Racing Rules of Sailing

Rules 30.3, 30.4, A5, A11, D2.1, L11.5

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective
To add a new starting penalty in rule 30 that is commonly included in sailing instructions.

Proposal
1. Change the number of current rule 30.3 to:

30.34 Black Flag Rule.

2. Insert new rule 30.3:

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 the race is restarted or resailed.

3. In rule 26, change the list of visual preparatory signals to:

P, I, Z, Z with I, U, or black flag

4. Change the last sentence of rule 29.1 to:

If rule 30.3 or 30.4 applies this rule does not.

5. In rule 36 change the two references to rule 30.3 to rule 30.4.

6. 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’.

7. In rule A5, change ‘rule 30.2 or 30.3’ to

‘rule 30.2, 30.3 or 30.4’.

8. Amend rule A11 as follows:

UFD Disqualification under rule 30.3
BFD Disqualification under rule 30.34

9. In rule D2.1, change ‘flag U’ to ‘flag J’ in the second sentence.

10. Delete rule L 11.5 and renumber rule L11 accordingly.
Current Position
As above.

Reasons

1. The “U flag penalty” as shown in Appendix L 11.5 is increasingly used at events around the world. Because this sailing instruction is so widely used, it should be included in rule 30 with the rest of the starting penalties.

2. Race officials at major ISAF events have used a version of the U flag penalty similar to Appendix L 11.5, but have questioned the need for including “or postponed or abandoned” in L 11.5’s second sentence. As used in this proposal, and in the rules that use the term, ‘restarted’ does not necessarily mean that a prior starting signal must have been made for the race to be restarted. In these cases, ‘restarted’ is not used with the meaning from the definition Start. ‘Restarted’ means the race committee will begin again to get a race started after the previous attempt was interrupted, whether that interruption occurred before or after the starting signal. The same wording is used in rule 36 with the same meaning. For this reason, “or postponed or abandoned” is unnecessary.

3. Since flag U will be in the rule book for all racing, rule D2.1 should be changed so that a different signal than flag U will be used to signal the race will be umpired. Flag J is suggested because that flag has been used to denote ‘judge’ or ‘judges’ but any other unused signal could be used.