




Race Management Flags & Signals
22 July 2021

1

Agenda

- Session Aims
- Regulatory Documents
- Officiating Pathways
- Course Types
- Race Signals
- Signals Ashore
- Start Boat Procedures
- Start Boat Race Signals
- Signals after the Start
- Other Race Signals



2

Session Aims

- Competitors
- Race Management Volunteers



3

Regulatory Documents

- IRPCAS
- State & National Marine Regulations
- World Sailing Regulations
- World Sailing Race Management Policies
- Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)
- Notices of Race
- Sailing Instructions
- Notices to Competitors



4

Officiating Pathways

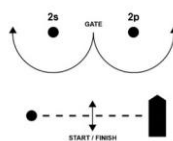
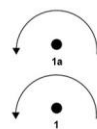
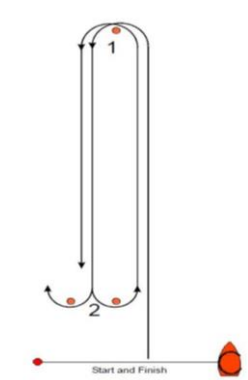
- Mark Layer
- Race Officer
- Judge
- Umpire
- Equipment Inspector
- Technical Delegate



5

Course Types

- Windward Leeward

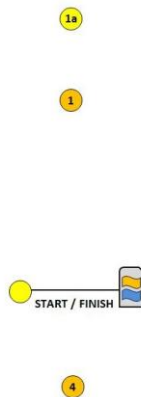
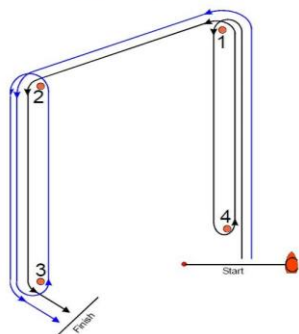


6

Course Types

■ Trapezoid

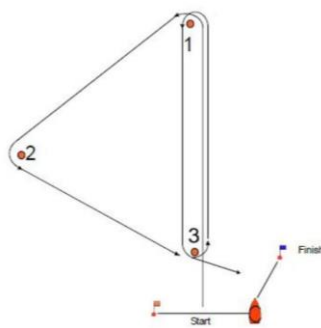
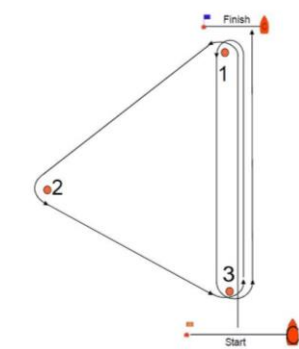
Trapezoid
Inner & Outer Loops



7

Course Types

■ Triangle



8

Course Types

■ Combination Laid & Fixed Marks

COURSE 3 — NORTH EAST (approx. 13.4 nm)

1. Start Hunters Bay
2. AS Mark Cannae Point
3. AS Mark East Channel
4. MH Inflatable Chowder Bay
5. AS Mark Cannae Point

COURSE 4 — NORTH EAST (approx. 12.1 nm)

1. Start Hunters Bay
2. AS Mark Cannae Point
3. MH Inflatable Chowder Bay
4. MH Inflatable Manly Point (P)

COURSE 5 — NOR NOR EAST (approx. 10.4 nm)

1. Start Hunters Bay
2. AS Mark Manly West
3. AS Mark Manly East
4. MH Inflatable South Reef
5. MH Inflatable Chowder Bay (*)

COURSE 6 — NOR NOR EAST (approx. 14.2 nm)

1. Start Hunters Bay
2. AS Mark Manly West
3. AS Mark Manly East
4. MH Inflatable South Reef
5. MH Inflatable Chowder Bay

AS Mark East Channel
AS Mark East Channel
MH Inflatable Chowder Bay
Finish Spring Cove

MH Inflatable Chowder Bay (*)
MH Inflatable Manly Point (P)
AS Mark Edwards Beach
Finish Spring Cove

MH Inflatable Manly Point
MH Inflatable South Reef
MH Inflatable Chowder Bay
Finish Spring Cove

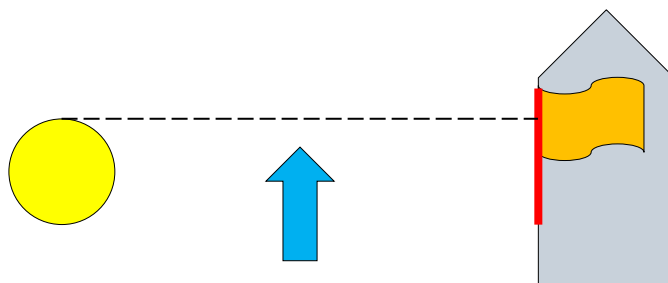
AS Mark Manly East
AS Mark Edwards Beach
MH Inflatable Manly Point
MH Inflatable South Reef
MH Inflatable Chowder Bay
Finish Spring Cove

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9

Starting and Finishing Lines

■ Start Line

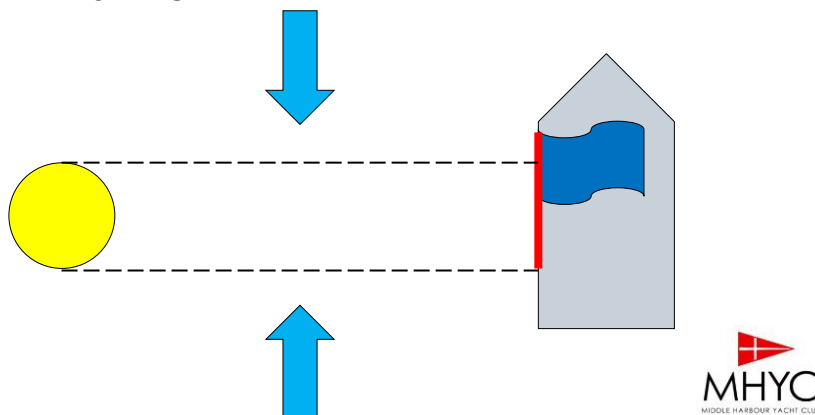


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10

Starting and Finishing Lines

■ Finish Line



11

Rule 25 NOR, SIs & Signals

PART 3 CONDUCT OF A RACE

- 25 NOTICE OF RACE, SAILING INSTRUCTIONS AND SIGNALS**
- 25.1** The notice of race shall be made available to each boat that enters an event before she enters. The sailing instructions shall be made available to each boat before a race begins.
- 25.2** The meanings of the visual and sound signals stated in Race Signals shall not be changed except under [rule 86.1\(b\)](#). The meanings of any other signals that may be used shall be stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions.
- 25.3** When the race committee is required to display a flag as a visual signal, it may use a flag or other object of a similar appearance.



12

Signals Ashore

- L *
- L over Class *
- AP **
- AP over A **
- AP over Class **
- AP over Numeral **
- AP over Numeral over Class **
- N over A ***
- N over A over Class ***
- Y *



15

Safety

- Yankee Flag can be displayed at Start Box or on Start Boat



PART 4

OTHER REQUIREMENTS WHEN RACING

Part 4 rules apply only to boats **racing** unless the rule states otherwise.

40 PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

When flag Y is displayed with one sound before or with the warning signal, competitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. When flag Y is displayed ashore, this rule applies at all times while afloat. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices.



Y Wear a personal flotation device (see [rule 40](#)).



16

Start Boat Procedures

■ Start Boat Team Roles

- Race Officer
- Timekeeper
- Signals
- Recorder

■ Recording

- Written – Wind, Signals, Starters, OCS, RET, Incidents
- Audio – Starts, Finishes

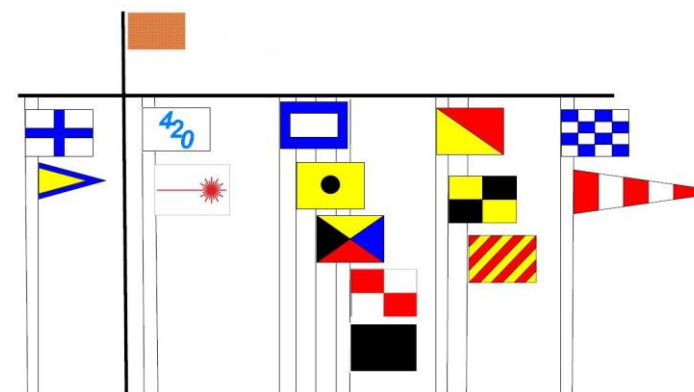
■ Communication

- Visual Signals – Flags, Course Board, Axis & Signal Boards
- Sound Signals (RRS26 - absence shall be disregarded)
- VHF Radio



17

Preferred Start Boat Flag Layout



18

Start Boat Signals

- Race Committee Signals before the Start
- Course (flag, pennant, course board, white/blackboard)



- Y Flag *



- AP, AP over Numeral 1, 2, 3 etc, AP over H, AP over A **



- N, N over H, N over A ***



19

Starting a Race – RRS 26

26 STARTING RACES

Races shall be started by using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

Minutes before starting signal	Visual signal	Sound signal	Means
5*	Class flag	One	Warning signal
4	P, I, Z, Z with I, U, or black flag	One	Preparatory signal
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

*or as stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions

The warning signal for each succeeding class shall be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class.



20

Start Boat Signals

■ Orange Flag – Start Boat “on station”

- Attention Signal 5 mins before first Warning Signal *



■ Preparatory Signal Flags – Rule 26



↑ • ↓ —
P Preparatory
signal.



↑ • ↓ —
I Rule 30.1
is in effect.



↑ • ↓ —
Z Rule 30.2
is in effect.



↑ • ↓ —
U Rule 30.3
is in effect.



↑ • ↓ —
Black flag.
Rule 30.4 is
in effect.



21

Start Boat Signals

■ Individual Recalls

Flag X and 1 sound signal (RRS 29.1)

- This signal must be displayed within 5 seconds of the start signal
- It must be accompanied simultaneously with a sound signal
- It remains on display until all OCS boats have returned and started, or for 4 minutes, or until 1 minute before the next starting signal
- It is removed without a sound signal
- Make every effort to identify all OCS boats
- Refer to Case Book - Case 79



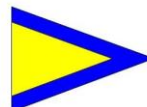
22

Start Boat Signals

■ General Recalls

Flag 1st Sub – 2 sound signals (RRS 29.2)

- Should be used reluctantly
- A good start line will reduce the need for this signal
- A short start line with fewer boats will make this signal almost redundant
- Take care when penalty signals are used as the Prep Signal, especially the Black Flag
- Removed with 1 sound signal



23

Signals after the Start

■ Abandoning a Race



N All races that have started are *abandoned*. Return to the starting area. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is *abandoned* again or *postponed*.



N over H All races are *abandoned*. Further signals ashore.



N over A All races are *abandoned*. No more racing today.

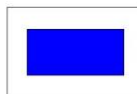


24

Signals after the Start

■ Shorten Course

Flag 'S' – two sound signals (RRS 32.1 and 32.2)



- One or more legs cut off the course that was displayed at the warning signal
- Because of foul weather
- Because of insufficient wind making it unlikely that any boat will finish within the time limit
- So that other scheduled race/s can be sailed
- Signal made from the CV at the shortened course finish line as boats commence leg towards new shortened course finishing line
- Signal displayed on committee boat is further away from fleet than any other time a signal is displayed

Some events do not allow shorten course

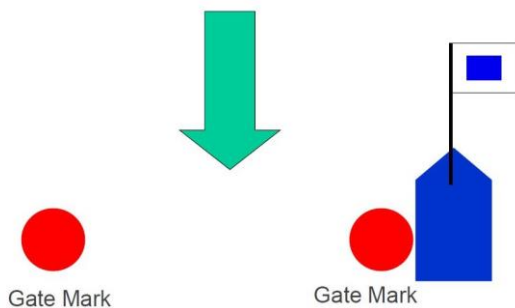


25

Signals after the Start

■ Shorten Course at Gate

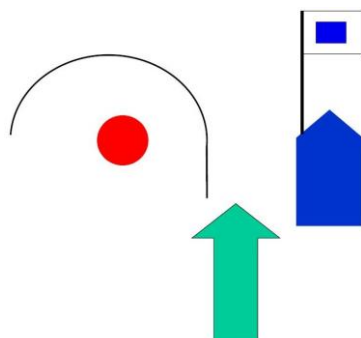
Direction from last mark



26

Signals after the Start

■ Shorten Course at Windward



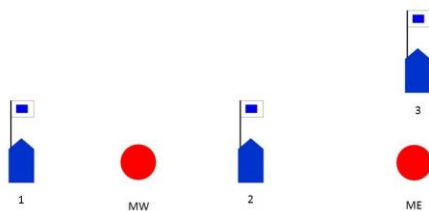
Direction from last mark



27

Signals after the Start

■ Shorten Course at Fixed AS Mark



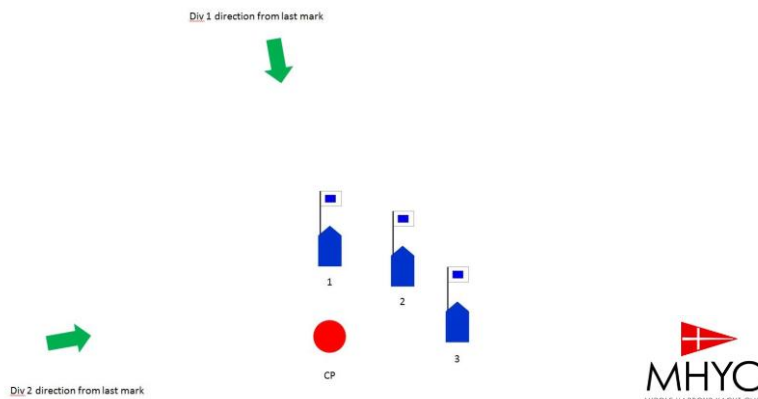
Direction from last mark



28

Signals after the Start

■ Shorten Course at Fixed AS Mark



29

Signals after the Start

■ Change of Course

Change of bearing of the next mark:

- Flag 'C' or an object of similar appearance with a repetitive sound signal

This must be displayed with one or both of:

- A new bearing for the next mark and/or;
- A red rectangle when the new position is to port of the original, or:
- A green triangle when the new position is to starboard of the original



240



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Signals after the Start

■ Change of Course

Increase or decrease in wind strength Flag 'C' or an object of similar appearance with a repetitive sound signal



This must be displayed with either:

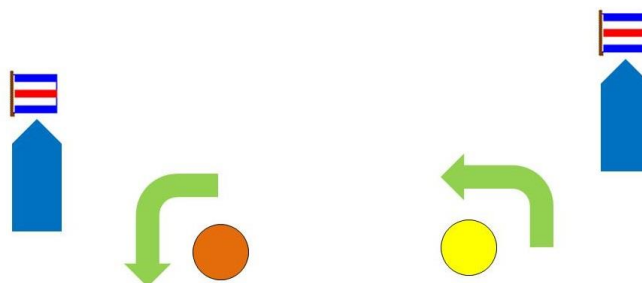
- A plus sign if the leg is to be significantly increased in length
- A minus sign if the leg is to be significantly reduced in length



31

Signals after the Start

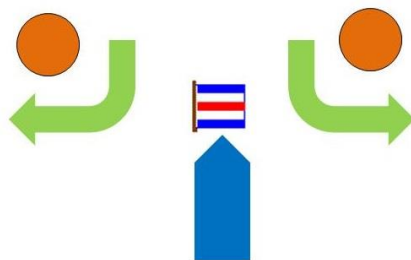
■ Change of Course at Windward Mark / Hitch



32

Signals after the Start

■ Change of Course at Gate



33

Signals after the Start

■ Missing Mark

Flag 'M' with repetitive sound signal

- The object displaying this signal replaces a missing mark
- The object may be a boat or another buoy
- Before taking the above action, try to replace the mark or use a substitute of similar appearance



34

Finishing

■ Boat Finish

- The Blue Flag indicates that the Race Committee boat is “on station” at the Finish.
- It should be displayed, without a sound signal, when the leading boat commences the last leg to the Finish Line.



■ MHYC Clubhouse Finish

Oscar flag displayed at any time



35

Other Flags

■ Match Racing




Flag	Competitor	Umpire
	Port End / Left Hand Side	Penalty Blue
	Starboard End / Right Hand Side	Penalty Yellow
	Protest	-
	Redress Requested	(with yellow or blue) Penalty shall be taken as soon as possible but not before starting
	-	(with yellow or blue) Disqualified
	-	No Penalty



36

Other Flags

■ Teams Racing

Flag	Competitor	Umpire
	Protest	-
	-	Referred to Protest Committee
	-	No Penalty



37

Other Flags

■ Rule 42 (pumping) if stated in SIs



Off (RRS42 does not apply)



On / Restored (RRS42 applies)

■ Fleet Control if stated in SIs (Boats shall not leave the shore until this signal is removed)



38

Useful Links

- **2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing and Study Version**
<https://www.sailing.org/documents/racingrules/index.php>
- **Australian Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing and Special Regulations**
<https://www.sailingresources.org.au/class-assoc/rrs-special-regs>
- **Australian Sailing Race Officer Resources**
<https://www.sailingresources.org.au/officials-volunteers/race-officer-resources>



39

Questions



40

