

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 30.1

A submission from Yachting Australia

Purpose or Objective

Align the use of flag I with other starting penalty rules.

Proposal

Amend rule 30.1 as follows:

30.1 I Flag Rule

If flag I has been displayed, ~~and any~~ **no** part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment **shall be in the triangle formed by the ends** ~~is on the course side~~ of the starting line **and the first mark** ~~or one of its extensions~~ during the last minute before her starting signal. **If a boat breaks this rule,** she shall thereafter sail from the course side across an extension to the pre-start side before *starting*.

Current Position

See above.

Reasons

1. Many race officers do not look behind themselves when sighting the line and signalled "X" when a boat is over the extension at the committee boat (starboard) end. Therefore, the rule is poor in that it is not strictly enforced with a recall signal.
 2. If the rule was strictly enforced, it has the potential to cast doubt in sailors' minds if they are very close to the start line. No good purpose is served signalling boats over the extension that would likely go round the end anyway.
 3. It is confusing when teaching both race officers and sailors as the recall signals apply differently. Simplifying should have a high priority.
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