

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule A4

A submission from Japan Sailing Federation

Purpose or Objective

To remove the ambiguity and potential conflict between rules in RRS that has arisen from the changes made in 2021.

Only one of Proposals 1 and 2 is to be approved.

Proposal 1

Change Rule A4 as follows:

A4 SCORING SYSTEM

This Low Point System will apply unless the notice of race or sailing instructions specify another system; see rule 90.3(a)

Each boat *starting, **sailing the course** and finishing* and not thereafter retiring, being penalized or given redress shall be scored points as follows:

[no further changes]

Current Position

As above.

Proposal 2

Change Rule A4 as follows:

A4 SCORING SYSTEM

This Low Point System will apply unless the notice of race or sailing instructions specify another system; see rule 90.3(a)

Each boat ~~starting and~~ *finishing* and not thereafter retiring, being penalized or given redress shall be scored points as follows:

[no further changes]

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. In 2021, Rules A5.1, A5.2 and A10 (Rules A4.2, A5 and A10 in the previous RRS) have been changed so that a boat that did not sail the course shall be scored NSC by the race committee without hearing, on one hand. On the other hand, Rule A4 (Rule A4.1 in the previous RRS) has not been changed.

As a result, it seems as if a boat that started and did not sail the course but finished would be scored differently depending on which rule a race committee bases on, rule A4 or rule A5.1.

2. The way to remove this ambiguity depends on whether a boat that is scored NSC as per rules A5.1, A5.2 and A10 is regarded as a boat "thereafter being penalized" for the purpose of Rule A4.
 3. Proposal 1 is to be approved if an NSC boat is not a penalized boat. Otherwise, a boat that started and did not sail the course but finished shall be scored points for her finishing place as provided by Rule A4 unless she retires after finishing, which obviously conflicts with what Rules A5.1 and A5.2 state.
 4. If an NSC boat is regarded as a penalized boat, a boat that did not start (either OCS, DNS or DNC boat) must be a penalized boat as well. If so, the first sentence of Rule A4 can be "Each boat *finishing* and ..." instead of "Each boat *starting* and *finishing* and ...". Moreover, the definition Finish has been changed so that a boat did not start now never finishes. There seems no reason to have the word "*starting*" in Rule A4. This inconsistency, i.e. having "*starting*" while not having "*sailing the course*" in Rule A4, shall be removed.
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