2017-2020 US SAILING PRESCRIPTIONS

CONTENTS Edit or add the following lines:

R *Procedures for Appeals and Requests*

U *Audible-Signal Racing System*

V *Alternative Penalties*

Move first line of Contents to make it the last line and change its wording to:
Race Signals, International Code Flags *Inside back cover*

ONLINE DOCUMENTS Add the following paragraph just above the line that begins '**Introduction**':

Links to documents referred to in US Sailing prescriptions and notes can be found at* rules.ussailing.org*. However, links to documents referred to in Appendix R, Procedures for Appeals and Requests, can be found at* appeals.ussailing.org*.

INTRODUCTION Add as a new last paragraph in the Introduction:

Prescriptions US Sailing prescriptions are printed in bold italics, except Appendices R, U and V. Those three appendices are US Sailing prescriptions.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY Add after the new paragraph in the Introduction just above:

Equal Opportunity

As the national authority for the sport of sailing, US Sailing is committed to providing an equal opportunity to all sailors to participate in the sport of sailing.

Rule 34 Change rule 34 title to:

MARK MISSING; ***RACE COMMITTEE ABSENT***

After rule 34 add

US Sailing prescribes that, if a finishing* mark *is missing but another one remains in place, the finishing line is a line through the remaining* mark *at a 90° angle to the last leg and of the shortest practicable length. If the race committee is absent when a boat* finishes*, she should report to the race

***committee her finishing time and her position in relation to nearby boats at the first reasonable opportunity*.**

Rule 40 Change rule 40 title to:

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES; *LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT*

After rule 40 add

US Sailing prescribes that every boat shall carry life-saving equipment conforming to government regulations that apply in the racing area. Go to* rules.ussailing.org *and click the 'PFD' link for more information.

Rule 48.1 After rule 48.1 add

US Sailing prescribes that the use of additional special-purpose lights such as spreader, sail-trim and masthead wind-indicator lights shall not constitute a breach of this rule.

Rule 60.3 After rule 60.3 add

US Sailing prescribes that rule 60.3(b) is changed to:

(b) request redress for a boat or call a hearing to consider redress; or

Rule 61.4 Add rule 61.4

61.4 Fees for Protests and Requests for Redress

US Sailing prescribes that no fees shall be charged for* protests *or requests for redress.

Rule 63.2 After rule 63.2 add

US Sailing prescribes that when redress has been requested or is to be considered for one or more boats:

(a) Any other boat may participate in the hearing.

(b) The protest committee shall make a reasonable attempt to notify all boats of the time and place of the hearing and the reason for the request or for considering redress, and boats shall be allowed reasonable time to prepare for the hearing.

(c) The protest committee shall request redress for the other boats that participate in the hearing or request in writing

to do so, making them* parties *to the hearing. It need not state a reason for such a request; this changes rule 62.2.

Rule 63.4 After rule 63.4 add

US Sailing prescribes that when practicable:

(a) no person who brings an incident to the attention of the protest committee or who will give evidence regarding an incident shall be a member of the protest committee for a hearing involving that incident; and

(b) a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be heard by a committee that contains no members of the committee that made the original decision.

Rule 64.3(b) After rule 64.3(b) add

US Sailing prescribes that the authority responsible for interpreting the rules of a handicap or rating system is the organization that issued the handicap or the rating certificate involved.

Rule 67 After rule 67 add

US Sailing prescribes that:

(a) A boat that retires from a race or accepts a penalty does not, by that action alone, admit liability for damages.

(b) A protest committee shall find facts and make decisions only in compliance with the* rules*. No protest committee or US Sailing appeal authority shall adjudicate any claim for damages. Such a claim is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts.

(c) A basic purpose of the* rules *is to prevent contact between boats. By participating in an event governed by the* rules*, a boat agrees that responsibility for damages arising from any breach of the* rules *shall be based on fault as determined by application of the* rules*, and that she shall not be governed by the legal doctrine of 'assumption of risk' for monetary damages resulting from contact with other boats.

Rule 70.5(a) After rule 70.5(a) add

US Sailing prescribes that its approval is required. Go to rules.ussailing.org and click the 'No Appeal' link for more information or to obtain approval.

Rule 76.1 After rule 76.1 add

US Sailing prescribes that an organizing authority or race committee shall not reject or cancel the entry of a boat or exclude a competitor eligible under the notice of race and sailing instructions for an arbitrary or capricious reason or for reason of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or age.

Rule 82 Add rule 82

82 INDEMNIFICATION OR HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS

US Sailing prescribes that the organizing authority shall not require a competitor to assume any liabilities of the organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsors, or any other organization or official involved with the event. (This is commonly referred to as an 'indemnification' or 'hold harmless' agreement.) Go to rules.ussailing.org and click the 'Indemnification' link for more information.

Rule 86.3 After rule 86.3 add

US Sailing prescribes that proposed rules may be tested, but only in local races. However, proposed rules may also be tested at other events if, for each event, the organizing authority first obtains written permission from US Sailing and the proposed rules are included in the notice of race and sailing instructions. Go to rules.ussailing.org and click the 'Experimental Rules' link for more information.

Rule 88.2 After rule 88.2 add

US Sailing prescribes that sailing instructions shall not change or delete rule 61.4, Appendix R, or its prescriptions to rules 40, 60.3, 67, 70.5(a) or 76.1. However, for an international event the prescription to rule 40 may be deleted.

Appendix A At the end add the following note:

US Sailing Note on Scoring a Long Series: *The scoring systems in Appendix A may be inappropriate for a long series, such as a club's season championship held over several weeks or months, in which some boats do not compete in all of the races and in which more boats compete in some races than in others. Go to* rules.ussailing.org *and click the 'Scoring a Long Series' link for an explanation of the scoring problems that occur in such series, alternative scoring systems, and language for sailing instructions to implement them.*

Appendix G After rule G2 add

US Sailing prescribes that unless otherwise stated in her class rules, the sails of a boat that is not in a World Sailing Class shall comply with rule G1. However, offshore racing boats not in a class that is subject to rule G1 shall carry numbers allotted by US Sailing on mainsails, spinnakers and each overlapping headsail having a luff-perpendicular measurement exceeding 130% of the base of the foretriangle. This rule applies only to a boat whose owner's national authority is US Sailing. Go to* rules.ussailing.org *and click the 'Sail Numbers' link for the full text of the Sail Numbering System for offshore racing boats in the United States and for an application for a sail number.

Appendix L At the end of the preamble to Appendix L add

US Sailing Note: *US Sailing has produced a guide to simplified sailing instructions suitable for events such as club or local regattas. Go to* rules.ussailing.org *and click the 'Simple SIs' link to read and download this guide.*

Appendix L Add Instruction 5.6

This is a US Sailing prescription.	***5.6***	***Flag A displayed, with no sound, while boats are finishing means 'No more racing today.'***

Appendix L Add Instruction 16.9

This is a US Sailing prescription.	***16.9***	***If the race committee posts a list of boats scored OCS, ZFP, UFD or BFD on the official notice board before the protest***

time limit, a request for redress based on such a posted score shall be made no later than one hour after the protest time limit. This changes rule 62.2.

Appendix R, Procedures for Appeals and Requests

Replace World Sailing Appendix R with **Appendix R** [see Appendix R below]

Appendix U, Audible-Signal Racing System

After World Sailing Appendix T add **Appendix U** [see Appendix U below].

Appendix V, Alternative Penalties

After Appendix U add **Appendix V** [see Appendix V below].

APPENDIX R

PROCEDURES FOR APPEALS AND REQUESTS

This appendix is a US Sailing prescription.

See rules 70 and 71. This appendix replaces Appendix R as adopted by World Sailing for the purpose of creating a two-level appeals system. The US Sailing Appeals Committee acts as the national authority under rule 71. An association appeals committee may act as permitted by rule 71.2 and shall act as required by rule 71.3, subject to further appeal as provided in rule R7.1(a).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the appeals system and their answers, including advice on how to prepare an appeal, can be found on the US Sailing website. Go to appeals.ussailing.org *and click the 'Appeals FAQ' link.*

R1 WHERE TO SEND AN APPEAL OR REQUEST

R1.1 Send appeals, requests and the US Sailing Appeals & Requests Information Form (see rule R2.2) by email to the US Sailing Race Administration Director at submitappeal@ussailing.org. For more information about submitting appeal documents, call US Sailing at 1 (800) US SAIL 1.

R1.2 Except as provided in rule R1.4, the director will forward an appeal of a decision of a protest committee, an appeal under rule 70.1(b) or a request by a protest committee for confirmation or correction of its decision to the association appeals committee for the place in which the event was held. However, such an appeal or request arising from an event conducted under the procedural rules of the Intercollegiate Sailing Association or the Interscholastic Sailing Association will be forwarded to the association appeals committee for the ICSA and ISSA.

R1.3 The director will forward an appeal of a decision of an association appeals committee, a request by an association appeals committee for confirmation or correction of its decision, and a request for an interpretation of *rules* to the US Sailing Appeals Committee.

R1.4 The director will forward an appeal of a decision of a protest committee acting under rule 69.1, an appeal of a decision of a protest committee of a US Sailing national championship, and a request by such a committee for confirmation or correction of its decision to the US Sailing Appeals Committee.

R2 TO APPEAL OR MAKE A REQUEST

R2.1 To appeal,

(a) no later than 15 days after receiving the written decision being appealed or a protest committee's decision not to reopen a hearing, the appellant shall send an appeal and a copy of the decision to US Sailing. The appeal shall state why the appellant believes the committee's decision or its procedures were incorrect;

(b) when the hearing required by rule 63.1 has not been held within 30 days after a *protest* or request for redress was delivered, the appellant shall, within a further 15 days, send an appeal with a copy of the *protest* or request and any relevant correspondence. The appeals committee to which the appeal is forwarded shall extend the time if there is good reason to do so; or

(c) when the protest committee fails to comply with rule 65, the appellant shall, within a reasonable time after the hearing, send an appeal with a copy of the *protest* or request and any relevant correspondence.

If a copy of the *protest* or request is not available, the appellant shall instead send a statement of its substance.

R2.2 The appellant shall also send, with the appeal or as soon as possible thereafter, the US Sailing Appeals & Requests Information Form. To obtain the form, go to appeals.ussailing.org and click the 'Information Form' link. The form requests all of the following documents and information available:

(a) the written *protest*(*s*) or request(s) for redress;

(b) if the appeal is from a decision of an association appeals committee, the written decision of the protest committee and the appeal to the association appeals committee;

(c) a diagram, prepared or endorsed by the protest committee, that

shows

(1) the positions of all boats involved at relevant times, and their tracks;

(2) the course to the next *mark* and its required side;

(3) the speed and direction of the wind;

(4) any relevant *mark*, *obstruction* or *zone*; and

(5) if relevant, the depth of the water and the speed and direction of any current;

(d) the notice of race, sailing instructions, any other documents governing the event, and any changes to them;

(e) the names, postal addresses and email addresses of the *parties* to the hearing, the chairman of the protest committee and, if relevant, the chairman of the association appeals committee; and

(f) any other relevant documents.

R2.3 To request confirmation or correction of its decision, a protest committee or association appeals committee shall, no later than 15 days after making its decision, send to US Sailing a copy of its decision, the US Sailing Appeals & Requests Information Form, and all relevant documents and comments (see rule R2.2).

R2.4 To request an interpretation of the *rules*, a club or other organization affiliated to US Sailing shall send its request to US Sailing. The request shall include assumed facts and be endorsed by an officer of the club or organization. A US Sailing committee is considered to be an organization affiliated to US Sailing.

R3 FEES

R3.1 If the appeal or request is being made to an association appeals committee (see rule R1.2), US Sailing charges no fee for forwarding that appeal or request. However, an association appeals committee may charge a fee, in which case the association appeals committee will send a notice to the appellant (or, for a request, to the protest committee) stating the fee, to whom the fee is payable, and the address to which the fee must be sent.

R3.2 If the appeal is being made to the US Sailing Appeals Committee (see rules R1.3 and R1.4) by a member of US Sailing or another

national authority, US Sailing charges a fee of $25. The fee is $75 for all others.

R3.3 A fee of $25 is charged for a request for an interpretation of the *rules*, but there is no fee for such a request from a US Sailing committee. There is no fee for a request from an association appeals committee for confirmation or correction of its decision. There is no fee for an appeal under rule 70.1(b).

R3.4 If a fee is required for an appeal or request, it must be received before the appeal or request will be considered. For appeals and requests made to the US Sailing Appeals Committee, the fee can be paid by check to 'US Sailing' or electronically as described in the Appeals FAQ.

R4 NOTIFICATION OF THE COMMITTEE WHOSE DECISION IS BEING APPEALED

Upon receipt of an appeal, the appeals committee shall send a copy of the appeal to the committee whose decision is being appealed, asking it for any documents required by rule R2.2 not supplied by the appellant.

R5 COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

R5.1 Protest Committee

A protest committee whose decision is being appealed shall supply the documents requested under rule R4 and any facts or other information requested under rule R5.4. If directed to do so by the appeals committee, it shall conduct a hearing, or reopen the hearing, of the *protest* or request for redress, or conduct a hearing to consider redress.

R5.2 Association Appeals Committee

(a) The association appeals committee shall send to all *parties* to the hearing, and to the committee whose decision is being appealed or reviewed, copies of all relevant documents, comments and clarifications it has received, except those supplied by that *party* or committee.

(b) The association appeals committee shall send its decision in writing to all *parties* to the hearing and the protest committee.

(c) An association appeals committee shall consider an appeal it has refused to decide if directed to do so by the US Sailing Appeals Committee.

R5.3 US Sailing Appeals Committee

The US Sailing Appeals Committee shall send to all *parties* to the hearing, to the protest committee and to the association appeals committee whose decision is being appealed or reviewed, copies of all relevant documents, comments and clarifications it has received, except those supplied by that *party* or committee.

R5.4 Inadequate Facts; Reopening

An appeals committee shall accept the protest committee's finding of facts except when it decides they are inadequate. In that case it shall require the protest committee to provide additional facts or other information in writing, or to reopen the hearing and report any new finding of facts in writing, and the protest committee shall promptly do so.

R6 COMMENTS

The *parties* to the hearing, the protest committee and, if relevant, the association appeals committee may make comments on the appeal or request, on any of the documents listed in rule R2.2, and on any clarifications received under rule R7.2(d). Comments shall be sent in writing to the appeals committee no later than 15 days after the *party* or committee receives the document. The appeals committee need not consider comments sent after that time or comments on comments.

R7 PROVISIONS IN ADDITION TO THOSE OF RULES 70 AND 71

R7.1 Right to Appeal or Request Confirmation or Correction

(a) A *party* to a hearing may appeal an association appeals committee's decision.

(b) An association appeals committee may request confirmation or correction of its decision (see rule R2.3).

R7.2 Other Provisions

(a) No member of the association appeals committee shall take part in the discussion or decision on an appeal or a request for

confirmation or correction to the US Sailing Appeals Committee.

(b) An appeals committee may direct a protest committee to conduct a hearing to consider redress for an appellant or other boats.

(c) The US Sailing Appeals Committee may direct an association appeals committee to consider an appeal it has refused to decide.

(d) An appeals committee may seek clarifications of *rules* governing the event from organizations that are not *parties* to the hearing.

R7.3 Withdrawing an Appeal

With the consent of the appeals committee, an appellant may withdraw an appeal before it is decided.

R8 EXPEDITED APPEALS

An expedited appeals system, which can only be used at US Sailing Protected Competitions (see US Sailing Regulation 12.03), can be found on the US Sailing website. Go to appeals.ussailing.org and click the ‘Expedited Appeals’ link.

APPENDIX U
AUDIBLE-SIGNAL RACING SYSTEM

This appendix is a US Sailing prescription.

US Sailing prescribes that when the sailing instructions so state the Audible-Signal Racing System described below shall be used. It is recommended primarily for small-boat racing or when race committee resources are limited. Rules in this appendix replace rule 26 and permit changes to Race Signals and the corresponding rules in Part 3.

U1 Any Race Signal may be made by hailing, in which case the corresponding visual signal may also be used, but not its designated sound signal.

U2 A series of short sounds may be made at any time to call attention to a hail or a visual signal.

U3 The starting sequence shall consist of the following sound signals made at the indicated times. These signals shall be timed from their commencement and shall govern, even if visual signals are also used.

Signal	*Sound*	*Time before start*
Attention	Series of short sounds	Before the warning
Warning	3 long	3 minutes
Preparatory	2 long	2 minutes
	1 long, 3 short	1 minute, 30 seconds
	1 long	1 minute
	3 short	30 seconds
	2 short	20 seconds
	1 short	10 seconds
	5 short, 1 second apart	5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1 seconds
Starting	1 long	0

U4 Individual recalls shall be signalled by hailing the sail number (or other distinguishing feature) of each recalled boat. Flag X need not be displayed.

U5 Failure to hear an adequate hail or sound signal shall not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 62.1.

APPENDIX V – ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

This appendix is a US Sailing prescription.

Rules V1 and V2 provide alternative penalties that encourage competitors to take a penalty when they may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident. One or both of these rules apply only if the sailing instructions so state.

Please report your experiences with and evaluations of these rules to US Sailing by sending an email to rules@ussailing.org.

V1 PENALTY AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT

The first two sentences of rule 44.1 are changed to: 'A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident while *racing*. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the *zone* around a *mark* other than a starting *mark*, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.'

V2 PENALTY TAKEN AFTER A RACE

After a race, a boat that may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident while *racing* may take a Post-Race Penalty for that incident. A boat takes the penalty by delivering a written notice to the race office that identifies the race number and when and where the incident occurred. The penalty shall be a 30% Scoring Penalty, calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c). However, rules 44.1(a) and (b) apply, and the penalty shall not be taken after a protest hearing involving the incident has begun.