Racing Rules of Sailing

Rules 33 and 34

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To clarify that the requirements on the race committee when changing the course or when a mark is missing only apply while boats are racing.

Proposal 1

Change rule 33:

33 CHANGING THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

While boats are racing, the race committee may change a leg of the course that begins at a rounding mark or at a gate by changing the position of the next mark (or the finishing line) and signalling all boats before they begin the leg. The next mark need not be in position at that time.

(a) If the direction of the leg will be changed, the signal shall be the display of flag C with repetitive sounds and one or both of
   (1) the new compass bearing,
   (2) a green triangle for a change to starboard or a red rectangle for a change to port.
(b) If the length of the leg will be changed, the signal shall be the display of flag C with repetitive sounds and a ‘−’ if the length will be decreased or a ‘+’ if it will be increased.
(c) Subsequent legs may be changed without further signalling to maintain the course shape.

Proposal 2

Change rule 34:

34 MARK MISSING

If a mark is missing or out of position while boats are racing, 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.
Current Position
See above.

Reasons
These 2 rules do not specify when the requirements on the race committee apply. This submission fixes this.