

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 27.1

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose

To require the course signal to be displayed until the starting signal, and to clarify the requirements for signalling the course when there are “rolling starts” for two or more classes.

Proposal

Change rule 27.1 as follows:

- 27.1** No later than the warning signal, the race committee
- (a) shall, if the sailing instructions have not stated the course, display the course signal and continue to display it until the starting signal. When the starting signal is also the warning signal for a subsequent start, the committee may at that time replace the course signal with the course signal for the next class; ~~shall signal or otherwise designate the course to be sailed if the sailing instructions have not stated the course, and it may replace one course signal with another and~~**
 - (b) may signal that wearing personal flotation devices is required (display flag Y with one sound).**

Clean Copy of Proposal

- 27.1** No later than the warning signal, the race committee
- (a) shall, if the sailing instructions have not stated the course, display the course signal and continue to display it until the starting signal. When the starting signal is also the warning signal for a subsequent start, the committee may at that time replace the course signal with the course signal for the next class;
 - (b) may signal that wearing personal flotation devices is required (display flag Y with one sound).

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

Especially when there are “rolling starts”, if one class is starting and the course for the next class will be different from that of the current class, the current rule allows (and even encourages) the race committee to replace the course signal for the class currently starting with a signal for the next

class. If this is done before the starting signal for the current start, that class can become confused about which course they are to sail. Even in non-rolling starts, it is useful and competitor-friendly to require the course signal to be displayed until the starting signal.

The specification for display of flag Y is useful here, so that all actions by the race committee before or with the warning signal are specified in one place. However, with a longer provision related to the display of the course signal, the provision for flag Y should be in a separate part of the rule.
