



World Sailing

Race Management Policies for Match Racing
(February 2014)

WORLD SAILING RACE MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR MATCH RACING¹

Please note that these policies are guidelines to the Race Management Team. Failure to observe these guidelines are not grounds for redress.

1. Definitions

- 1.1 **World Sailing Race Officer** – an International Race Officer approved or appointed by World Sailing.
- 1.2 **Principal Race Officer** – a World Sailing Race Officer appointed by World Sailing responsible for the conduct of racing on all course areas.
- 1.3 **Course Race Officer** – a race officer appointed by the organizing authority. The Course Race Officer will be responsible for managing the race management team and conducting the races.
- 1.4 **Race Management Team** – the Principal Race Officer, World Sailing Race Officers, Course Race Officers and all on-the-water volunteers responsible for managing racing.
- 1.5 Attachment 1 outlines the respective roles of the Principal Race Officer, the World Sailing Race Officer and the Course Race Officer.
- 1.6 “Will” means the intentions of the race management team.

2. Times/Timing/Changes In Schedule

- 2.1 Times will be based on GPS time.
- 2.2 Starts will not be delayed for competitors to reach the race area if they could have arrived with reasonable diligence.
- 2.3 The race management team will use the entire day if necessary to complete the schedule. Postponement of racing to another day will be co-ordinated with the different courses.
- 2.4 When a match will not be started on schedule (such as a breakdown), the race management team will attempt to reschedule the matches in the flight in order to avoid a blank start. Competitors will be advised of any change in the order of matches in the next flight.

3. Decision to Race

- 3.1 The Attention Signal will be made at the scheduled time if the wind conditions and visibility are within the parameters outlined in these policies. Waiting for ‘better’ conditions is unfair, and will be avoided.
- 3.2 The race management team will consider postponing racing if it cannot see the first mark from the starting area.
- 3.3 The race management team will not wait for the wind to “stabilize.” Sailors can compete in “shifty” conditions.
- 3.4 A flight may be postponed if a major wind shift is expected based on a known pattern or other reliable information (example: sea breeze can be seen in the distance and is expected to fill in). Otherwise, the race management team will start the flight; the wind shift may not occur, the course can be corrected or the shift may occur after the race is completed.

¹ The World Sailing Executive Office will use these policies, with revisions as appropriate, for other events.

- 3.5 Wind will be measured from drifting boats.
- 3.6 Average wind will be determined over a period of five minutes.
- 3.7 Races will not be started in less than 5 knots of wind established over the entire course area. This lower limit may be higher if there is strong current in the racing area.
- 3.8 Races will not be started in excess of 30 knots. Once a match has been started and winds exceed 30 knots the race will continue unless the race management team is unable to safely manage racing. Competitors are reminded that the decision to race, or to continue to race, is their sole responsibility.
- 3.9 Before making the Attention Signal for any flight, the race management team will attempt to determine if any boat is displaying a breakdown flag. The race management team will confer with the bosun to determine the time expected for repairs. The race management team may reschedule the affected match, and move the other matches up to avoid a blank start.

Once the boat is repaired, the race management team will decide, depending on the stage of the competition, whether to run that match as soon as possible or to leave it to the end of the round robin. The umpires will be asked to notify the affected competitors.
- 3.10 The race management team will not postpone, abandon or resail a match due to crew injury or illness. A boat requiring medical attention should drop its mainsail if possible.

4. Sighting the Line/Timing/Signalling/Recording

- 4.1 There will be an World Sailing Race Officer sighting the line.
- 4.2 An individual recall will include flag Yellow and/or Blue flag and one sound. Both signals will be made as soon as possible after the starting signal. In no circumstances will an individual recall be signalled later than 3 seconds after the starting signal. If the signal is not made in accordance with this standard, the match shall be abandoned.

5. Postponing and Abandonment

- 5.1 Any decision to abandon a match will be made by the World Sailing Race Officer based on the following criteria. The race management team will consult with the match umpires when practical.

General:

- (i) A late, missing or incorrect individual recall signal; or
- (ii) Serious interference with a competing boat by an umpire, other official boat or spectator; or
- (iii) An error in race management actions that may affect the outcome of the match; but not if
- (iv) A flag being late in the starting procedure – the race management team will watch the competitors. If they both behave as if the signal has been given correctly – and neither put up a red flag, the race management team will get the flag up if it is missing or disregard the missing sound signal. Should one or both competitors put up a red flag, the match should immediately be postponed (or abandoned) and restarted.

Light or shifting winds:

- (i) At the preparatory signal, neither boat can make enough progress to fulfil their entry requirements;
- (ii) During the pre-start, boats are unable to circle and/or maintain steerage;
- (iii) On the first leg, either boat sails to the windward mark without tacking;
- (iv) Neither boat makes, or is unlikely to make, significant progress towards the next mark or the finish; or
- (v) A new breeze (pressure or direction) reverses the positions of the competing boats.

Reduced visibility:

Once a match has started, a reduction in visibility is not a reason, in and of itself, to abandon a match. The race management team may abandon a match due to reduced visibility if it is satisfied that the reduction in visibility affects its ability to safely manage racing.

- 5.2 Generally, the earlier in the match any of these occur, the more likely it is that the race management team will abandon the match.
- 5.3 If both boats in a match round the same incorrect mark, and the Race Management Team is satisfied that it has not made an error, the match will not be abandoned.

6. Shortening The Course

- 6.1 The sailing instructions do not allow courses to be shortened using flag S.
- 6.2 The length of a leg may be changed in the same manner as a change in direction and as described in the sailing instructions.

7. Adjusting The Course To A New Wind Speed Or Direction

- 7.1 Change in wind direction
 - (i) The race management team will change course when it determines that doing so will likely improve the quality of racing.
 - (ii) Frequent oscillations – The race management team may continue the match if it is satisfied that the course is fair taking into consideration the mean wind direction and the timing of the oscillations. It is understood that winds coming from shore may frequently shift. Nevertheless, racing may be conducted in frequently shifting conditions.
- 7.2 Changes in Length of Legs.
 - (i) A reduction in the length of a leg may be signalled to ensure that a race finishes within the target time. The length of a leg may be signalled to cope with a change in wind velocity or current.
 - (ii) Change in leg lengths will not be made so as to reduce a leg to less than 50% or increase a leg to more than 150% of original leg length.
 - (iii) Changes in current may justify variations from these guidelines.
- 7.3 Leeward legs will not be changed.

8. Courses

- 8.1 The course length will be set to give the first boat of each match the best chance of achieving the target time which is between 14 and 20 minutes (often the target time is between 16 to 18 minutes). Whenever practical taking into account the size of the

racing area, and the need to provide adequate viewing opportunities for spectators, the course will usually be 2 laps. Depending on the racing area size 3 laps can be suitable.

9. Starting Line

- 9.1 Starting lines will generally be set square to the median sailing wind. Current, favoured side of the course, expected wind shifts and other variables may justify variation from this guideline.
- 9.2 The angle will be deemed appropriate if the boats in a match engage in a dial-up after entry.
- 9.3 The race management team will use laser range finders to determine starting line lengths.
- 9.4 The desired line length is approximately a reach of 30 to 35 seconds. Depending upon wind conditions, this is approximately 65 to 100 metres.

10. Finishing Line/Finishing Procedures

- 10.1 The finishing line will be the same as the starting line. The race management team will not adjust the finishing line while boats are racing.
- 10.2 A World Sailing Race Officer will make finishing line decisions for downwind finishes.

11. Race Committee Protests

- 11.1 Since each match will be umpired, the race management team will not normally protest a boat.
- 11.2 The race management team may protest a boat in the following circumstances:
 - (i) A breach of a sailing instruction or equipment handling rules that may not be protested by another competitor; or
 - (ii) An apparent breach of good sportsmanship (rule 2).

12. General Principles

If conditions do not allow all match/flights to be completed the Race Management Team may terminate any stage or the event i.e. the format may be changed as described in the sailing instructions.

13. GPS

- 13.1 All race management boats (signal, and mark boats) will be equipped with a GPS.
- 13.2 All GPS units will be set up to display as follows:
 - (i) Distance in nautical miles (nm)
 - (ii) Time to local time zone in 24 hour format
 - (iii) Compass bearing in magnetic
 - (iv) Latitude and Longitude in degrees, minutes and decimal minutes (example: 39° 27.928 North, 034° 17.464 East)
 - (v) Map Datum WGS 84

Attachment 1 – Role of the World Sailing Race Officer

The World Sailing Race Officer

The World Sailing may approve or appoint International Race Officers to serve on the race management team.

The World Sailing Race Officers will work closely with the Course Race Officers appointed by the organizing authority. The World Sailing Race Officers will be available to attend redress hearings as a witness for the race committee.

The Principal Race Officer shall serve as the lead World Sailing Race Officer, and shall be responsible for racing on all course areas. For purposes of this policy, the Principal Race Officer is also a World Sailing Race Officer.

The Course Race Officer

The Course Race Officers will be responsible for managing their race management teams and conducting the races.

The Course Race Officers will be responsible for the management of all safety procedures.

The Course Race Officer will not take action in relation to any of the following matters (whether or not altered by the Sailing Instructions) without the approval of the World Sailing Race Officer:

- (a) Postponement (Rule 27.3);
- (b) Course selection, location, configuration and race duration;
- (c) Whether a starting line is to be moved or adjusted (Rule 27.2);
- (d) Starting line decisions (OCS and recalls);
- (e) Changing Course/moving marks - adjusting the course to a new wind strength or direction (Rule 33);
- (f) Finishing line decisions;
- (g) Abandoning (Rules 27.3, 32 and 35);
- (h) Protesting a boat (Item 11);
- (i) Imposing a penalty (as described in the Sailing Instructions);
- (j) Amending the Sailing Instructions or Notice of Race;
- (k) Boat rotations;
- (l) Changes in format;
- (m) Changes in starting order;
- (n) Racing area to be used; and
- (o) Daily Schedule,

The World Sailing Race Officer may initiate action in relation to these matters, in which case the Course Race Officer will be governed by the World Sailing Race Officer's decision. The World Sailing Race Officer may also initiate action if the World Sailing Race Officer is satisfied that the racing is not being conducted according to the rules, or for any other reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition.