

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule A10

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose or Objective

To provide a scoring abbreviation for a boat that takes a penalty by retiring after finishing.

Proposal

Add a new scoring abbreviation to rule A10 after the entry for 'RET':

RAF Retired after finishing

Current Position

None. The proposed abbreviation is new.

Reasons

1. When a boat knows she has broken a rule she should take a penalty, which may be to retire. This is a fundamental concept in the rules, but no scoring abbreviation provides that information to competitors. Since the only reason for a boat to retire after finishing is because she broke a rule the score 'RAF' would provide that information in those circumstances. Providing competitors with the information that a boat retired in acknowledgement of breaking a rule (with the scoring abbreviation 'RAF') would help to reinforce the importance of this concept.
 2. Scores should reflect as much as possible all of the information that the race committee possesses. A score 'RET' merely means that a boat retired either before or after finishing, which might be for many reasons and most often is unrelated to taking a penalty. But, a score 'RAF' could only mean that a boat retired after finishing in acknowledgement of breaking a rule, which provides competitors with more of the information that the race committee has.
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