Racing Rules of Sailing

Rules 30.3, 30.4 and A11

A submission from the Deutscher Segler-Verband

Purpose or Objective

Change of RRS 30.3, 30.4, A11 - (RRS 2017-2020)

Proposal

Change of RRS 30.3, 30.4, A11 - (RRS 2017-2020) to:

30.3 U Flag Rule

If flag U has been displayed, no part of a boat’s hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, scored UFS, but not if the race is restarted or resailed.

30.4 Black Flag Rule

If a black flag has been displayed, no part of a boat’s hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing scored BFS, even if the race is restarted or resailed, 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 before the next warning signal for that race, and if the race is restarted or resailed she shall not sail in it. If she does so, her disqualification score shall be SNE and shall not be excluded in calculating her series score.

A11 SCORING ABBREVIATIONS

These scoring abbreviations shall be used for recording the circumstances described:
- DNC Did not start; did not come to the starting area
- DNS Did not start (other than DNC and OCS)
- OCS Did not start; on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and failed to start, or broke rule 30.1
- ZFP 20% penalty under rule 30.2
- UFD UFS Disqualification U-Flag Score under rule 30.3
- BFD BFS Disqualification Black Flag Score under rule 30.4
- SCP Scoring Penalty applied
Current Position
As above

Reason
In order to clearly identify the body taking a decision a disqualification should be imposed by the protest committee only. A disqualification shows that there has been a hearing and the decision has been taken by the judges. At the start the Race Officer is taking the decisions based on his observation of the line. To take a decision on a starting error there is no procedure that requires the protest committee to act. It is therefore logical, to divide the decisions by the different committees in a race clearly not only by the tasks, but also by the denotation. With the proposed change the rules 30.3 and 30.4 will not change in the meaning or the consequences, but the RRS will have a clearer structure. In addition, it is easier for the media to see what the penalty was given for and why it has been given.