Racing Rules of Sailing

Definition Start

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose

To word the definition Start consistently with other definitions and rules, and to solve a problem with its wording when certain courses are used.

Proposal 1

Change the definition Start as follows:

Start  A boat starts when, having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull, crew or equipment crosses the starting line from the pre-start side in the direction of the first mark.

Proposal 2

In Appendix F, change the definition Start as follows:

Start  A kiteboard starts when, her hull and the competitor having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull, or the competitor crosses the starting line from the pre-start side in the direction of the first mark.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. To use similar wording in similar phrases in the definitions Start and Finish. This simplifies the rules and reduces debates about the reasons for differences in wording between rules.

2. To avoid mention of the ‘first mark’ because, for some courses, there is no ‘first mark’. An example would be a point-to-point race, from a starting line at one club to a finishing line at another club. Also, for some courses the first leg of the course takes the fleet to and around a headland and from there in a different direction to the first mark. In that case it may not be physically possible to cross the starting line from the pre-start side ‘in the direction of the first mark’.