

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule L13.1

A submission from the Chairman of the Race Officials Committee

Purpose or Objective

To achieve consistency and clarity on the flags identifying the finishing line.

Proposal

Amend rule L13.1 as follows:

13 THE FINISH

13.1* The finishing line will be between staffs displaying ~~orange~~ **blue** flags on the finishing marks.

(OR)

13.1* The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an ~~orange~~ **blue** flag on the finishing mark at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end finishing mark.

(OR)

13.1* The finishing line will be _____.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Identifying the finishing line with blue flags distinguishes the finish from the start. A blue flag is already required by Race Signals to indicate that the committee boat on the finishing line is in position. There is no need for two flags.
 2. In multiple fleet circumstances where the starting and finishing lines are close to each other, identifying the finish line differently removes a possible confusion for sailors and spectators.
 3. In some circumstances in low level regattas, when starting and finishing from the same line it is possible for a staff to simultaneously display both an orange flag indicating it is the end of a starting line and a blue flag indicating that it is the end of a finishing line. This is preferable to the current position where the blue flag only says the committee boat is in position and says nothing about where the end of the finishing line is on that boat.
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