

Racing Rules of Sailing

Race Signals, Abandonment Signals

A submission from US SAILING

Proposal

Change the text in Race Signals, Abandonment Signals to read as follows:

N All races **in progress** ~~that have started~~ are *abandoned*. [No further change.]

N over H All races **in progress** are *abandoned*; **all boats return to shore**. Further signals ashore.

N over A All races **in progress** are *abandoned*; **all boats return to shore**. No more racing today.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

This proposal conforms the wording of Race Signals to accepted practice. Typically, abandonment is used to void a race that is currently in progress. However, for **N over H** and **N over A** the reference is to 'all races', which literally includes races that were sailed and successfully completed earlier in the day. And, for **N** the phrase 'that have started' is not helpful because it would literally include any races started that day when what is intended is only races that have started but are not yet completed. The phrase 'in progress' for all three signals eliminates the problem and any potential confusion.

As reworded, **N over H** and **N over A** apply only to races in progress but when those signals are used the race committee wants all boats to go ashore, often for reasons of safety, regardless of whether they have started a race. For this reason, the phrase 'all boats return to shore' is added. Thus, boats in a race in progress are told 'this race is abandoned' and all boats are told 'go ashore'.