



World Sailing

Race Management Policies
for World Sailing Events (Fleet Racing)

June 2016

WORLD SAILING RACE MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR THE OLYMPICS and WORLD SAILING EVENTS FLEET RACING¹

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

1. Definitions

- 1.1 **Principal Race Officer** – a World Sailing Race Officer appointed by World Sailing responsible for the conduct of racing on all course areas.
- 1.2 **World Sailing Race Officer** – an International Race Officer approved or appointed by World Sailing.
- 1.3 **World Sailing Course Representative** – a World Sailing Race Officer appointed by World Sailing responsible for the conduct of racing on a course area.
- 1.4 **Course Race Officer** – a race officer appointed by the Organizing Authority. The Course Race Officer is responsible for managing the race management team for an assigned course area.
- 1.5 **Race Management Team** – the Principal Race Officer, World Sailing Race Officers, Course Race Officers and all on-the-water volunteers responsible for managing racing.
- 1.6 Attachment 1 outlines the respective roles of the Principal Race Officer, the World Sailing Race Officer, and the Course Race Officer.
- 1.7 “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 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will start soon, the orange starting line flag(s) will be displayed (with one sound signal) at least five minutes before a warning signal is displayed.
- 2.4 The orange starting line flags(s) will be removed (with no sound signal) four minutes after the starting signal unless the race management team intends to make the warning signal for the next fleet to start within ten minutes of the previous start.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 No races will be sailed ‘ahead of schedule’.

3. Decision to Race

- 3.1 The race will be started at the scheduled time if the wind conditions and visibility are within the parameters outlined in these policies. Waiting for ‘better’ conditions may be unfair, and will be avoided.
- 3.2 The race management team will not wait for the wind to ‘stabilize’. Competitors can compete in “shifty” conditions.
- 3.3 The start 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

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

expected to fill in). Otherwise, the race management team will start the race. The wind shift may not occur, the course can be corrected or the shift may occur after the race is completed.

- 3.4 Wind will be measured from drifting boats.
- 3.5 Average wind speed will be determined over a five minute period.
- 3.6 Races will not be started in less than an average of 4 knots of wind established over the entire course area. This lower limit may be higher if there is strong current in the racing area.
- 3.7 Races will not be started in excess of an average of 25 knots. For the 49er and 49er FX classes this upper limit is approximately 2 to 5 knots less in heavy seas and/or gusty winds. These limits may also vary for all classes depending upon sea conditions, current and rapid changes in velocity.
- 3.8 Races will not be started if reduced visibility prevents the race management team from sighting the starting line and identifying premature starters. The fact that the first mark cannot be seen from the starting area is not, in and of itself, a reason to postpone racing.

4. Decision to Race, Courses – Windsurfing

- 4.1 The race management team may use a slalom immediately before the finish when planing conditions exist. If a slalom is used, the target time for that portion of the course will be 2 minutes maximum.
- 4.2 A maximum of 3 races per day will be sailed irrespective of planing conditions.
- 4.3 When racing back to back, the interval between the finish line closure and the new warning signal for that group will not be less than 10 minutes. This may be varied according to conditions.

5. Starting procedure

- 5.1 The numerical starting system in Attachment 2 will be used for all starts.

6. Sighting the Line/Timing/Signalling/Recording

- 6.1 The race management team will sight the starting line from each end.
- 6.2 When World Sailing race officer(s) are appointed they will sight the starting line with another member of the race management team.
- 6.3 Each line sighter will use a hand-held voice recording device and record, without stopping, from at least 90 seconds before the starting signal until after anything of interest after the start. A commentary of anything of interest will be recorded (such as boats getting close to the line, bunching, etc.).
- 6.4 If tapes are used, they will be labelled and preserved until after the conclusion of the entire event. If digital recorders are used, each day's recording will be saved and indexed for easy retrieval.
- 6.5 In no circumstances will an individual recall be signalled later than 5 seconds after the starting signal.
- 6.6 The race management team will not signal an individual recall and then a general recall.
- 6.7 Competitors who have been scored OCS, UFD or BFD, and their coaches, may listen to the voice recording(s) of the applicable start(s). A time and location for doing so each day will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

7. Calling OCS

- 7.1 The race management team will not permit a race to continue if it is satisfied that unidentified boats were over early.
- 7.2 When the race management team is satisfied that all boats over the line have been identified, an Individual Recall will be signalled.
- 7.3 Except after a black flag general recall (when the requirements of rule 30.3 will be met), sail number of boats recorded as OCS, UFD or BFD will be posted on the start boat after boats have rounded mark 1 for the first time, or, in the case of more than one fleet on the same course, after the last fleet of that sequence of starts has rounded mark 1 for the first time. (Note write a sailing instruction to allow country codes or bow numbers when these are used as boat identification).

8. Postponing A Race During The Starting Procedure

- 8.1 The race management team will postpone a race during the starting procedure in response to adverse outside effects depriving boats of an equal chance of a good start.
- 8.2 The race management team will postpone the race during the starting procedure if the mean wind shifts more than 10 degrees or in the event other influences cause boats to bunch at one end of the start line. In rapid oscillations the race management team will endeavour to lay a starting line based on the mean oscillations expected.
- 8.3 If a wind shift occurs before the starting signal - even in the last minute before the start - such that it significantly increases the risk of a general recall, a postponement will be considered.
- 8.4 If the positions boats are taking on the starting line indicate a line bias in the minds of the competitors, a postponement will be considered.
- 8.5 In the circumstances described in 8.1 to 8.4 if the race management team determines that adjusting the starting line is likely to improve the chances of a fair start without a general recall, then a very late postponement will be considered.
- 8.6 The race management team will also consider postponing the start for any of the following reasons: a drifting mark, a significant error in the timing of signals, other boats interfering with the competing boats, inappropriate starting line length or angle, a reduction in visibility preventing the race management team from sighting the starting line or identifying premature starters, under flag O if the wind becomes less than the specified limit and other factors that might affect the fairness of the race.
- 8.7 For a postponement that the race management team anticipates will be longer than ten minutes, the orange starting line flag(s) will be removed (with no sound signal), and then displayed (with one sound signal) at least five minutes prior to the warning signal.

9. General Recall

- 9.1 In case of any problems with the starting line (such as length, or angle to the wind, etc.) a postponement may be signalled, even up to the last second before the start, instead of a general recall.
- 9.2 If a race management error is discovered after the starting signal (e.g., timing), the race management team may abandon the race (by using flag N). In these circumstances, the race management team will not signal a general recall.
- 9.3 When the race management team is not satisfied that all boats over early (or that have broken rules 30.3 or the U flag sailing instruction) have been identified, a General Recall will be signalled.

- 9.4 When using U flag, if a general recall would result from unidentified boats on the course side of the starting line early in the minute prior to the starting signal, a postponement will be signalled immediately. If the race management team is satisfied that the starting line was fair then the next start will use rule 30.3.

10. Starting Penalties (Flags U, I, Z and Black Flag)

- 10.1 Flag I (rule 30.1) and Flag Z (rule 30.2) will not be used.
- 10.2 No starting penalty will be used for the first attempt of medal races and any fleet race of 10 or less entries. For fleet races of more than 10 entries flag U will be used for the first start. (Note flag U must be described in the sailing instructions)
- 10.3 In the event the start has been postponed, or a General Recall has been caused by the length or angle of the starting line, the race management team will adjust the starting line and make another attempt using the same preparatory signal.
- 10.4 If the race management team is satisfied that a General Recall was not the result of the starting line, it will use the black flag for each subsequent attempt.
- 10.5 An important principle followed by the race management team is that the black flag will only be used when general recalls are caused by the boats themselves, or rapid oscillations of the wind, and not by actions of the race management team.
- 10.6 The race management team will make every effort to signal a postponement in the event of any problems with the starting line.

11. Shortening The Course

- 11.1 The sailing instructions do not allow courses to be shortened using flag S.
- 11.2 Reducing the length of a leg, even the final leg, may be done by using a minus sign as specified in rule 33.

12. Abandonment

- 12.1 On the first half of the first leg, the race management team may abandon in the event of a major, persistent, wind shift (more than 25 degrees). After that, the race management team will let the race continue if it is able to adjust to the changed conditions.
- 12.2 Visibility: The race management team will consider abandoning a race if it is satisfied that a reduction in visibility affects its ability to safely manage racing. The fact that boats cannot see the next mark from the prior mark is not, in and of itself, reason to abandon the race.
- 12.3 Collapse of wind: The race management team may abandon the race when it is unlikely that the leading boat will complete the course within the overall time limit, even if a new wind were to arrive. The further into the race, the less likely it is that the race management team will abandon the race.
- 12.4 The race management team may abandon the race when a new wind causes the fleet to invert.
- 12.5 Increase of wind speed: Once a race has been started, the race management team will not abandon the race simply because the average wind speed increases beyond the stated limits. The race management team will consider abandoning the race if it is unable to safely manage racing.
- 12.6 Unusual occurrences making the race unfair: The race management team will make every effort to ensure that other vessels do not interfere with racing. The race management team will consider abandoning the race if it determines that an outside influence has made the race unfair.

- 12.7 Frequent and violent wind shifts: Under these circumstances the race management team may not be able to adjust the course sufficiently or quickly enough to maintain a race of the required standard. In that case, the race may be abandoned.
- 12.8 For windsurfing events: If pumping becomes the main method of propulsion, the race may be abandoned.
- 12.9 During Medal Races, when redress is not available, the race management team will abandon the race if it is satisfied that the actions of the race management team, the organising authority or a vessel not racing, have affected the fairness of the race.
- 12.10 Competitors are reminded that the decision to race, or to continue to race, is their sole responsibility.

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

- 13.1 Change in wind direction:
 - (a) With a persistent wind shift of 10° or less the course will not be changed unless necessary to adjust for current or to provide a square run.
 - (b) Between 10° and 15° consideration will be given to adjusting the course to the new wind provided that the race management team is confident that the shift is likely to persist.
 - (c) With a persistent wind shift in excess of 15°, the race management team will attempt to change the course to the new wind.
 - (d) With a persistent wind shift in excess of 45°, the race management team will consider its influence on the race. Under these circumstances, the race management team may either change the course or abandon the race.
 - (e) Frequent and violent oscillations: Under these circumstances the race management team may not be able to adjust the course sufficiently or quickly enough to maintain a race of the required standard. In this case the race may be abandoned.
 - (f) Changes in current or a difference in the angle of the current relative to the wind may justify variations from these guidelines.
- 13.2 Changes in length of legs
 - (a) Change in leg lengths will not be made to reduce a leg to less than 50% or increase a leg to more than 150% of original leg length.
 - (b) The race management team will attempt to minimize the number of changes in leg length to achieve target times.
 - (c) Changes in current may justify variations from these guidelines.
- 13.3 When changing the direction of the next leg (rule 33) for the windsurfer classes, only a red rectangle or a green triangle will be used (i.e., the compass bearing will not be displayed). For all other events, the race management team will display the compass bearing to the next mark.
- 13.4 When changing leg lengths, the race management team will attempt to maintain a balance between the overall distance of windward and leeward racing.

14. Rule 42 – ‘Off’ and ‘Restored’

- 14.1 The wind speed limits will be as stated in the relevant class rules (currently 8 knots for the 470, and 10 knots for the Finn).
- 14.2 To avoid constantly turning off and restoring Rule 42 the race management team will make a change, or display flag O at the start, only if it is satisfied that wind speed is likely to

remain constant over the course area. Once Flag O has been displayed with the warning signal, the race management team should consider a postponement if the wind becomes less than the specified limit before the start.

- 14.3 The race management team will advise the jury team on the course well before a signal is displayed. If the race management team is unable to advise the jury, it will make no change.

15. Courses

- 15.1 The course length will be laid to give the first boat of each fleet the best chance of achieving the target time.
- 15.2 The length of the reaching leg between Marks 1 and 2 will be approximately two-thirds of the length of leg 1.
- 15.3 Mark 4p/4s will be laid after the start (last start of the sequence in case of multiple fleets).
- 15.4 The reaching leg angle will be 70° interior angle for windsurfers and boats without spinnakers.
- 15.5 The reaching leg angle will be 60° interior angle for the boats with spinnakers.
- 15.6 Gates will be approximately 10 hull lengths wide, laid square to the sailing wind. Variations in width and angle may be appropriate to adjust for current or other prevailing conditions. Laser range finders will be used to determine the width of gates.

16. Starting Line

- 16.1 Starting lines will generally be laid square to the median sailing wind. Current, favoured side of the course, expected wind shifts and other variables may justify variation from this guideline.
- 16.2 Starting lines will be laid approximately 0.05 nm below the anticipated position of gate 4p/4s.
- 16.3 The race management team will use the following guide to determine the length of the starting line. A larger multiplier may be used in strong winds or heavy seas.
- 16.4 Laser range finders and/or GPS will be used to determine starting line lengths.

Class	Boat Length	Multiplying factor
RS:X Men	2.86	1.5 to 3
RS:X Women	2.86	1.5 to 3
Finn	4.54	1.5
Laser	4.24	1.5
Laser Radial	4.24	1.5
470 Men	4.7	1.5
470 Women	4.7	1.5
49er	4.9	2
49erFX	4.9	2
Nacra 17	5.25	2

Starting line length = number of boats x boat length x Multiplying factor.

17. Finishing Line/Finishing Procedures

- 17.1 The finishing line will be laid before the first boat begins the final leg.
- 17.2 The blue and orange flags will be displayed (with no sound signal) as the first boat rounds:

- (a) Mark 2 for the final time in the case of trapezoid courses; or
 - (b) Mark 1 for windward-leeward courses; or
 - (c) Mark 4p/4s gate for windward finishes.
- 17.3 In the case of a late course change for the final leg, the blue and orange flags will be displayed as soon as possible after the finishing line has been laid.
- 17.4 The finishing line will be approximately 50 metres (75 metres for 49er, 49erFX and Nacra 17) in length, set square to the direction from the last mark for reaching finishes (square to the sailing wind for upwind or downwind finishes). Laser range finders will be used to establish the length of the finishing line.
- 17.5 The orange and blue flags will be removed (with no sound signal) upon the earlier of: (i) expiration of the time limit, or (ii) Immediately after the last boat finishes.
- 17.6 There will be two line sighters on each finish boat. Whenever practical, at least one of the line sighters on the finish boat(s) will be a World Sailing Race Officer.
- 17.7 Each line sighter will use a hand-held recording device to record the order of finish.
- 17.8 If tapes are used, they will be labelled and preserved until after the conclusion of the entire event. If digital recorders are used, each day's recording will be saved and indexed for easy retrieval.
- 17.9 A written record of the finishing order will also be maintained by each finish boat.
- 17.10 Competitors and coaches may listen to the voice recording(s) and review the written records of their finishes. A time and location for doing so each day will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

18. Corrections Due to Scoring Errors/Requests for Redress

- 18.1 The race management team will adjust posted finishing places if it is satisfied that, based upon its records or observation, it has made a scoring error.
- 18.2 If the race management team believes it may have made any other error affecting the outcome of the race for which redress may be available, it may request redress on behalf of the potentially affected boat(s).
- 18.3 The race management team will consider requesting redress on behalf of a boat if it is satisfied that that boat's score has been made substantially worse by the actions of an official boat.

19. Race Committee Protests

- 19.1 Since the primary responsibility for protesting breaches of the rules rests with competitors, the race management team will not normally protest a boat.
- 19.2 The race management team may protest a boat in the following circumstances:
- (a) A breach of a sailing instruction that may not be protested by another boat;²
 - (b) An apparent breach of good sportsmanship (Rule 2);
 - (c) Failing to take a penalty after knowingly touching a mark, but not protesting another boat (does not apply for windsurfers);
 - (d) Failing to sail the course (Rule 28)

² The sailing instructions may permit the Race Committee to impose penalties in some circumstances. The list of breaches, standard penalties and the Race Committee's criteria for making these decisions will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

20. General Principles

- 20.1 The race management team will attempt to set the longest possible first leg within the constraints of this course area.
- 20.2 A shortage of time or completed races is not a basis for variance from these policies.
- 20.3 The operator of a race management team vessel will promptly advise the Course Race Officer if he/she believes his/her vessel has substantially affected one or more boats racing.

21. GPS

- 21.1 All race management boats (signal, pin, finish and mark boats) will be equipped with a GPS.
- 21.2 All GPS units will be set up to display as follows:
 - (a) Distance in nautical miles (nm)
 - (b) Time to local time zone in 24 hour format
 - (c) Compass bearing in magnetic
 - (d) Latitude and Longitude in degrees, minutes and decimal minutes (example: 39° 27.928 North, 034° 17.464 East)
 - (e) Map Datum WGS 84

Attachment 1 – Role of the World Sailing Race Officer

The World Sailing Race Officer

The IOC Olympic Charter states that the international federations are responsible for the technical control and direction of their sports (Olympic Charter Rule 57).

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 is 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 are responsible for managing their race management teams and conducting the races.

The Course Race Officers are 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 (Rule 29), starting penalties (Black Flag - Rule 30));
- (e) Changing Course/moving marks - adjusting the course to a new wind strength or direction (Rule 33);
- (f) Abandoning (Rules 27.3, 32 and 35);
- (g) Rule 42 “turning off” and “restoring”. (Item 13)
- (h) Determination of finishing position (Item 16)
- (i) Corrections due to scoring errors (Item 17);
- (j) Requesting redress on behalf of a boat (Item 17);
- (k) Protesting a boat (Item 18).
- (l) Imposing a penalty;
- (m) Amending the Sailing Instructions or Notice of Race;
- (n) Racing areas to be used; and
- (o) 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 she/he 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.

Attachment 2 – The Numeric Starting System

X THE START

X.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel at the starboard end and either

X.1.1 the course side of the port-end inflatable starting mark, or

X.1.2 a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel at the port end.

X.2 A buoy may be attached to the race committee starting boat anchor line just below keel depth. Boats shall not pass between this buoy and the race committee starting boat at any time. This buoy is part of the race committee starting boat ground tackle. [DP]

X.3 When a starting sequence is in progress, boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area. The starting area is defined as the area closer than 50 meters from the starting line and marks in all directions. [DP]

X.4 Rule 26 and Preparatory Signals in Race Signals are deleted. Races will be started using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the display of visual signals. The absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded. This changes RRS 26 and Race Signals.

Minutes before starting signal	Visual signal displayed	Visual signal removed	Sound Signal	Means
6	Class flag		No sound	Class to start
	P or Starting penalty if required (U, or Black)			Starting Penalty P = None
	Rule 42 (flag O if applicable)			RRS P5 (RRS 42)
5	White flag with the number 5		One	Warning signal
4	Blue flag with the number 4	White flag	One	Preparatory Signal
3	Pink flag with number 3	Blue flag	One	Three minutes
2	Red flag with number 2	Pink flag	One	Two minutes
1	Yellow flag with number 1	Red flag	One long sound	One minute
0	Green flag	Yellow flag	One	Starting signal
+1		Green flag, Class Flag, P, U or Black and O	No sound	

X.5 If flag U has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing but not if the race is restarted or re-sailed. This changes RRS 26, A5 and 63.1. When flag U is displayed RRS 29.1 does not apply. The scoring abbreviation for a flag U penalty is UFD. This changes RRS A11.

X.6 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

Attachment 3 – Flag Lay Out on the Committee Signal Boat

Flags 'Grouped' (halyards close to each other). All flags displayed at the top of the hoist.

