

Racing Rules of Sailing

Appendix L, Instruction 11.1

A submission from US SAILING

Proposal

Insert the following paragraphs between the first and second options in Instruction 11.1

(OR)

For large fleets and long starting lines.

11.1

Races will be started by using rule 26 with the following addition:

An attention signal (flag F with one sound) will be made five minutes before the warning signal. The race committee will designate the course to be sailed before or with the attention signal. Flag F will be removed with one sound one minute before the warning signal. This changes rule 27.1.

Current Position

None. A similar instruction was in Appendix L in the 2005-2008 edition of the racing rules, but it does not appear in the current rulebook

Reason

When there is a large fleet or a long starting line, boats need more than five minutes notice of the start in order to determine the course and position themselves for the start.

The current instruction that partially covers this topic is Instruction 5.4. But the proposed instruction has an important feature that Instruction 5.4 lacks – i.e., it requires the course to be signaled five minutes before the warning. Competitors need to be able to determine the course and, after they do so, have sufficient time to position themselves for a start at any point on the starting line. With a long line, which is needed for a large fleet, it is often not possible to do this in five minutes. The proposed instruction would allow five additional minutes, which in the past has proven to be adequate.