Proposal

32 SHORTENING OR ABANDONING AFTER THE START

32.1 Reasons for Shortening or Abandoning a Race

After the starting signal, the race committee may shorten the course (display flag S with two sounds) or abandon the race except as provided in rule 32.3 (display flag N, N over H, or N over A, with three sounds), as appropriate,

(a) because of an error in the starting procedure,
(b) because of foul weather,
(c) because of insufficient wind making it unlikely that any boat will finish within the time limit,
(d) because a mark is missing or out of position, or
(e) for any other reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition,

or may shorten the course so that other scheduled races can be sailed. However, after one boat has sailed the course and finished within the time limit, if any, the race committee shall not abandon the race without considering the consequences for all boats in the race or series.

32.2 Shortening a Race

If the race committee signals a shortened course (displays flag S with two sounds), the finishing line shall be,

(a) at a rounding mark, between the mark and a staff displaying flag S;
(b) at a line boats are required to cross at the end of each lap, that line;
(c) at a gate, between the gate marks.

The shortened course shall be signalled before the first boat crosses the finishing line.

32.3 Limitations on Abandoning a Race

The race committee shall not abandon the race

(a) after one boat has sailed the course and finished within the time limit, if any, without considering the consequences for all boats in the race or series, or
(b) after all boats have finished or retired.
Current Position

As above.

Reason

It is not appropriate or fair to competitors to abandon a race without a hearing after all boats have finished or retired. If the race committee believe that abandonment is appropriate in the circumstances, it can apply for redress for all boats under rule 60.2(b). The benefit of a redress hearing is that it provides an opportunity for the protest committee to obtain and consider the views of both the race committee and the competitors before a decision is made. The conditions for abandoning a race are placed in a new rule 32.3 for clarity.