



SMSA
Race Management Training

Race Committee Options

- - -

Things That Can Not Be Changed



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Topics

- Weather Concerns
- Course Selection
- Follow Me/Come Within Hail
- Postponement
- Shorten Course
- Abandonment
- SIs Requirements/Limitations



Weather Concerns

- There may be instances when existing or predicted weather conditions warrant a Race Committee decision to cancel the scheduled race(s)
 - RRS 4 states that it is a boat's decision whether or not to race
 - Additionally, Race Committee should take care to consider the weather conditions & decide if conditions are safe to leave the dock & conduct racing
- Steps to be taken
 - Post the cancellation on the SMSA Official Notice Board
 - Hoist the abandonment signal at the Clubhouse
 - Make repeated announcements on VHF channel 72
 - Contact the Race Chair, Vice Commodore, & anyone you know was planning on competing



Course Selection

- General Considerations
 - Selecting course length
 - How many races are scheduled for the day?
 - What are the expected wind conditions for the time on the water?
 - Building? Dying? Shifting? Inclement/dangerous?
 - Consider the range of PHRF ratings of the boats involved

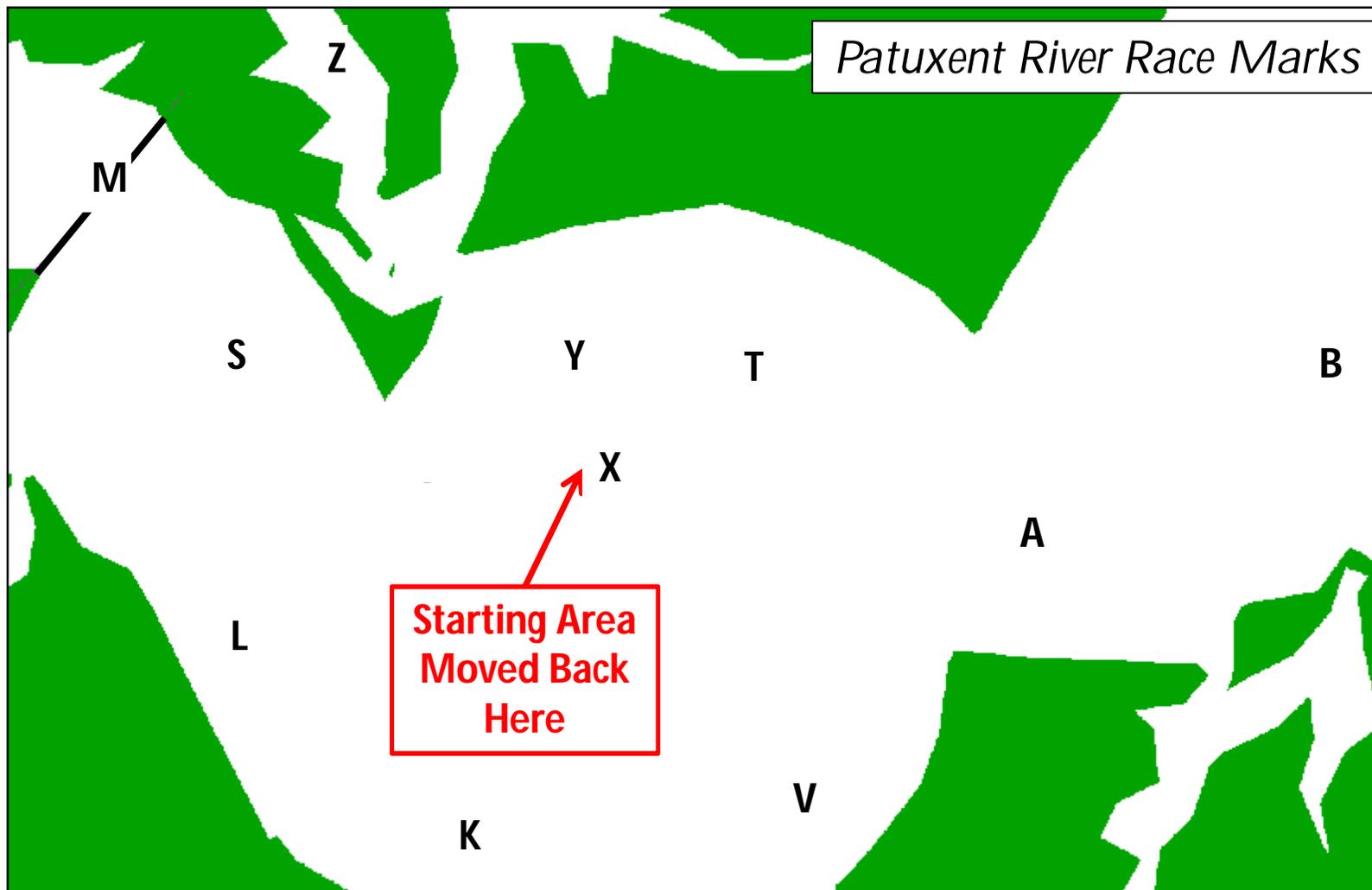


Course Selection

- Wednesday Night Considerations
 - What time is sunset?
 - How will sunset affect the wind?
 - When to finish at Zahniser's?
 - Remember that Zahniser's is the Wednesday Night sponsor
 - Favorable Conditions
 - Stable, moderate breeze
 - Wind in the range from East-to-South
 - Unfavorable Conditions
 - Light, shifty, or dying breeze
 - Wind in the range from West-to-North
 - Can't leave "X" or head to the dock too early
 - Wait too long & you won't make it back to the dock in time
 - "A race may be shortened to finish at Mark "Y" if Mark "Z" was the original finish line." -- *SMSA Race Circular*

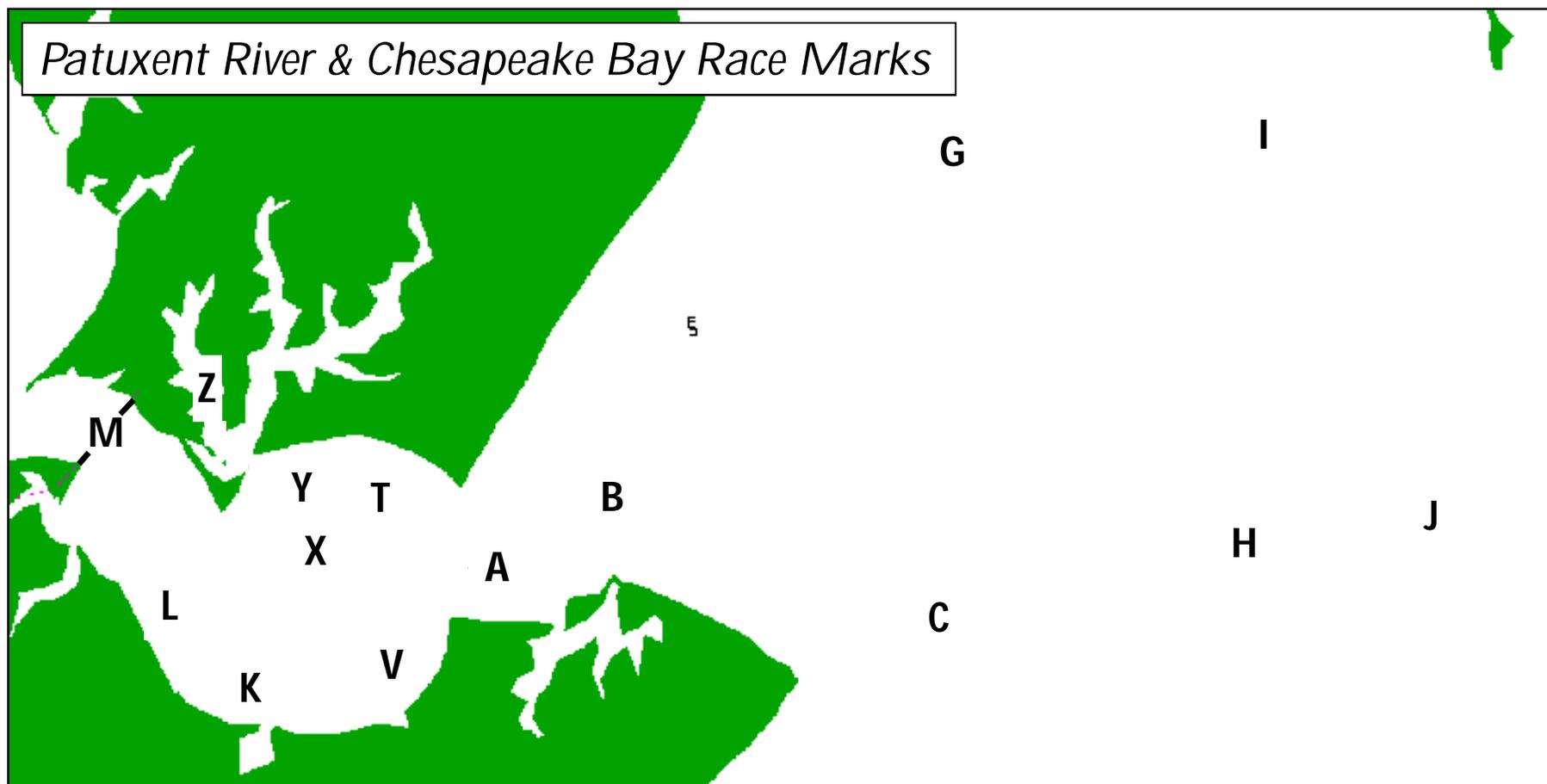


Course Selection





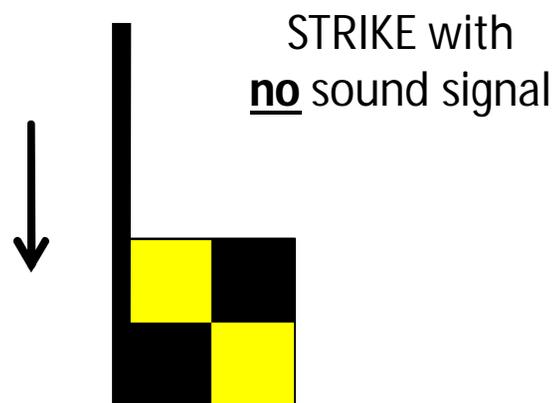
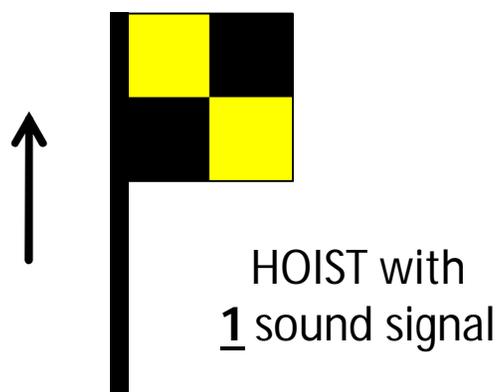
Course Selection





Follow Me / Come Within Hail

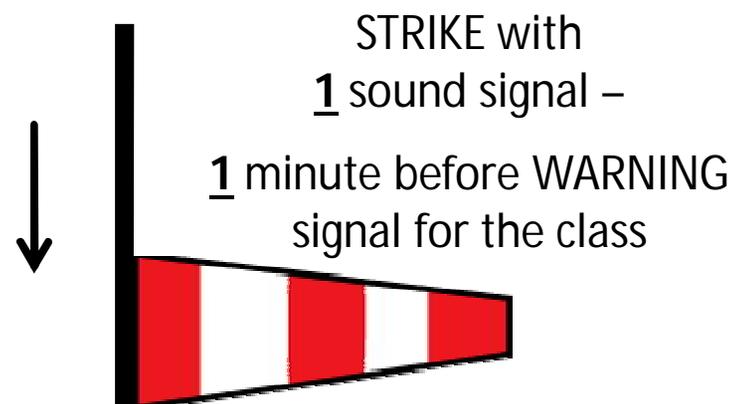
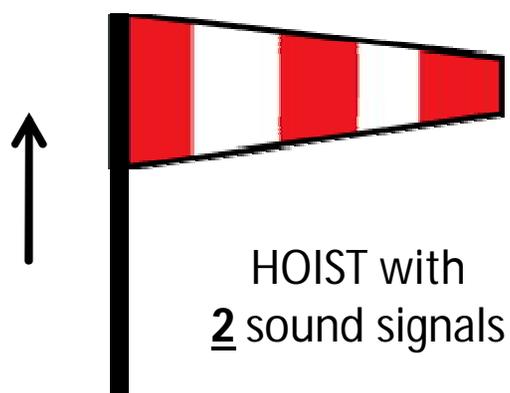
- RC has a reason to draw all competitors within close proximity
 - Safety notification
 - Written changes to the SIs
 - Oral changes to the SIs, if specifically allowed by the SIs
- RC moving to a difference area
 - Move from the rendezvous point to a start area





Postponement

- Race Committee's best friend
- A race can be postponed only ***BEFORE*** the start



“Races not started are postponed. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is postponed again or abandoned.”



Postponement

- When should you consider Postponement?
 - If the RC is not ready in time for a scheduled Warning signal
 - If the RC discovers an error in the start sequence
 - Insufficient wind
 - Significant wind shift during the start sequence
 - If either end of the start line drifts
 - Competitors can not make it to the starting area, through no fault of their own



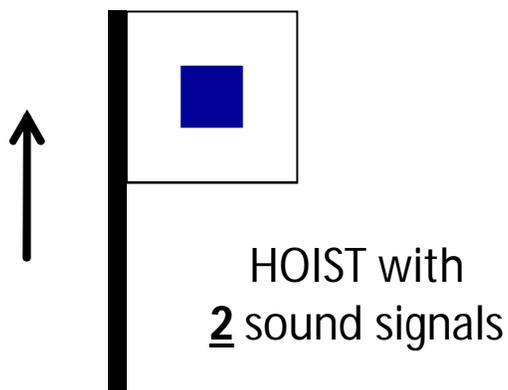
Postponement

- When should you **NOT** consider Postponement?
 - The absence of a sound signal during a start sequence
 - RRS 26: “Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.”
 - EXCEPTION: Appendix S, Sound-Signal Starting System
 - RRS S2: “Audible signals shall govern, even when supplemental visual signals are also used.”
 - When competitors are not in the starting area, but could have been



Shorten Course

- Finish between Code Flag "S" and the adjacent mark – *in the direction from the previous mark*



The finish line runs from the adjacent mark to the "S" flag – **not the yellow line flag**. If the yellow line flag & the "S" flag are not on the same halyard/pole, you must sight the finish line from the "S" flag.

"The course has been shortened. Rule 32.2 is in effect."



Shorten Course

- The signal **MUST** be made prior to the first boat reaching **the mark *AT WHICH* the course is to be shortened**
- The sound signals should be made when the lead boat is close enough to hear the signal, but still has adequate time to sail a proper course to the finish line

"The course has been shortened. Rule 32.2 is in effect."



Shorten Course

- When should you consider shortening the course?
 - Impending foul weather
 - Insufficient wind
 - The time limit (if there is one) may or will be exceeded
 - The race has been a fair one
 - To enable other scheduled races to be sailed

"The course has been shortened. Rule 32.2 is in effect."



Shorten Course

- At the leeward mark
 - Wednesday night race
 - All port roundings
 - The wind has fallen to 2 knots
 - Sunset is in 20 minutes
 - The last boat is ~10 minutes behind the lead boat

When is an appropriate time to signal "shorten course?"



When is it too late to signal "shorten course?"

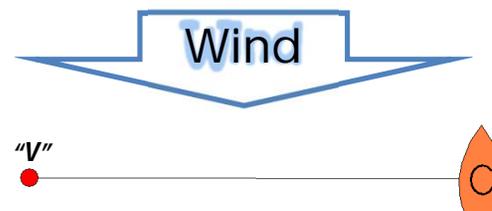
"X"





Shorten Course

- At the weather mark
 - Wednesday night race
 - All port roundings
 - The wind has fallen to 2 knots
 - Sunset is in 20 minutes
 - The last boat is ~10 minutes behind the lead boat



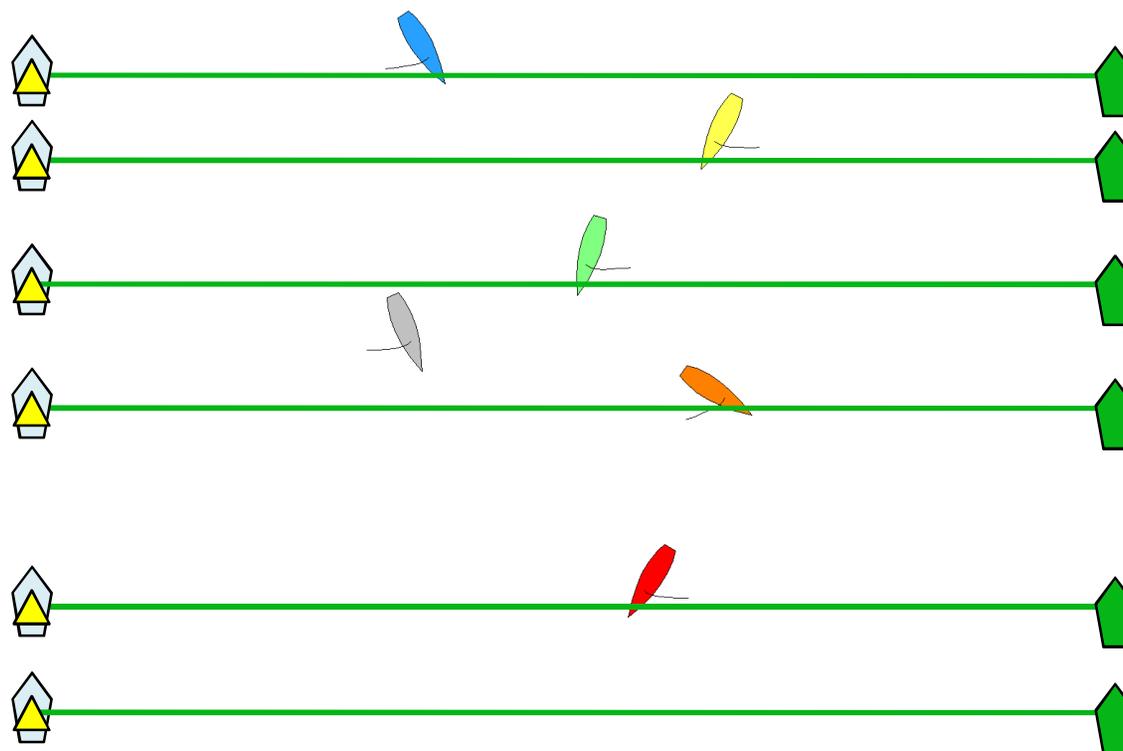
Which of these configurations is correct?

Neither is "wrong" – but one is better than the other.



Shorten Course

What Not To Do



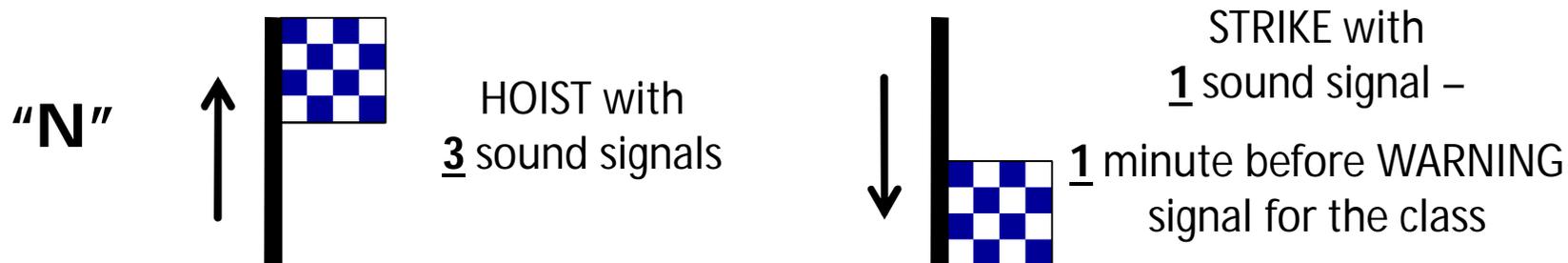


Abandonment

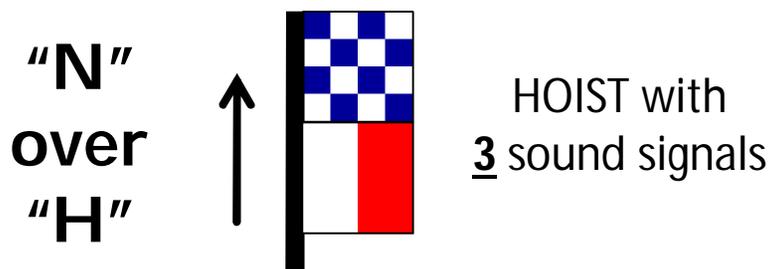
- There are 3 different “types” of Abandonment
 - “N”
 - Abandon the race and bring everyone back to the starting area
 - It is your intent to try to start another race
 - “N” over “H”
 - Abandon the race, send everyone back to the dock to await further signals from the shore
 - There is a chance that racing may resume later in the day
 - “N” over “A”
 - Abandon all racing for the day



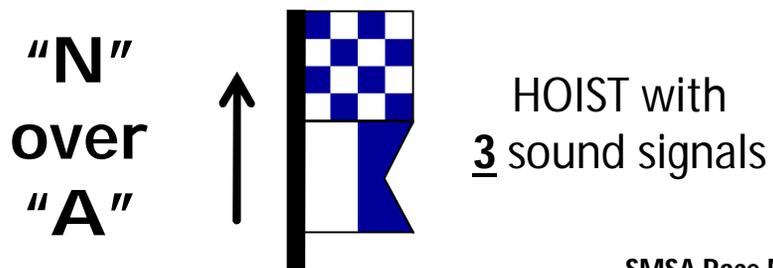
Abandonment



"All races that have started are abandoned. Return to the starting area. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is abandoned or postponed."



"All races abandoned. Further signals ashore"



"All races abandoned. No more racing today."



Abandonment

- When should you consider Abandonment?
 - Massive wind shift
 - Insufficient wind, and no prospect that it will improve
 - Impending foul weather
 - For any reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition
 - However, if one boat has sailed the course, the RC shall not abandon without first considering the consequences for ALL boats in the race or series



SIs Requirements/Limitations

- Race Committee is required to run races per the published SIs
 - Time of the first signal
 - Classes order of starting
 - Number of races for the day or the series
- Be sure to read the SIs for the event that you are running **BEFORE** leaving the dock



Scenarios

- On a light air day with heavy adverse current, at 3 minutes before the scheduled time of the day's 1st Warning signal, only 2 boats are in the starting area, but 7 more are seen heading out.
 - What does the RRS say?
 - What do you do?
- The Timer misses the 1-minute mark & neither the Prep flag nor the sound are executed.
 - What does the RRS say?
 - What do you do?
- The pin is snagged & drug forward by a boat that is OCS ~10 seconds before the Start.
 - What does the RRS say?
 - What do you do?