Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 32.1

A submission from US SAILING

Proposal
Change rule 32.1 as follows:

32.1 After the starting signal, the race committee may shorten the course (display flag S with two sounds) or, before it leaves the racing area, abandon the race (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.

Current Position
As above.

Reason
After returning ashore, the race committee may learn of circumstances that occurred during a race (such as a missing mark or problems signaling a course change) that may have made the race ‘unfair’ for some or even all of the competitors. Typically, it will learn of this from just a few of the competitors. Currently, the race committee may then abandon the race under rule 32.1(e).