Racing Rules of Sailing

Appendix L, Instruction 11.1

A submission from US SAILING

Proposal

APPENDIX L

11 THE START

11.1 Races will be started by using rule 26 with the warning signal made ______ minutes before the starting signal.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

When there is a long starting line, boats need more than five minutes after the warning signal to determine the course and position themselves for the start. Allowing five additional minutes has generally proven in the past to be adequate.

Instruction 11.1, first option, with ten minutes selected as the interval between the warning and the starting signal is similar, but not at all the same as Instruction 5.4. Instruction 5.4 is designed to be used after a long postponement. After such a postponement boats are often quite a distance away from the starting area. It alerts the boats that a warning signal will be made soon so that they are able to sail to the starting area and not be late for their start. Instruction 11.1, first option with a ten-minute interval, has an important feature that Instruction 5.4 lacks – it gives boats enough time after the warning to determine the course and to position themselves for a start at any point on the starting line. It is appropriate to use Instruction 5.4 after a long postponement with any length of starting line. Instruction 11.1, first option with a ten-minute interval, is appropriate for any start, whether postponed or not, when the line is long. If there were to be a long postponement when the fleet is large or the line is long, it would be appropriate to implement both Instruction 11.1, first option with a ten-minute interval, and Instruction 5.4.