

Reporting Committee – Racing Rules

Other Committee – Race Officials

**Mark Missing**  
**Racing Rules of Sailing, Rule 34**

A submission from US Sailing

**PROPOSAL:**

**34 MARK MISSING, RACE COMMITTEE ABSENT**

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

(a) replace it in its correct position or

(b) substitute one of similar appearance, or a buoy or vessel displaying flag M with repetitive sounds.

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~~(a) replace it in its correct position or~~

~~(b) substitute one of similar appearance, or a buoy or vessel displaying flag M with repetitive sounds.~~

34.2 If a finishing mark is missing but another one remains in place, a boat shall finish as close to the remaining mark as practicable on a line extending from its required side at a 90° angle to the last leg. If a boat finishes when the race committee is absent, to be scored as finishing she shall note her finishing position in relation to any nearby boats and her finishing time and report them to the race committee as soon as reasonably possible. “

**CURRENT POSITION:**

**34 MARK MISSING**

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

(a) replace it in its correct position or

(b) substitute one of similar appearance, or a buoy or vessel displaying flag M with repetitive sounds.

**REASON:**

Because of adverse weather conditions, equipment problems or other difficulties, it is routine for a finishing-line mark to be missing or out of place and for the race committee to be unable to replace it in time. It also may happen that a race committee cannot be at the finishing line to record the finishes of all boats. The proposed addition to rule 34 is similar to a US SAILING prescription, which has resulted in races being successfully completed and accurately scored, when without the prescription the race would have been lost.