

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



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Question:

Where is the starting area, how big is it, when does it exist and when does it cease to exist?

Answer:

The sailing instructions may define the starting area for a particular event, and may place restrictions on entering it. When the term is not explained in the sailing instructions, it has the meaning 'ordinarily understood in nautical or general use' (See Introduction to the Racing Rules of Sailing). The 'starting area' will normally be the area where boats will sail between their preparatory signal and starting signal.

When all boats in all the starts in a starting sequence have started and left the area around the starting line, the starting area ceases to exist unless something else is written into the rules for the event or races have been abandoned.