

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 40

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To add to rule 40 a frequently used sailing instruction requiring personal flotation devices to be worn at all times when afloat.

Proposal

1. Amend rule 40 as follows:

40 PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

When flag Y is displayed with one sound before or with the warning signal, competitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. **When flag Y is displayed ashore, this rule applies at all times while afloat.** Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices.

2. Amend Race Signal Y as follows:

Y **Ashore:** Wear a personal flotation device **at all times while afloat.**
Afloat: Wear a personal flotation device while *racing*.

3. Delete rule L4.3.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

It is a very common practice for sailing instructions to include the words in Appendix L4.3 requiring competitors to wear personal flotation devices at all times when afloat. This proposal incorporates the instruction into the relevant rule as the default use of flag Y when it is displayed ashore.

Note the Preamble to Part 4 has been amended by approved submission 140-14 (proposal 1) so that, from January 2015, it will state:

*Part 4 rules apply only to boats **racing** unless the rule states otherwise.*
