Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 34

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

An addition to rule 34 is proposed to enable a race to be scored rather than abandoned when the race committee is absent while boats are finishing.

Proposal

34 MARK MISSING; RACE COMMITTEE ABSENT

34.1 If a mark is missing or out of position, the race committee shall, if possible,
   (a) replace it in its correct position or substitute a new one of similar appearance, or
   (b) substitute an object displaying flag M and make repetitive sound signals.

34.2 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she shall report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

There are two situations in which proposed new rule 34.2 will be helpful and may prevent an otherwise excellent race from being abandoned – in a long-distance race in which boats finish sooner than the race committee expects, and in stormy conditions when the race committee is absent because its members have moved from the anchored finishing line boat onto a rescue boat to help boats in trouble because of the conditions.

This submission was prepared by the Rule 28 Working Party.