Racing Rules of Sailing

New Rule 30.3 and associated necessary changes

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose or Objective

To move the U Flag Rule (currently instruction 11.5 in Appendix L) into the racing rules as rule 30.3, and make housekeeping changes necessitated by that move.

Proposal

1. Insert new rule 30.3 as follows:

   **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, but not if, after she breaks the rule, the start is recalled or the race is postponed or abandoned.

2. Make the following necessary housekeeping changes if the proposal is accepted:

   - Change the number of current rule 30.3 to ‘30.4’.
   - In the table in rule 26, change the entry in the 2nd row, 2nd column to:
     
     P, I, Z, Z with I, U, or black flag
   - Change the last sentence of rule 29.1 to:
     
     If rule 30.3 or **30.4** applies this rule does not.
   - In rule 36, change the two references to rule 30.3 to rule 30.4.
   - In rule 63.1, change ‘rules 30.2, 30.3, 69, A5 and P2’ to ‘rules 30.2, 30.3, **30.4**, 69, A5 and P2’.
   - In rule 90.3(b), change ‘rule 30.3’s last sentence’ to ‘rule 30.4’s last sentence’.
   - In rule A5, change ‘rule 30.2 or 30.3’ to ‘rule 30.2, 30.3 or **30.4**’.
   - In rule A11, change ‘30.3’ in BFD to ‘30.4’ and add the following new abbreviation between ‘ZFP’ and ‘BFD’:

     **UFD Disqualification under rule 30.3**
• In Appendix L, delete instruction 11.5 and renumber instruction 11.6 as 11.5.

Current Position

Rule 30.3 is new, but its use as a sailing instruction is currently permitted as an alternative to the Black Flag Rule (see instruction 11.5 in Appendix L).

Reasons

In 2013, by including the U Flag Rule in Appendix L ISAF provided an alternative to the Black Flag Rule that race committees could test. Many race committees have tested the U Flag Rule and reports indicate that competitors prefer it and that it reduces the number of general recalls just as effectively as the Black Flag Rule does.

The wording of proposed rule 30.3’s first sentence is identical to the first sentence of current instruction 11.5 in Appendix L. The second sentence has been revised to make it easier for the reader to understand the conditions under which a boat that has broken the rule is not to be penalized.