Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 32

A submission from Yachting New Zealand

Purpose or Objective

To split rule 32 into two rules, one for Abandonment and one for Shortening. Rules 33 – 36 be renumbered as rules 34 - 37

Proposal

Delete rule 32, replace with two new rules as follows and renumber accordingly:

32 ABANDONING AFTER THE START

After the starting signal, the race committee may abandon the race (display flag N, N over H, or N over A, with three sounds)

(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.

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.

33 SHORTENING THE COURSE

After the starting signal, the race committee may shorten the course (display flag S with two sounds)

(a) so that other scheduled races can be sailed,

(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.

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.

Current Position

See current rule 32. Rule 32 covers the two situations of Abandonment and Shortening in one rule.

Reason

The two situations of Abandonment and Shortening have different outcomes for a race, not all reasons for one are appropriate for both. Therefore these situations should be treated separately. No change to the intent of the current rule 32 is proposed.