

REPORTING COMMITTEE - RACING RULES

OTHER COMMITTEE - RACE OFFICIALS

Racing Rules of Sailing

Starting Sequence

A submission from the chairman of the Race Officials Committee

PROPOSAL:

30.3 If a black flag has been displayed before, with, or as a boat's preparatory signal, no part of her hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first *mark* during the 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, re-sailed or rescheduled, 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, and if the race is restarted or re-sailed she shall not sail in it. If she does so, her disqualifications she shall not be excluded in calculating her series score. **When this rule applies rule 29.2 does not.**

CURRENT POSITION:

See above.

REASON:

A boat which is identified over the starting line during the last minute prior to her starting signal is disqualified without a hearing. It is illogical to display the "X" flag, to recall a boat which is already disqualified (BFD) before her starting signal.

Rule 29.2 states that when at a boat's starting signal she must comply with rule 29.1 the race committee shall promptly display flag "X" with one sound. This is certainly the case of a boat which is over the line at her starting signal, but the display of the individual recall is illogic, since the boat which would be recalled has already been DSQ, before the start.

The current practice of the vast majority of Race Committees all over the world has been, up to now, not to display the X flag when rule 30.3 applies. However, since currently there is no provision to state that the "X" flag should not be displayed in the case of a Black Flag start, recently it has been suggested that Race Committees should comply with rule 29.2 also when rule 30.3 applies. This conflicts with the purpose and the spirit of rule 30.3, which is designed to keep competitors away from the starting line in order to assist the work of the race committee operating under difficult conditions. The purpose of the individual recall is to assist the innocent competitor, by informing him that he was over the line at the start (or as the case may be during the last minute). It is not

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designed to help a fleet of gamblers who are trying their luck in a Black Flag start. Rule 30.3 is a draconian rule and so it must stay. Further if the race committee were to display a signal to recall a boat which is already DSQ (BFD), this would be a useless and illogic complication, which could also result in inducing in error a boat which started correctly.

By inserting at the end of rule 30.3 the words "When this rule applies, rule 29.2 does not." any ambiguity is cleared.