.

A4 LOW POINT SYSTEM

The Low Point System will apply unless the notice of race or sailing instructions specify another system; see [rule 90.3\(a\)](#).



A4.1 Each boat *starting* and *finishing* and not thereafter retiring, being penalised or given redress shall be scored points as follows:

<i>Finishing place</i>	<i>Points</i>
First	1
Second	2
Third	3
Each place thereafter	Add 1 point

A4.2 A boat that did not *start*, did not *finish*, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series. A boat that is penalised under [rule 30.2](#) or that takes a penalty under [rule 44.3\(a\)](#) shall be scored points as provided in [rule 44.3\(c\)](#).

A5 SCORES DETERMINED BY THE RACE COMMITTEE

A boat that did not *start* or *finish* or comply with [rule 30.2](#), [30.3](#), [30.4](#) or [78.2](#), or that retires or takes a penalty under [rule 44.3\(a\)](#), shall be scored accordingly by the race committee without a hearing. Only the protest committee may take other scoring actions that worsen a boat's score.

A11 SCORING ABBREVIATIONS

These scoring abbreviations shall be used for recording the circumstances described:

DNC	Did not <i>start</i> ; did not come to the starting area	DNF	Did not <i>finish</i>
DNS	Did not <i>start</i> (other than DNC and OCS)	RET	Retired
OCS	Did not <i>start</i> ; on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and failed to <i>start</i> , or broke rule 30.1	DSQ	Disqualification
ZFP	20% penalty under rule 30.2	DNE	Disqualification that is not excludable
UFD	Disqualification under rule 30.3	RDG	Redress given
BFD	Disqualification under rule 30.4	DPI	Discretionary penalty imposed
SCP	Scoring Penalty applied		

APPENDIX P SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR RULE 42

All or part of this appendix applies only if the notice of race or sailing instructions so state.

P5 FLAGS O AND R

P5.1 When Rule P5 Applies

Rule P5 applies if the class rules permit pumping, rocking and ooching when the wind speed exceeds a specified limit.

P5.2 Before the Starting Signal

- The race committee may signal that pumping, rocking and ooching are permitted, as specified in the class rules, by displaying flag O before or with the warning signal.
- If the wind speed becomes less than the specified limit after flag O has been displayed, the race committee may *postpone* the race. Then, before or with a new warning signal, the committee shall display either flag R, to signal that [rule 42](#) as changed by the class rules applies, or flag O, as provided in rule P5.2(a).
- If flag O or flag R is displayed before or with the warning signal, it shall be displayed until the starting signal.

P5.3 After the Starting Signal

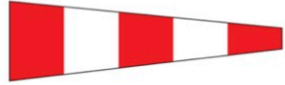
After the starting signal,

- if the wind speed exceeds the specified limit, the race committee may display flag O with repetitive sounds at a *mark* to signal that pumping, rocking and ooching are permitted, as specified in the class rules, after passing the *mark*;
- if flag O has been displayed and the wind speed becomes less than the specified limit, the race committee may display flag R with repetitive sounds at a *mark* to signal that [rule 42](#), as changed by the class rules, applies after passing the *mark*.

RACE SIGNALS

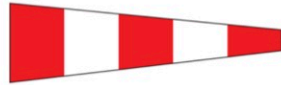
The meanings of visual and sound signals are stated below. An arrow pointing up or down (↑↓) means that a visual signal is displayed or removed. A dot (•) means a sound; five short dashes (-----) mean repetitive sounds; a long dash (—) means a long sound. When a visual signal is displayed over a class flag, the signal applies only to that class.

Postponement Signals



↑••• ↓•

AP Races not started are *postponed*. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is *postponed* again or *abandoned*.



↑••

AP over H Races not started are *postponed*. Further signals ashore.



↑••

AP over A Races not started are *postponed*. No more racing today.

AP over a numeral pennant 1–9

Postponement of 1-9 hours from the scheduled starting time.



Pennant 1 ↑•• ↓•



Pennant 2 ↑•• ↓•



Pennant 3 ↑•• ↓•



Pennant 4 ↑•• ↓•



Pennant 5 ↑•• ↓•



Pennant 6 ↑•• ↓•



Pennant 7 ↑•• ↓•



Pennant 8 ↑•• ↓•



Pennant 9 ↑•• ↓•

Abandonment Signals



↑••• ↓•

N All races that have started are *abandoned*. Return to the starting area. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is *abandoned* again or *postponed*.



↑•••

N over H All races are *abandoned*. Further signals ashore.



↑•••

N over A All races are *abandoned*. No more racing today.

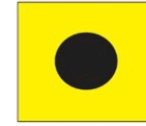


Preparatory Signals



↑• ↓—

P Preparatory signal.



↑• ↓—

I Rule 30.1 is in effect.



↑• ↓—

Z Rule 30.2 is in effect.



↑• ↓—

U Rule 30.3 is in effect.



↑• ↓—

Black flag. Rule 30.4 is in effect.

Recall Signals



↑•

X Individual recall.



↑•• ↓•

First Substitute General recall. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal.

Shortened Course



↑••

S The course has been shortened. Rule 32.2 is in effect.

Changing the Next Leg



C The position of the next *mark* has been changed:



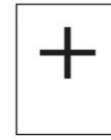
to starboard;



to port;



to decrease the length of the leg;



to increase the length of the leg.

Other Signals



↑•

L Ashore: A notice to competitors has been posted. Afloat: Come within hail or follow this vessel.



M The object displaying this signal replaces a missing *mark*.



↑•

Y Wear a personal flotation device (see rule 40).



(no sound)

Blue flag or shape. This race committee vessel is in position at the finishing line