

# 2009-2012 US SAILING PRESCRIPTIONS

Changes from the 2005-2008 prescriptions are shown in blue.

TABLE OF CONTENTS **Add in the list of appendices**

*BB Experimental Kiteboard Racing Rules*

*S Sound-Signal Starting System*

INTRODUCTION **Add as a new last paragraph in the Introduction:**

*Prescriptions US SAILING prescriptions are printed in bold italics, except Appendices BB, F and S. Those three appendices are US SAILING prescriptions. There is no Appendix Q or R.*

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

## ***Equal Opportunity***

*As the national authority for the sport of sailing, US SAILING is committed to providing an equal opportunity to all sailors to participate in the sport of sailing.*

**Rule 34** Change rule 34 title to: **MARK MISSING; RACE COMMITTEE ABSENT**

After rule 34 add

*US SAILING prescribes that, if a finishing mark is missing but another one remains in place, a boat shall finish as close to the remaining mark as practicable on a line extending from its required side at a 90° angle to the last leg. If a boat finishes when the race committee is absent, to be scored as finishing she shall note her finishing time and her finishing position in relation to any nearby boats and report them to the race committee as soon as reasonably possible.*

**Rule 40** Change rule 40 title to: **PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES; LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT**

After rule 40 add

*US SAILING prescribes that every boat shall carry life-saving equipment conforming to government regulations that apply in the racing area. See [www.ussailing.org/rules/pfd](http://www.ussailing.org/rules/pfd) for more information.*

**Rule 48** After rule 48 add

*US SAILING prescribes that the use of additional special-purpose lights such as masthead, spreader and jib-luff lights shall not constitute a breach of this rule.*

**Rule 55** Add rule 55

**55** **FLAGS**

*US SAILING prescribes that a boat shall not display flags except for signaling. A boat shall not be penalized for breaking this rule without prior warning and opportunity to*

*make correction.*

**Rule 61.4** Add rule 61.4

**61.4** *Fees for Protests and Requests for Redress*

*US SAILING prescribes that no fees shall be charged for protests or requests for redress.*

**Rule 64.3 (b)** After rule 64.3(b) add

*US SAILING prescribes that the authority responsible for interpreting the rules of a handicap or rating system is the organization that issued the handicap or the rating certificate involved.*

**Rule 68** After rule 68 add

*US SAILING prescribes that:*

- (a) *A boat that retires from a race or accepts a penalty does not, by that action alone, admit liability for damages.*
- (b) *A protest committee shall find facts and make decisions only in compliance with the rules. No protest committee or US SAILING appeal authority shall adjudicate any claim for damages. Such a claim is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts.*
- (c) *A basic purpose of the rules is to prevent contact between boats. By participating in an event governed by the rules, a boat agrees that responsibility for damages arising from any breach of the rules shall be based on fault as determined by application of the rules, and that she shall not be governed by the legal doctrine of 'assumption of risk' for monetary damages resulting from contact with other boats.*

**Rule 70.5(a)** After rule 70.5(a) add

*US SAILING prescribes that its approval is required. See [www.ussailing.org/rules/noappeal](http://www.ussailing.org/rules/noappeal) for more information or to obtain approval.*

**Rule 76.1** After rule 76.1 add

*US SAILING prescribes that an organizing authority or race committee shall not reject or cancel the entry of a boat or exclude a competitor eligible under the notice of race and sailing instructions for an arbitrary or capricious reason or for reason of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or age.*

**Rule 76.3** Add rule 76.3

- 76.3** *US SAILING prescribes that a boat whose entry is rejected or cancelled or a competitor who is excluded from a race or series shall be, upon written request, entitled to a hearing conducted by the protest committee under rules 63.2, 63.3, 63.4 and 63.6.*

**Rule 82** Add rule 82

**82** *INDEMNIFICATION OR HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS*

*US SAILING prescribes that the organizing authority shall not require a competitor to assume any liabilities of the organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host*

*club, sponsors, or any other organization or official involved with the event. (This is commonly referred to as an ‘indemnification’ or ‘hold harmless’ agreement.) See [www.ussailing.org/rules/indemnification](http://www.ussailing.org/rules/indemnification) for more information.*

**Rule 86.3** After rule 86.3 add

*US SAILING prescribes that proposed rules may be tested, but only in local races. However, proposed rules may also be tested at other events if, for each event, the organizing authority first obtains written permission from US SAILING and the proposed rules are included in the notice of race and sailing instructions.*

**Rule 88.2** After rule 88.2 add

*US SAILING prescribes that sailing instructions shall not change or delete rules 61.4 or 76.3, Appendix F, or its prescriptions to rules 40, 68 or 76.1. However, for an international event the prescription to rule 40 may be deleted.*

**Appendix A** At the end add the following note:

*US SAILING Note on Scoring a Long Series: The scoring systems in Appendix A may be inappropriate for a long series, such as a club’s season championship held over several weeks or months, in which some boats do not compete in all of the races and in which more boats compete in some races than in others. See ‘Scoring a Long Series’ at [www.ussailing.org/rules/longseries](http://www.ussailing.org/rules/longseries) for an explanation of the scoring problems that occur in such series, alternative scoring systems, and language for sailing instructions to implement them.*

**Appendix BB** Add the following new appendix.

## ***APPENDIX BB – Experimental Kiteboard Racing Rules***

*This appendix is a US SAILING prescription.*

*A group of race officials and kiteboard racers is developing a set of racing rules to govern ‘round the buoys’ kiteboard races. These rules are evolving based on the experiences of competitors in kiteboard races and those who serve on the race committee or protest committee at such races. See [www.ussailing.org/rules/kiteboards](http://www.ussailing.org/rules/kiteboards) for more information, including the most recent version of these rules.*

**Appendix F** Replace ISAF Appendix F with **Appendix F** [see Appendix F below]

**Appendix G** After rule G2 add

*US SAILING prescribes that unless otherwise stated in her class rules, the sails of a boat that is not in an ISAF International Class or Recognized Class shall comply with rule G1. However, offshore racing boats not in a class that is subject to rule G1 shall carry numbers allotted by US SAILING on mainsails, spinnakers and each overlapping headsail having a luff-perpendicular measurement exceeding 130% of the base of the foretriangle. This rule applies only to a boat whose owner’s national authority is US SAILING. See [www.ussailing.org/rules/sailnumbers](http://www.ussailing.org/rules/sailnumbers) for the full text of the Sail Numbering System for offshore racing boats in the United States and for an application for a sail number.*

**Appendix L** At the end of the preamble to Appendix L add

*US SAILING Note: US SAILING has produced a guide to simplified sailing instructions suitable for events such as club or local regattas. This guide can be found at [www.ussailing.org/rules/simpleSIs](http://www.ussailing.org/rules/simpleSIs).*

**Appendix L** Add Instruction 12.3

**12.3** *If the race committee intends to start another race on the same day, it will display the Second Substitute (with no sound) while boats are finishing.*

Marginal note to appear in the left margin opposite instruction 12.3:

*This is a US SAILING prescription.*

**Appendix L** Add a new Instruction 16.10

**16.10** *If the race committee posts a list of boats scored OCS, ZFP or BFD on the official notice board before the protest time limit, a request for redress based on such a posted score shall be made no later than one hour after the protest time limit. This changes the first sentence of rule 62.2.*

Marginal note to appear in the left margin opposite new instruction 16.10:

*This is a US SAILING prescription.*

**Appendix S** After Appendix P add **Appendix S** [see Appendix S below].

**Protest Form** Replace the ISAF Protest Form with the US SAILING Protest Form.

**INDEX** At end of introductory paragraph add

*US SAILING prescriptions are not included in the Index.*

## ***APPENDIX F – Procedures for Appeals and Requests***

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*This appendix is a US SAILING prescription.*

*See rules 70 and 71. This appendix replaces Appendix F as adopted by the International Sailing Federation. The US SAILING Appeals Committee acts as the national authority within the meaning of rules 70.1 and 71.*

### **F1 WHERE TO SEND AN APPEAL OR REQUEST**

**F1.1** All appeals and requests shall be sent to the Race Administration Director at US SAILING, at either P.O. Box 1260 or 15 Maritime Drive, Portsmouth, RI 02871, or by e-mail to [RaceAdmin@ussailing.org](mailto:RaceAdmin@ussailing.org).

**F1.2** Except as provided in rule F1.4, the director will forward an appeal of a decision of a protest committee or a request by a protest committee for confirmation or correction of its decision to the association appeals committee for the place in which the event was held. However, such an appeal or request arising from an event conducted under the procedural rules of the Intercollegiate Sailing Association or the Interscholastic Sailing Association will be forwarded to the association appeals committee for the ICSA and ISSA.

**F1.3** The director will forward an appeal of a decision of an association appeals committee, a request by an association appeals committee for confirmation or correction of its decision, and a request for an interpretation of *rules* to the US SAILING Appeals Committee.

**F1.4** The director will forward an appeal of a decision of a protest committee acting under rule 69.1, an appeal of a decision of a protest committee of a US SAILING national championship, and a request by such a committee for confirmation or correction of its decision to the US SAILING Appeals Committee.

### **F2 TO APPEAL OR MAKE A REQUEST**

**F2.1** To appeal the decision of a protest committee or association appeals committee a *party* to the hearing shall, **no later than 15 days after** receiving the written decision being appealed or a protest committee's decision not to reopen a hearing, send an appeal and a copy of the decision to the US SAILING Race Administration Director. The appeal shall state why the appellant believes the committee's decision or its procedures were incorrect.

**F2.2** The appellant shall also send, with the appeal or as soon as possible thereafter, all of the following documents that are available:

- (a) the written *protest(s)* or request(s) for redress;
- (b) if the appeal is from a decision of an association appeals committee, the written decision of the protest committee;
- (c) a diagram, prepared or endorsed by the protest committee, that shows
  - (1) the positions of all boats involved at relevant times, and their tracks;
  - (2) the course to the next *mark* and its required side;
  - (3) the speed and direction of the wind;
  - (4) any relevant *mark, obstruction or zone*; and
  - (5) if relevant, the depth of the water and the speed and direction of any current;
- (d) the notice of race, sailing instructions, any other documents governing the event, and any

changes to them;

- (e) the names, mailing addresses and e-mail addresses of the *parties* to the hearing, the chairman of the protest committee and, if relevant, the chairman of the association appeals committee; and
- (f) any other relevant documents.

**F2.3** To request confirmation or correction of its decision, a protest committee or association appeals committee shall send to the US SAILING Race Administration Director a copy of its decision and all relevant documents and comments.

**F2.4** To request an interpretation of the *rules*, a club or other organization affiliated to US SAILING shall send to the US SAILING Race Administration Director its request, which shall include assumed facts. A US SAILING committee is considered to be an organization affiliated to US SAILING.

### **F3 FEES**

**F3.1** If a fee is required for an appeal or request, it must be received before the appeal or request will be considered.

**F3.2** US SAILING charges no fee for forwarding an appeal or request to an association appeals committee. However, the association appeals committee may charge a fee. In that case, the association appeals committee will send a notice to the appellant (or, for a request, to the protest committee) stating the fee, to whom the fee is payable, and the address to which the fee must be sent.

**F3.3** US SAILING charges a fee of \$25 for an appeal made to the US SAILING Appeals Committee (see rules F1.3 and F1.4) by a member of US SAILING or another national authority. The fee is \$75 for all others. A fee of \$25 is charged for a request for an interpretation of the rules, but there is no fee for a request from a US SAILING committee. There is no fee for a request from an association appeals committee for confirmation or correction of its decision.

### **F4 NOTIFICATION OF THE COMMITTEE WHOSE DECISION IS BEING APPEALED**

Upon receipt of an appeal, the appeals committee shall send a copy of the appeal to the committee whose decision is being appealed, asking it for any documents required by rule F2.2 not supplied by the appellant.

### **F5 COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **F5.1 Protest Committee**

A protest committee whose decision is being appealed shall supply the documents requested under rule F4 and any facts or other information requested under rule F6. If directed to do so by the appeals committee, it shall conduct a hearing, or reopen the hearing, of the *protest* or request for redress, or conduct a hearing to consider redress.

#### **F5.2 Association Appeals Committee**

- (a) The association appeals committee shall send to all *parties to the hearing*, and to the committee whose decision is being appealed or reviewed, copies of all relevant documents and comments it has received, except those supplied by that *party* or committee.
- (b) The association appeals committee shall send its decision in writing to all *parties to the hearing and the protest committee*.
- (c) An association appeals committee shall consider an appeal it has refused to decide if directed to do so by the US SAILING Appeals Committee.

#### **F5.3 US SAILING Appeals Committee**

The US SAILING Appeals Committee shall send to all *parties to the hearing*, to the protest

committee and to the association appeals committee whose decision is being appealed or reviewed, copies of all relevant documents and comments it has received, except those supplied by that *party* or committee.

#### **F6 INADEQUATE FACTS; REOPENING**

An appeals committee shall accept the protest committee's finding of facts except when it decides they are inadequate. In that case it shall require the protest committee to provide additional facts or other information, or to reopen the hearing and report any new finding of facts, and the protest committee shall promptly do so.

#### **F7 COMMENTS**

The *parties to the hearing*, the protest committee and, if relevant, the association appeals committee may make comments on the appeal or request or on any of the documents listed in rule F2.2. Comments shall be sent in writing to the appeals committee **no later than** 15 days after the *party* or committee **receives** the document. The appeals committee need not consider comments sent after that time.

#### **F8 OTHER PROVISIONS**

These provisions are in addition to those of rule 71.

- (a) An association appeals committee may act as permitted by rule 71.2 and shall act as required by rule 71.3, subject to further appeal as provided in rule F1.3.
- (b) An association appeals committee may request confirmation or correction of its decision (see rules F1.3 and F2.3).
- (c) An appeals committee may direct a protest committee to conduct a hearing to consider redress for an appellant or other *party to the hearing*.
- (d) No member of the association appeals committee shall take part in the discussion or decision on an appeal or a request for confirmation or correction to the US SAILING Appeals Committee.
- (e) The US SAILING Appeals Committee may direct an association appeals committee to consider an appeal it has refused to decide.

## ***APPENDIX S – SOUND-SIGNAL STARTING SYSTEM***

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*This appendix is a US SAILING prescription.*

*US SAILING prescribes that, when the sailing instructions so indicate, the Sound-Signal Starting System described below shall be used. This system is recommended primarily for small-boat racing and makes it unnecessary for competitors to use stopwatches. Supplemental visual course and recall signals are also recommended when practicable.*

- S1** Course and postponement signals may be made orally.
- S2** Audible signals shall govern, even when supplemental visual signals are also used.
- S3** The starting sequence shall consist of the following sound signals made at the indicated times:

<i>Signal</i>	<i>Sound</i>	<i>Time before start</i>
Warning	3 long	3 minutes
Preparatory	2 long	2 minutes
	1 long, 3 short	1 minute, 30 seconds
	1 long	1 minute
	3 short	30 seconds
	2 short	20 seconds
	1 short	10 seconds
	1 short	5 seconds
	1 short	4 seconds
	1 short	3 seconds
	1 short	2 seconds
	1 short	1 second
Starting	1 long	0

- S4** Signals shall be timed from their commencement.
- S5** A series of short signals may be made before the sequence begins in order to attract attention.
- S6** Individual recalls shall be signalled by the hail of the sail number (or some other clearly distinguishing feature) of each recalled boat. Flag X need not be displayed.
- S7** Failure of a competitor to hear an adequate course, postponement, starting sequence or recall signal shall not be grounds for redress.