

Conduct of a Race

(Taken from [THE RACING RULES OF SAILING](https://www.sailing.org/documents/racingrules/index.php)
<https://www.sailing.org/documents/racingrules/index.php>)

25 NOTICE OF RACE, SAILING INSTRUCTIONS AND SIGNALS

- 25.1 The notice of race and 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 sailing instructions.
- 25.3 A race committee may display a visual signal by either a flag or other object of a similar appearance.

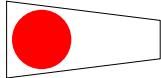

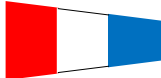

26 STARTING RACES

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	1 sound (gun)	Warning
4	P flag	1 sound (horn)	Preparatory
1	P flag removed	1 long sound (horn)	One-minute
0	Class flag removed	1 sound (gun)	Starting

*or as stated in the sailing instructions

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

Class Flag 1 (First Start):	
Class Flag 2 (Second Start):	
Class Flag 3 (Third Start):	
Preparatory Flag P:	

Course Placards

Red or Green square with letter on it. Letter indicates which mark, color indicates whether to put the mark to Port (Red) or Starboard (Green).

Attention Signal

FOUR OR MORE SHORT REPETITIVE SOUNDS, NO FLAG

ATTENTION SIGNAL MADE PRIOR TO THE START

CONDITIONS:

1. To alert all competitors of a signal in one minute.

SEQUENCE:

1. 4 OR MORE SHORT SOUND SIGNALS
2. Wait ONE MINUTE
3. Start the Starting Sequence, or comments below

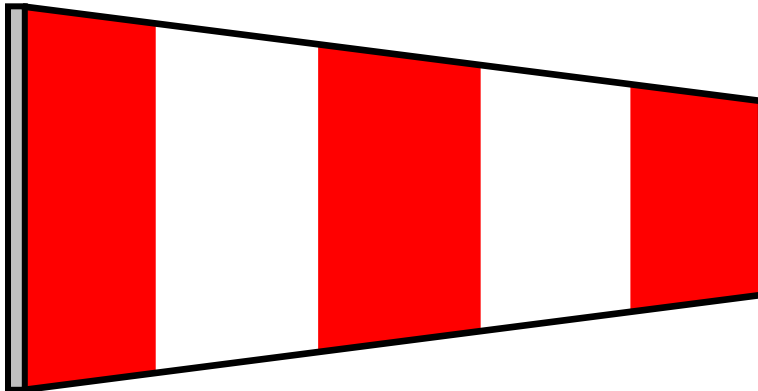
COMMENTS:

At any time during the race the attention signal may be sounded with a flag.

With "C", means 'The position of the next mark has been changed.'

With "M" means 'The object displaying this signal replaces a missing mark.'

Postponement Procedure



Description of Flag:
AP Answering Pennant
Red and White Vertical Stripes

POSTPONEMENT SHALL BE MADE PRIOR TO THE START

CONDITIONS:

1. Lack of wind.
2. Inability to notify VTS.
3. Significant error in timing sequence.

SEQUENCE:

1. Postponement Flag Up with TWO GUNS OR SOUND SIGNALS.
2. When it is decided to resume the sequence, Postponement Flag Down with ONE GUN OR SOUND SIGNAL.
3. Wait ONE MINUTE.
4. Resume the Starting Sequence.

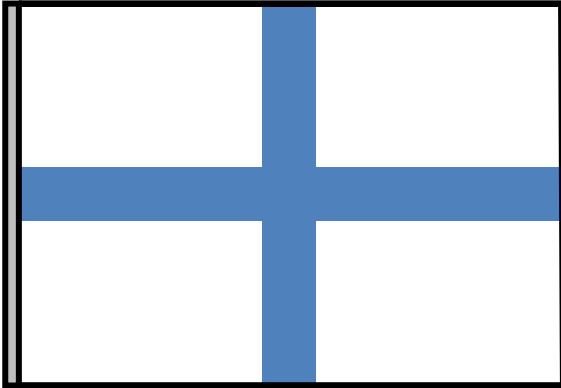
COMMENTS:

This signal ONLY affects those classes which HAVE NOT started.

"AP" over "H" means 'All races not started are postponed. Further signals ashore.'

"AP" over "A" means 'All races not started are postponed to a later day.'

Individual Recall Procedure (Over Early)



Description of Flag:
X Flag
White Background with Blue Cross

CONDITIONS:

1. When boat or boats starting are over early and the Committee Boat is able to identify them all.

SEQUENCE:

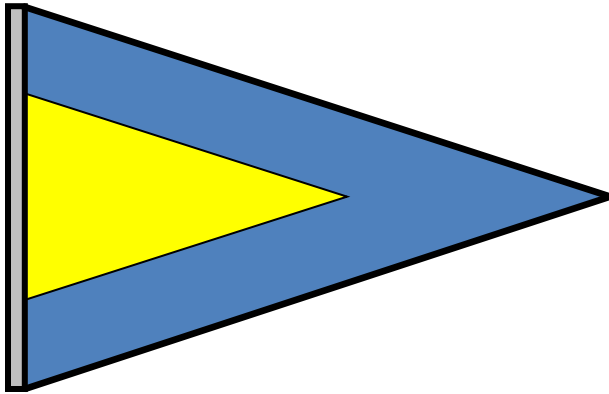
5. "X" Flag Up with ONE SOUND SIGNAL.
6. Hail sail numbers of over early boats with Bull Horn.
7. Advise boats when they have returned to the pre-start side of starting line.
8. Lower "X" flag after all over early boats have cleared the pre-start side of the starting line (no sound signal) or four minutes after their start, whichever is shorter.

COMMENTS:

DO NOT interrupt the normal starting sequence already in progress.

If unable to identify all the boats over early, do a General Recall.

General Recall Procedure



Description of flag:
1st Substitute (1st Repeater)
Blue and Yellow Triangle

GENERAL RECALL SHALL BE MADE AFTER THE START

CONDITIONS:

1. When at the starting signal the race committee is unable to identify the boats that are on the course side of the starting line.
2. When at the starting signal the race committee is unable to identify the boats to which rule 30 applies.
3. There has been an error in the starting procedure.

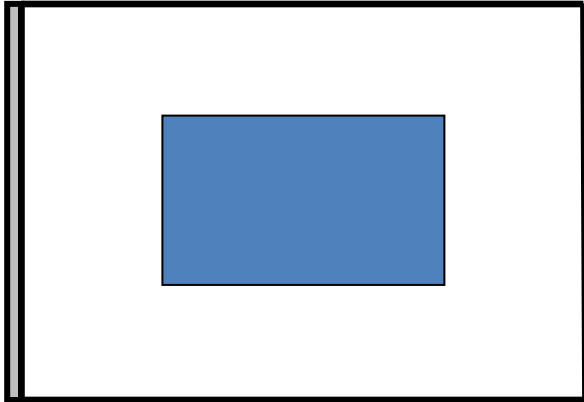
SEQUENCE:

9. Display the First Substitute with TWO SOUND SIGNALS.
10. When it is decided to resume the sequence, 1st Substitute Down with ONE GUN OR SOUND SIGNAL.
11. Wait ONE MINUTE.
12. Resume the Starting Sequence.

COMMENTS:

The starts for any succeeding classes shall follow the next start.

Shortened Course Procedure



Description of flag:
S flag
White Background with Blue Square

SHORTENED COURSE SHALL BE MADE AFTER THE START

CONDITIONS:

1. Because of foul weather.
2. Because of insufficient wind making it unlikely that any boat will finish within the time limit.
3. Because a mark is missing or out of position.
4. For any other reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition.

SEQUENCE:

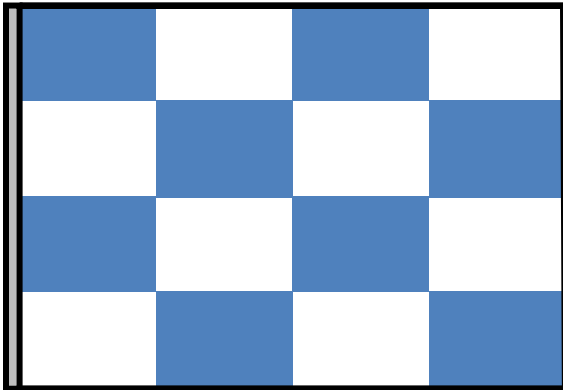
13. Display the S Flag with TWO SOUND SIGNALS.
14. The shortened course shall be signaled before the first boat crosses the finishing line.

COMMENTS:

The finishing line shall be:

1. At a rounding mark, between the mark and a staff displaying the S flag OR
2. At a line boats are required to cross at the end of each lap.

Abandonment Procedure



Description of Flag:
N Flag
Blue and White Check

ABANDONMENT MAY BE MADE PRIOR TO OR AFTER THE START

CONDITIONS:

1. It would be impossible for the Committee Boat to remain on station.
2. Probability of insufficient wind to finish.
3. Significant error in timing sequence.
4. Foul weather.
5. A mark has moved or is missing.
6. Any other reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition.

SEQUENCE:

1. "N" Flag Up with THREE GUNS OR SOUND SIGNALS.
2. All racers return to starting area.
3. When it is decided to resume the sequence:
4. "N" Flag Down with ONE GUN OR SOUND SIGNAL.
5. Wait ONE MINUTE.
6. Resume the Starting Sequence.

COMMENTS:

"N" over "H" means 'All races are abandoned. Further signals ashore.'

"N" over "A" means 'All races are abandoned to a later day.'