

## Racing Rules of Sailing

### Rule 30 - Starting Penalties

A submission from the International Laser Class Association

#### Purpose or Objective

Introduce 'soft' version of the Black Flag Rule as an additional choice of starting penalties.

#### Proposal

Add: New Racing Rule 30.3 "U (or other) Flag Rule"

**“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 resailed or postponed or abandoned before the starting signal.”**

Renumber 30.3 Black Flag Rule to 30.4

Amend 29.1 to and 30.4 to last sentence.

#### Current Position

No current position.

#### Reason

1. For a number of years the International Laser Class have used this rule in sailing instructions for World and Continental Championships where there are multiple fleets racing on the same course area. With many fleets it is important to keep the number of general recalls to a minimum to avoid delays for later starting fleets.
  2. Using this rule on the first start helps keep the start line clear during the crucial minute before the start and encourages the fleet to start more carefully from downwind of the start line allowing the race committee a clear view of the line at all times. If it is not successful in keeping the fleet behind the line the option of the Black Flag Rule is still available for the second start.
  3. The I flag rule allows early starters in the minute before the start to exonerate themselves by sailing round the end across an extension. When boats cross the line early it is often difficult to maintain a clear view of the start line.
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