



Notice to Competitors No 1

Replies to questions received after the Skipper's Briefing

Q: Reading the wording of the test rule it effectively states that the only way to start is to cross the line from pre start side to course side in last 60 seconds.

R: This is incorrect. Section a) states that a boat can start from the pre-start towards the course side on **or after** her starting signal.

Section b) only applies if a boat approaches the line to start within the last 60 seconds to her starting signal. If she then crosses early, she will receive a penalty and must not return or she would be subject to an additional penalty. By way of clarification for various scenarios:

- Boat approaches the line and crosses the line 10 seconds before her starting signal: receives SP, and must not return or is subject to additional penalty.
- Boat is intending to start late, e.g. 1 hour after her start and approaches the starting line from the course side: She can use the provisions "late at the start", sail to the pre-start side and then cross the line in the direction of the course. She hasn't approached the line within 60 seconds of her starting signal, so she complies with Section a) (on or after her starting signal), no penalty
- Boat crosses the line before the preparatory signal is removed, e.g. 70 seconds to her starting signal: That boat would not have displayed "intention" to start and did not approach the line to start, as it would be too early. If that boat carries on racing, she would have to be scored DNS.
- Boat is already on course side at 60 or more seconds to the start: As she hasn't approached the line from the pre-start side towards the course side to start within the last minute, she may return to the pre-start side and start on or after her starting signal without a penalty.

Q: If a second mainsail is carried aboard, in the event of significant damage to the mainsail in use, will the RC permit the second mainsail to be used? There seems to be a conflict between IRC rule 21.1.5 (e) and (f).

R: The Notice of Race has not changed IRC rule 21.1.5 e) or f). Hence, a spare mainsail may be carried but must not normally be used. 21.1.5 f) requires exceptional circumstances, such as "significant damage or loss" in order to use it. We suggest to indicate the use of a spare mainsail on the declaration form to protect from protests by competitors. The Jury may require an assessment of the damaged sail to verify that the provision of "exceptional" was met.

Date 22 July 2023