Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule P5

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose

To make it clearer how to apply rule P5 when the wind speed drops just before the start, and to make the rule easier to understand and apply.

Proposal

Delete rule P5 and replace it with:

P5  FLAGS O AND R

P5.1  When Rule P5 Applies

Rule P5 applies if the class rules permit pumping, rocking and ooching when the wind speed exceeds a specified limit.

P5.2  Before the Starting Signal

(a)  The race committee may signal that pumping, rocking and ooching are permitted, as specified in the class rules, by displaying flag O before or with the warning signal.

(b)  After flag O has been displayed if the wind speed becomes less than the specified limit, the race committee may signal that rule 42, as changed by the class rules, applies by postponing the race and displaying flag R before or with a new warning signal.

(c)  If flag O or flag R is displayed before or with the warning signal, it shall be displayed until the starting signal.

P5.3  After the Starting Signal

After the starting signal,

(a)  if the wind speed exceeds the specified limit, the race committee may display flag O with repetitive sounds at a mark to signal that pumping, rocking and ooching are permitted, as specified in the class rules, after passing the mark;

(b)  if flag O has been displayed and the wind speed becomes less than the specified limit, the race committee may display flag R with repetitive sounds at a mark to signal that rule 42, as changed by the class rules, applies after passing the mark.
Current Position

Rule P5 as approved for the 2017-2020 edition of the RRS at the Annual Conference in November 2014:

**P5  FLAGS O AND R**

(a) If the class rules permit pumping, rocking and ooching when the wind speed exceeds a specified limit, the race committee may signal that those actions are permitted, as specified in the class rules, by displaying flag O no later than the warning signal and removing it no earlier than the starting signal.

(b) If the wind speed exceeds the specified limit after the starting signal, the race committee may display flag O with repetitive sounds at a *mark* to signal to a boat that the actions are permitted, as specified in the class rules, after she has passed the *mark*.

(c) If the wind speed becomes less than the specified limit after flag O was displayed, the race committee may display flag R with repetitive sounds at a *mark* to signal to a boat that rule 42, as changed by the class rules, applies after she has passed the *mark*.

**Reasons**

To specify a procedure for removing flag O and replacing it with flag R if the wind speed drops between the time the warning signal is displayed and the start.

To reorganize and reword the rule in a more logical way in order to make the rule easier for competitors and race officials to understand and apply.