

US SAILING PRESCRIPTIONS TO 2005-08 RRS

Contents After last ISAF Appendix add:

Q Sound-Signal Starting System

Introduction At the end (after **Changes to National Authority Prescriptions**) add:

US SAILING prescriptions are printed in bold italics except Appendices F and Q.

Equal Opportunity After **SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE RULES** add:

Equal Opportunity

As the national authority for the sport of sailing in the United States of America, the United States Sailing Association is committed to providing an equal opportunity to all sailors to participate in the sport of sailing.

Rule 34 Change title to: **MARK MISSING; RACE COMMITTEE ABSENT** and at the end (after rule 34) add:

US SAILING prescribes that, if a finishing mark is missing but another one remains in place, a boat shall finish as close to the remaining mark as practicable on a line extending from its required side at a 90° angle to the last leg. If a boat finishes when the race committee is absent, to be scored as finishing she shall note her finishing time and her finishing position in relation to any nearby boats and report them to the race committee as soon as reasonably possible.

Rule 40 Change title to: **PERSONAL BUOYANCY; HARNESSSES; LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT** and after Rule 40.1 add:

US SAILING prescribes that every boat shall carry life-saving equipment conforming to government regulations.

Rule 48 At the end (after rule 48) add:

US SAILING prescribes that the use of additional special purpose lights such as masthead, spreader and jib-luff lights shall not constitute a breach of this rule.

Rule 55 Add new rule:

55 *FLAGS*

US SAILING prescribes that a boat shall not display flags except for signaling. A boat shall not be penalized for breaking this rule without prior warning and opportunity to make correction.

Rule 61.4 Add new rule:

61.4 *Fees for Protests and Requests for Redress*

US SAILING prescribes that no fees shall be charged for protests or requests for redress.

Rule 64.3(b) At the end (after rule 64.3(b)) add:

US SAILING prescribes that the authority responsible for interpreting the rules of a handicap or rating system is the organization that issued the handicap or the rating certificate involved.

Rule 68 At the end (after rule 68) add:

US SAILING prescribes that:

- (a) *A boat that retires from a race or accepts a penalty does not, by that action alone, admit liability for damages.*
- (b) *A protest committee shall find facts and make decisions only in compliance with the rules. No protest committee or US SAILING appeal authority shall adjudicate any claim for damages. Such a claim is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts.*
- (c) *A basic purpose of the rules is to prevent contact between boats. By participating in an event governed by the rules, a boat agrees that responsibility for damages arising from any breach of the rules shall be based on fault as determined by application of the rules, and that she shall not be governed by the legal doctrine of 'assumption of risk' for monetary damages resulting from contact with other boats.*

Rule 75.3 Add new rule:

75.3 *US SAILING prescribes that the organizing authority shall not require a competitor to assume any liabilities of the organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsors, or any other organiza-*

tion or official involved with the event. (This is commonly referred to as an 'indemnification' or 'hold harmless' agreement.)

Rule 76.1 At the end (after rule 76.1) add:

US SAILING prescribes that an organizing authority or race committee shall not reject or cancel the entry of a boat or exclude a competitor eligible under the notice of race and sailing instructions for an arbitrary or capricious reason or for reason of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or age.

Rule 76.3 Add new rule:

76.3 US SAILING prescribes that a boat whose entry is rejected or cancelled or a competitor who is excluded from a race or series shall be, upon written request, entitled to a hearing conducted by the protest committee under rules 63.2, 63.3, 63.4 and 63.6.

Rule 86.3 At the end (after rule 86.3) add:

US SAILING prescribes that proposed rules may be tested, but only in local races.

Rule 87 At the end (after rule 87) add:

US SAILING prescribes that sailing instructions shall not change or delete rules 61.4 or 76.3, Appendix F, or its prescriptions to rules 40.1, 68 or 76.1. However, for an international event the prescription to rule 40.1 may be deleted.

Appendix A At the end (after rule A11) add:

US SAILING Note: The scoring systems in Appendix A may be inappropriate for a long series, such as a club's season championship held over several weeks or months, in which some boats do not compete in all of the races and in which more boats compete in some races than in others. 'Scoring a Long Series' on the US SAILING website (www.ussailing.org) provides an explanation of the scoring problems that occur in such series, alternative scoring systems, and language for sailing instructions to implement them.

Appendix F Replace ISAF appendix with the following:

APPENDIX F

APPEALS PROCEDURES

This appendix is a US SAILING prescription.

See rules 70 and 71. This appendix replaces Appendix F as adopted by the International Sailing Federation. The US SAILING Appeals Committee acts as the national authority within the meaning of rules 70.1 and 71.

F1 WHERE TO FILE AN APPEAL OR REQUEST

- F1.1** Except as provided in rule F1.3, an appeal of a decision of a protest committee or a request by a protest committee for confirmation or correction of its decision shall be sent to the Race Administration Director at US SAILING (Box 1260, Portsmouth, RI 02871), who will forward it to the association appeals committee for the place in which the event was held. US SAILING charges no fee for forwarding an appeal. However, the association appeals committee may require that a fee be paid before an appeal or request will be considered.
- F1.2** Appeals of decisions of an association appeals committee, requests by an association appeals committee for confirmation or correction of its decisions, and all requests for interpretations of *rules* shall be made to the US SAILING Appeals Committee.
- F1.3** Appeals of decisions of a protest committee of a US SAILING national championship and requests by such a committee for confirmation or correction of its decisions shall be made to the US SAILING Appeals Committee.

F2 TO APPEAL OR MAKE A REQUEST

- F2.1** To appeal the decision of a protest committee or association appeals committee a *party* to the hearing shall, within 15 days of receiving the written decision being appealed or a protest committee's decision not to reopen a hearing, send an appeal and a copy of the decision to the US SAILING Race Administration Director. The appeal shall state why the appellant believes the committee's decision or its procedures were incorrect. If an appeals fee is required it must be received before the appeal will be considered. The fee for appeals to US SAILING is \$25 for an appellant who is a member of US SAILING or another national authority and \$75 for all others.

- F2.2** The appellant shall also send, with the appeal or as soon as possible thereafter, all of the following documents that are available to her:
- (a) the written *protest(s)* or request(s) for redress;
 - (b) if the appeal is from a decision of an association appeals committee, the written decision of the protest committee;
 - (c) a diagram, prepared or endorsed by the protest committee, showing the positions and tracks of all boats involved, the course to the next *mark* and its required side, the speed and direction of the wind, and, if relevant, the depth of the water and the speed and direction of any current;
 - (d) the notice of race, sailing instructions, any other conditions governing the event, and any changes to them;
 - (e) any additional relevant documents; and
 - (f) the names and addresses of all *parties* and the protest committee chairman.

F2.3 To request confirmation or correction of its decision, a protest committee or association appeals committee shall send to the US SAILING Race Administration Director a copy of its decision and all relevant documents and comments. There is no fee for requests for confirmation or correction made to US SAILING.

F2.4 To request an interpretation of the *rules*, a club or other organization affiliated to US SAILING shall send to the US SAILING Race Administration Director its request, which shall include assumed facts. The fee for requests for interpretation of the *rules* is \$25. A US SAILING committee is considered to be an organization affiliated to US SAILING but need not pay the fee.

F3 NOTIFICATION OF THE COMMITTEE WHOSE DECISION IS BEING APPEALED

Upon receipt of an appeal, the appeals committee shall send a copy of the appeal to the committee whose decision is being appealed, asking it for any documents required by rule F2.2 not supplied by the appellant.

F4 COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

F4.1 Protest Committee

A protest committee whose decision is being appealed shall supply the documents requested under rule F3 and any facts or other information requested under rule F5. If directed to do so by the appeals committee, it

shall conduct a hearing, or reopen the hearing, of the *protest* or request for redress, or conduct a hearing to consider redress.

F4.2 Association Appeals Committee

- (a) The association appeals committee shall send to all *parties*, and to the committee whose decision is being appealed or reviewed, copies of all relevant documents and comments it has received, except those supplied by that *party* or committee.
- (b) An association appeals committee shall consider an appeal it has refused to decide if directed to do so by the US SAILING Appeals Committee.

F4.3 US SAILING Appeals Committee

The US SAILING Appeals Committee shall send to all *parties*, to the protest committee and to the association appeals committee whose decision is being appealed or reviewed, copies of all relevant documents and comments it has received, except those supplied by that *party* or committee.

F5 INADEQUATE FACTS; REOPENING

An appeals committee shall accept the protest committee's finding of facts except when it decides they are inadequate. In that case it shall require the protest committee to provide additional facts or other information, or to reopen the hearing and report any new finding of facts, and the protest committee shall promptly do so.

F6 COMMENTS

The *parties*, the protest committee and, if relevant, the association appeals committee may make comments on the appeal or request or on any of the documents listed in rule F2.2. Comments shall be sent in writing to the appeals committee, with a copy to the other *parties* and committees involved, within 15 days after the *party* or committee received the document. The appeals committee need not consider comments sent after that time.

F7 OTHER PROVISIONS

In addition to the provisions of rule 71:

- (a) An association appeals committee acting under the rules of this appendix may take any of the actions permitted by the national authority in rules 71.2 and 71.3, subject to further appeal as provided in rule F1.2.

- (b) An appeals committee may direct a protest committee to conduct a hearing to consider redress for an appellant or other *party*.
- (c) No member of the association appeals committee shall take part in the discussion or decision on an appeal or a request for confirmation or correction to the US SAILING Appeals Committee.
- (d) The US SAILING Appeals Committee may direct an association appeals committee to consider an appeal it has refused to decide.

Rule G2 At the end (after rule G2) add:

US SAILING prescribes that unless otherwise stated in her class rules, the sails of a boat that is not in an ISAF International Class or Recognized Class shall comply with rule G1. However, offshore racing boats not in a class that is subject to rule G1 shall carry numbers allotted by US SAILING on mainsails, spinnakers and each overlapping headsail having a luff-perpendicular measurement exceeding 130% of the base of the foretriangle. This rule applies only to a boat whose owner's national authority is US SAILING. The Sail Numbering System for offshore racing boats in the United States and an application for a sail number are available on the US SAILING website (www.ussailing.org).

Appendix L At the end of the preamble add:

US SAILING Note: A guide to simplified sailing instructions suitable for events such as club or local regattas can be found on the US SAILING website (www.ussailing.org).

Appendix L, Paragraph 12.3 Add new paragraph:

12.3 *If the race committee intends to start another race on the same day, it will display the Second Substitute (with no sound) while boats are finishing.*

Appendix Q Add new appendix:

APPENDIX Q

SOUND-SIGNAL STARTING SYSTEM

This appendix is a US SAILING prescription.

US SAILING prescribes that, when the sailing instructions so indicate, the Sound-Signal Starting System described below shall be used. This system is recommended primarily for small-boat racing and makes it unnecessary for competitors to use stopwatches. Supplemental visual course and recall signals are also recommended when practicable.

- Q1** Course and postponement signals may be made orally.
- Q2** Audible signals shall govern, even when supplemental visual signals are also used.
- Q3** The starting sequence shall consist of the following sound signals made at the indicated times:

<i>Signal</i>	<i>Sound</i>	<i>Time before start</i>
Warning	3 long	3 minutes
Preparatory	2 long	2 minutes
	1 long, 3 short	1 minute, 30 seconds
	1 long	1 minute
	3 short	30 seconds
	2 short	20 seconds
	1 short	10 seconds
	1 short	5 seconds
	1 short	4 seconds
	1 short	3 seconds
	1 short	2 seconds
	1 short	1 second
Starting	1 long	0

- Q4** Signals shall be timed from their commencement.
- Q5** A series of short signals may be made before the sequence begins in order to attract attention.

- Q6** Individual recalls shall be signalled by the hail of the sail number (or some other clearly distinguishing feature) of each recalled boat. Flag X need not be displayed.
- Q7** Failure of a competitor to hear an adequate course, postponement, starting sequence or recall signal shall not be grounds for redress.

Index As new last sentence add:

US SAILING prescriptions are not included in the Index.