

## **Racing Rules of Sailing**

### Definition – Start, Finish

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

#### **Purpose or Objective**

To provide a mechanism for Race Committees to better describe a starting line or a finishing line.

#### **Proposal**

Amend definitions of start and finish:

***Start*** A boat *starts* when, her hull having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side, **or in the direction as described in the sailing instructions**.

***Finish*** A boat *finishes* when, after her starting signal, any part of her hull crosses the finishing line from the course side, **or in the direction as described in the sailing instructions**. However, she has not *finished* if after crossing the finishing line she

- (a) takes a penalty under rule 44.2, or
- (b) corrects an error in *sailing the course* made at the line, or
- (c) continues to *sail the course*.

After *finishing* she need not cross the finishing line completely.

#### **Current Position**

As above.

#### **Reason**

For races that are influenced by headlands, islands or race in rivers, there are times when the direction of a start or finish is not clear based on what is the course side of the line. This change allows a race committee to describe the direction which boats shall cross the applicable line.

This rule will also allow for case 145, that was withdrawn from the case book for 2024, to be reviewed and changed.

These changes should be considered as changes of pressing importance under regulation 28.1.2 so that, if approved with a 75% vote cast, they can be incorporated to the edition of the 2025-2028 RRS

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