

AGM March 22, 15:30 hours  
Top Floor - Gibsons Public Market.

- Skippers, please register for the 2026 racing year!

Volunteers are needed for the Regatta.

- Photographers - Take pictures for our event.
- Registration desk – Saturday evening at The Bay Gibsons (2 or 3 people)
- Coordinating Committee Vessel lunches.
- Clean up detail – Keep our event green!

Flags, Flags and more Flags



**A-Alfa**  
Diver Down Keep Clear



**B-Bravo**  
Dangerous Cargo



**C-Charlie**  
Yes



**D-Delta**  
Keep Clear



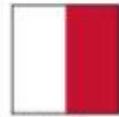
**E-Echo**  
Altering Course to Starboard



**F-Foxtrot**  
Disabled



**G-Golf**  
Went a Pilot



**H-Hotel**  
Pilot on Board



**I-India**  
Altering Course to Port



**J-Juliet**  
On Fire Keep Clear



**K-Kilo**  
Desire to Communicate



**L-Lima**  
Stop Instantly



**M-Mike**  
I Am Stopped



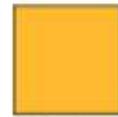
**N-November**  
No



**O-Oscar**  
Man Overboard



**P-Papa**  
About To Sail



**Q-Quebec**  
Request Pratique



**R-Romeo**  
Do Not Pass Ahead of Me



**S-Sierra**  
Engines Going Astern



**T-Tango**  
Keep Clear



**U-Uniform**  
Standing Into Danger



**V-Victor**  
Require Assistance



**W-Whiskey**  
Require Medical Assistance



**X-Xray**  
Stop Your Intention



**Y-Yankee**  
Am Dragging Anchor



**Z-Zulu**  
Require A Tug



0



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



1st Repeater



2nd Repeater



3rd Repeater



Code & Answering

Communication at sea by means of signal flags is a centuries old tradition dating back beyond the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Age of Fighting Sail

This signaling tradition has evolved into the International Code of Signals (ICS) maintained by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), Morse Code groupings (e.g “SOS”) ...and the 24 hour clock.

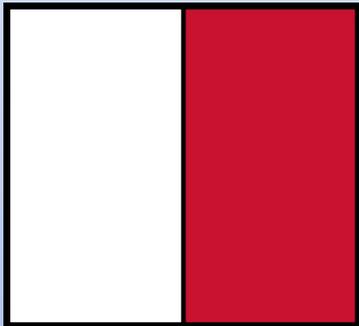
A sound signal, originally cannon fire, has been traditionally used to draw attention to a visual flag signal.

Just btw, re VHF: operators are required by law to have ROC-M

# Examples of ICS Signal Flag hoists still used in maritime operations

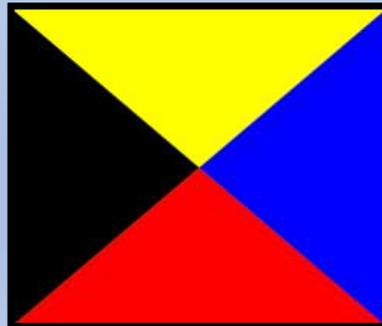
Single Flag hoist

“Pilot aboard”

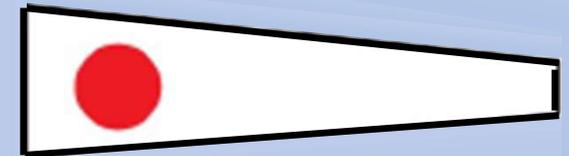
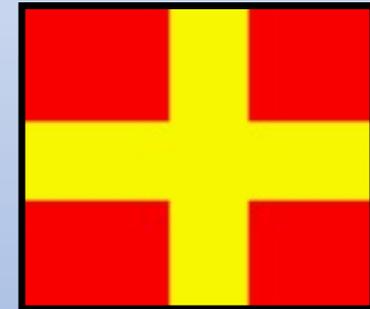
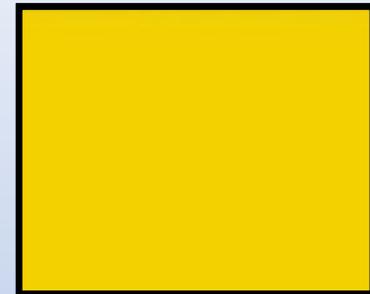


2 Flag hoist

“Well done”



3 Flag hoist

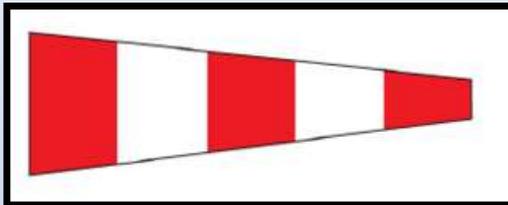


The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS Part 3) uses ICS flags and sound signals, following these hallowed traditions of the sea.



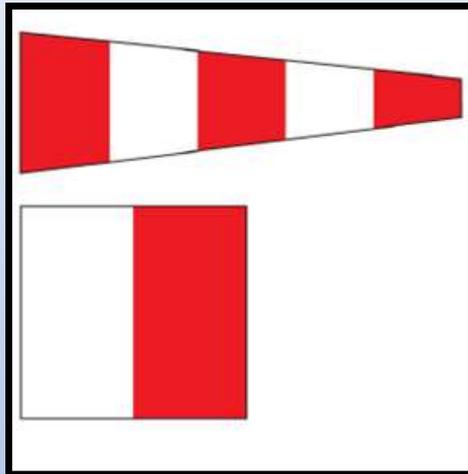
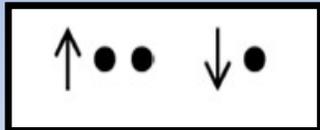
*Let's discuss the usual signals used in the Conduct of Races under the RRS*

# Postponement signals

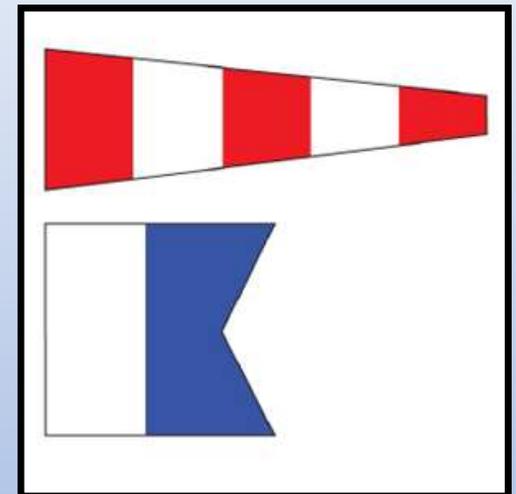
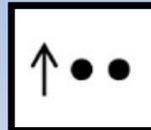


**Answering Pennant**

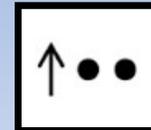
**AP** Races not started are *postponed*. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is *postponed* again or *abandoned*.



**AP over H** Races not started are *postponed*. Further signals ashore.



**AP over A** Races not started are *postponed*. No more racing today.



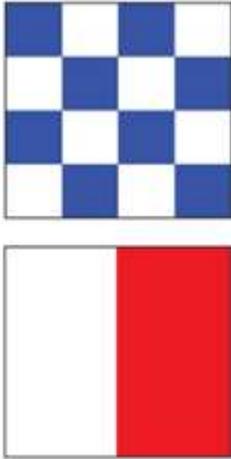
# Miscellaneous Signals

## Abandonment Signals



↑ ● ● ● ↓ ●

**N** All races in progress 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* again or *postponed*.



↑ ● ● ●

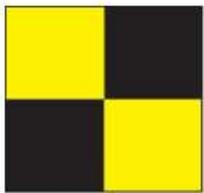
**N over H** All races in progress are *abandoned*. Further signals ashore.



↑ ● ● ●

**N over A** All races in progress are *abandoned*. No more racing today.

## Other Signals



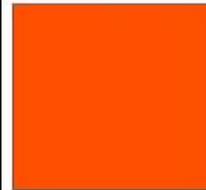
**L** Ashore: A notice to competitors has been posted.  
Afloat: Come within hail or follow this vessel.



**Y** Wear a personal flotation device (see rule 40).



**M** The object displaying this signal replaces a missing *mark*.



(no sound)

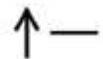
**Orange** flag.  
The staff displaying this flag is one end of the starting line.



(no sound)

**Blue** flag.  
The staff displaying this flag is one end of the finishing line.

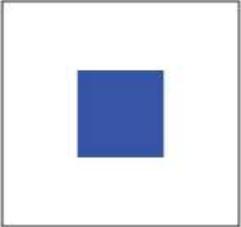
## Safety



**V** Monitor communication channel for safety instructions (see rule 37).

# Other important signals

**Shortened Course**



↑ ● ●

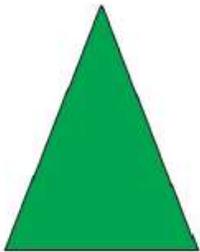
S The course has been shortened. Rule 32.2 is in effect.



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C The position of the next *mark* has been changed:

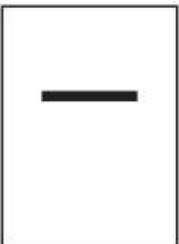
May not be shortened. It may have been moved to a more windward or leeward position.



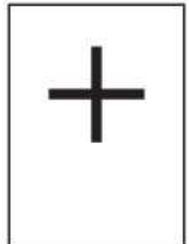
to starboard;



to port;



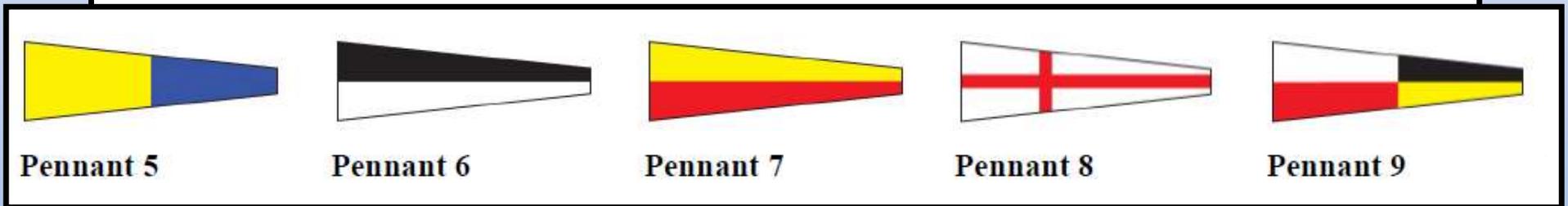
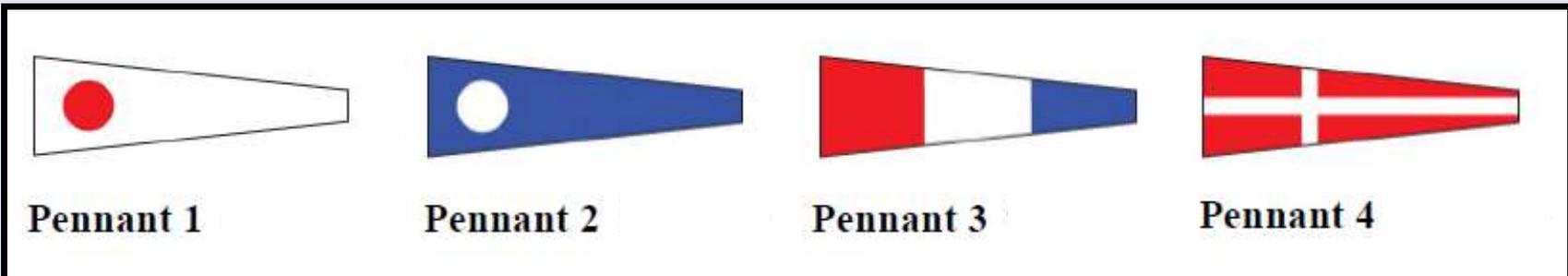
to decrease the length of the leg;



to increase the length of the leg.

These flags may also be seen from a mark set boat located near the mark's new location.

Division flag(s) - normally a numeral pennant

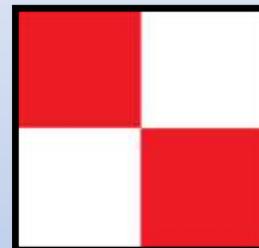
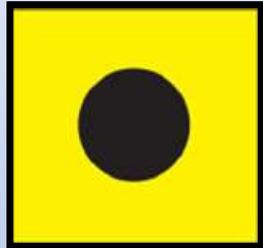


Class Flag(s) - Example



# Preparatory Signal Flag(s)

A different flag for different starting rules



↑● ↓—

**P** Preparatory  
signal.

↑● ↓—

**I** Rule 30.1  
is in effect.

↑● ↓—

**Z** Rule 30.2  
is in effect.

↑● ↓—

**U** Rule 30.3  
is in effect.

↑● ↓—

**Black** flag.  
Rule 30.4 is  
in effect.

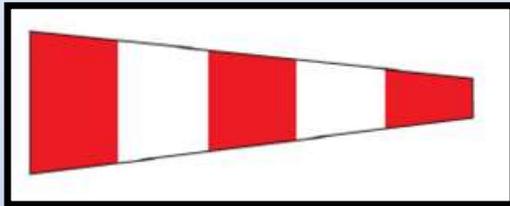
NOTE – Normally you will only see one of these flags however, I and Z may fly together meaning that both rules are in effect.

# The Start Sequence

What do all these flags mean?

**NOTE – Visual Signal to Govern**

# Postponement signal



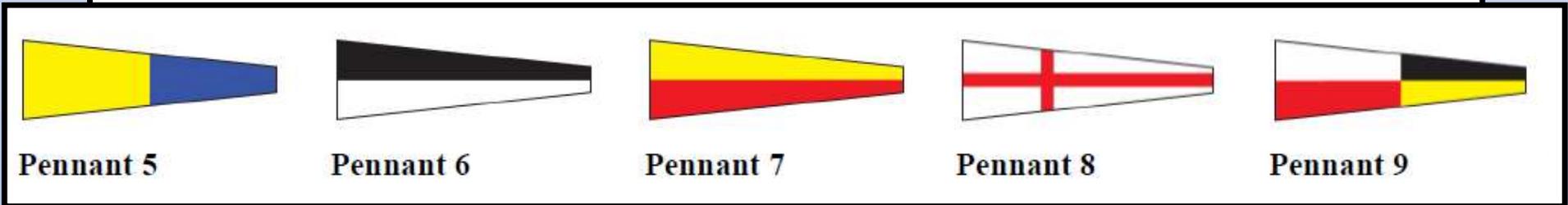
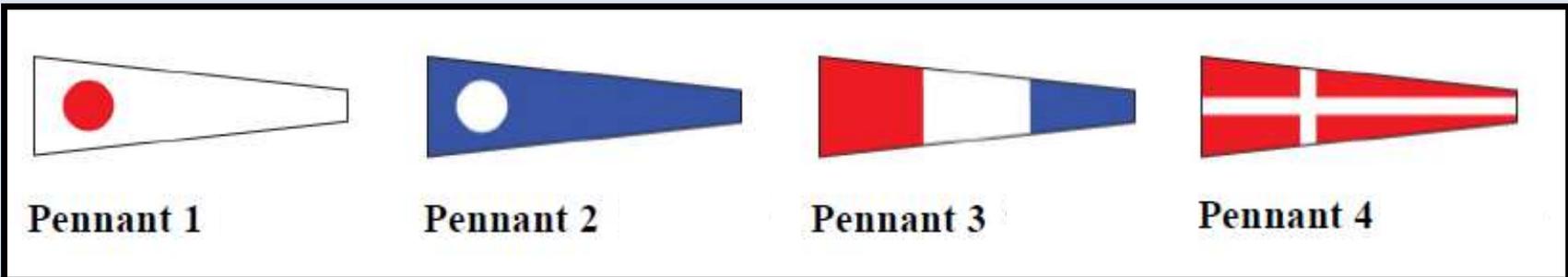
**Answering Pennant**



**AP** 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*.

# Warning Signal – Five Minutes

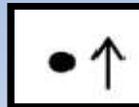
Division flag(s) up: normally a numeral pennant



Class Flag(s) up - Example



1 Sound Signal



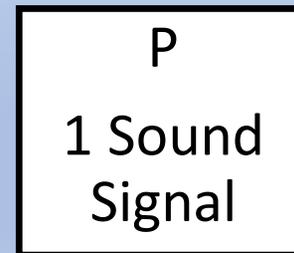
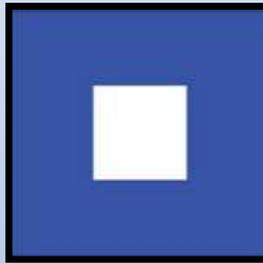
NOTE – Throughout this presentation, this figure denotes sound signal and the movement of the flag.

Preparatory Signal – Four minutes

## Prep Flag up

(Class/ Division flag(s) remains hoisted)  
a different flag for different starting rules

This one!

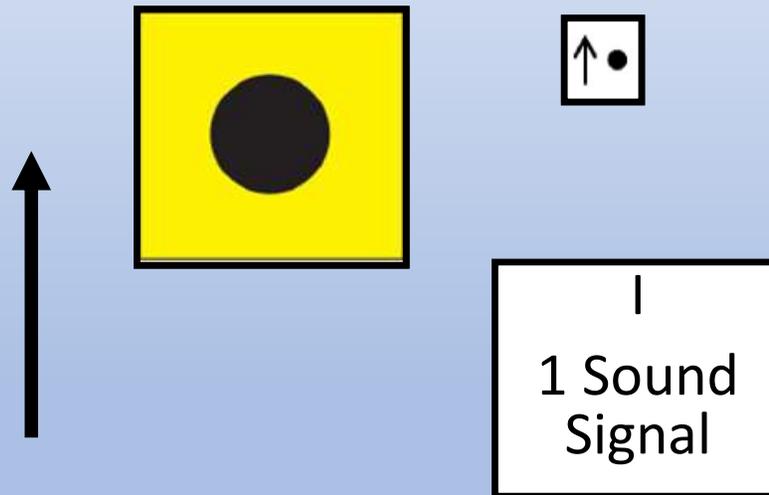


Preparatory Signal – Four minutes

## Prep Flag up

(Class/ Division flag(s) remains hoisted)  
a different flag for different starting rules

Or this one!

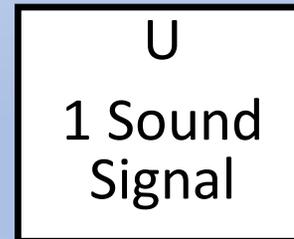
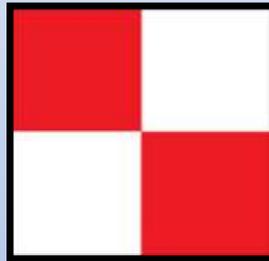


Preparatory Signal – Four minutes

## Prep Flag up

(Class/ Division flag(s) remains hoisted)  
a different flag for different starting rules

Or this one!



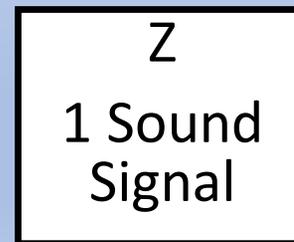
Preparatory Signal – Four minutes

## Prep Flag up

(Class/ Division flag(s) remains hoisted)

a different flag for different starting rules

Or this one!



Preparatory Signal – Four minutes

## Prep Flag up

(Class/ Division flag(s) remains hoisted)

a different flag for different starting rules

Or this one!



Black Flag  
1 Sound  
Signal

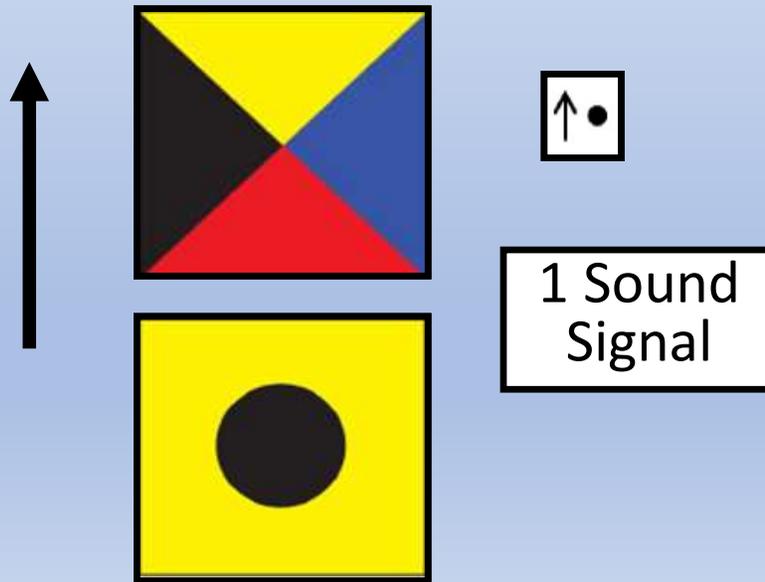
Preparatory Signal – Four minutes

## Prep Flags up

(Class/ Division flag(s) remains hoisted)

a different flag for different starting rules

Or these ones!



# One minute Signal – One minute Prep flag(s) down (Class flags still up)

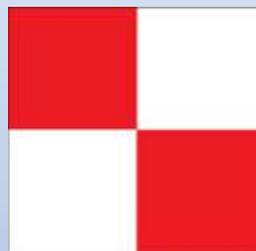
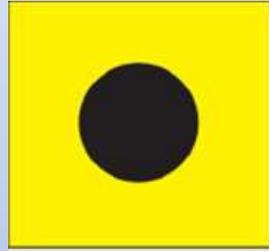
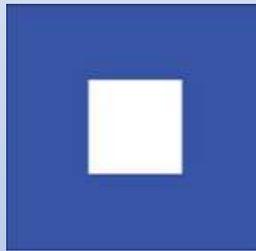
Prep flag

Or this one!

Or this one!

Or this one!

Or this one!



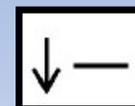
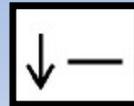
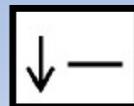
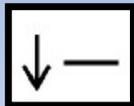
P  
1 long  
Sound  
Signal

I  
1 long  
Sound  
Signal

U  
1 long  
Sound  
Signal

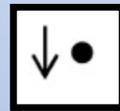
Z  
1 long  
Sound  
Signal

Black Flag  
1 long  
Sound  
Signal



Starting Signal – GO!  
Division flag(s) / Class Flag(s) down.

1 Sound Signal



Skill testing question

*What flag(s) are still flying?*

- By RRS Definition a boat is *racing* from her preparatory signal until she finishes and clears the finishing line and marks or retires, or until the race committee signals a general recall, postponement or abandonment.
- i.e.: The RRS are in effect from the 4-minute Preparatory signal.

Therefore:

- Engine must be disengaged at 4 minutes.
- No proper course before the starting signal.

**ColRegs apply.**

## 26 STARTING RACES

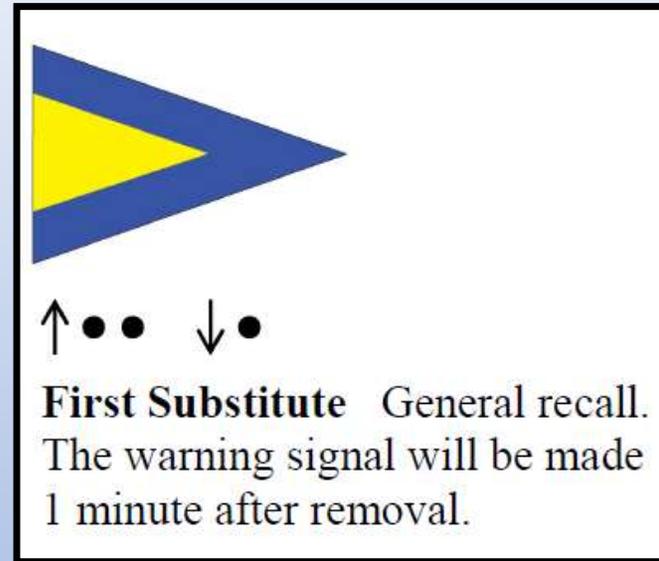
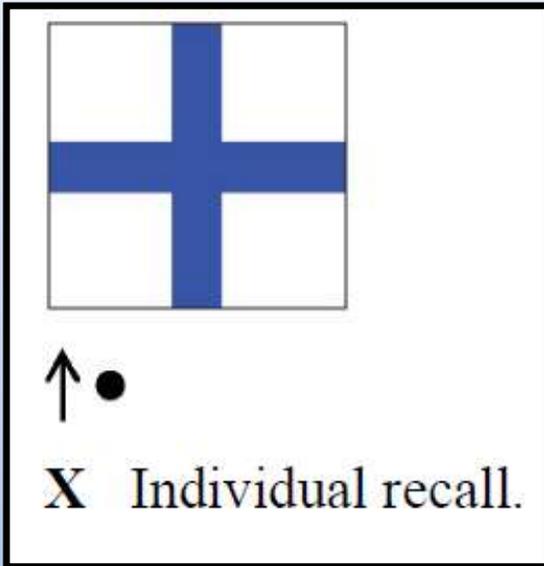
Races shall be started by using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

<i>Minutes before starting signal</i>	<i>Visual signal</i>	<i>Sound signal</i>	<i>Means</i>
5*	Class flag	One	Warning signal
4	P, I, Z, Z with I, U, or black flag	One	Preparatory signal
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

\*or as stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions

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

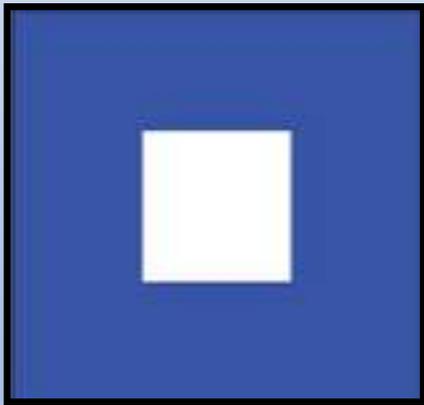
## Recall or General Recall Signals



NOTE – Most SIs state that an attempt will be made to contact OCS vessels however it is the vessels responsibility to not be On Course Side (OCS). - When in doubt, call the RC.

# On Course Side (OCS) before the start?

- Corrective action depends on what Preparatory flag was displayed.
- **NB: an OCS boat returning to start properly has no rights.**



Prep Signal flag P- Standard start.

- Dip the start line allowed

## On Course Side ?



Prep signal flag I – “Around the ends” rule in effect

- OCS boat must sail around the ends of the start line to restart

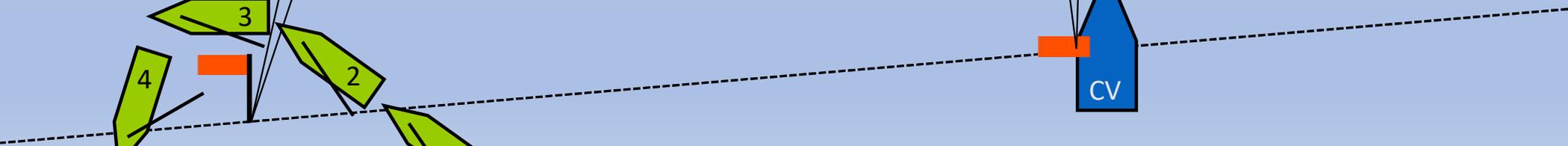
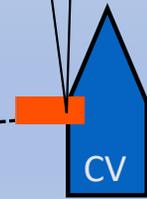
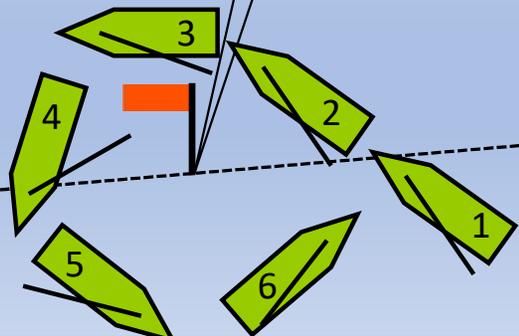
### 30.1 “I” Flag Rule

If flag I has been displayed, and any part of a boat’s hull is on the course side of the starting line or one of its extensions during the last minute before her starting signal, she shall sail across an extension so that her hull is completely on the pre-start side before she starts.



Pin end

Orange Flag



# On Course Side ?



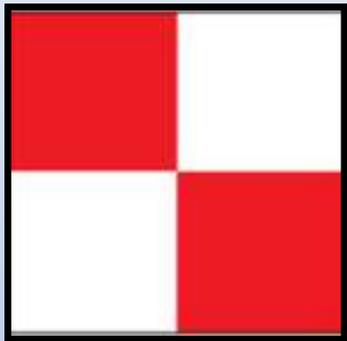
## Prep signal flag Z

- OCS boat in the area of the triangle formed by the start line and the windward mark in the last minute before her start shall receive a Scoring Penalty

### 30.2 "Z" Flag Rule

If flag Z has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull 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 receive, without a hearing, a 20% Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c). She shall be penalized even if the race is restarted or resailed, but not if it is postponed or abandoned before the starting signal. If she is similarly identified during a subsequent attempt to start the same race, she shall receive an additional 20% Scoring Penalty.

# On Course Side ?



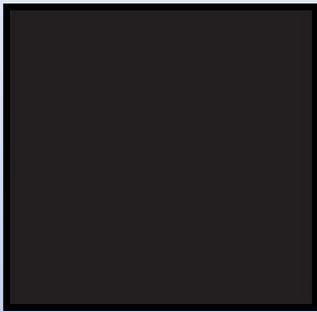
Prep signal flag U

- OCS boat in the area of the triangle formed by the start line and the windward mark in the last minute before her start is DSQ

## 30.3 "U" Flag Rule

If flag U has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull 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.

# On Course Side ?

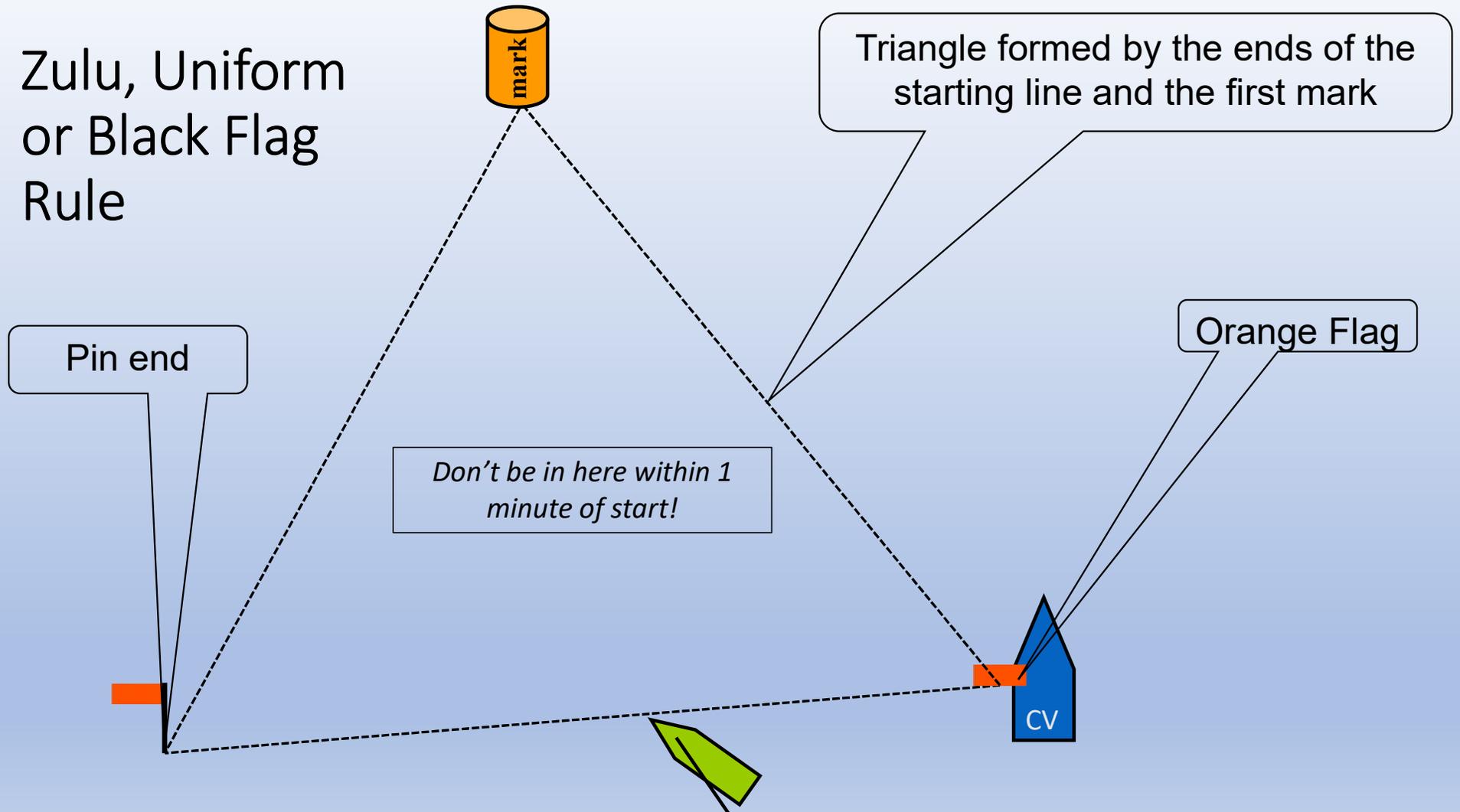


Prep Signal Black Flag – DSQ.

## 30.4 Black Flag Rule

If a black flag has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull 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, even if the race is restarted or resailed, but not if it is postponed or abandoned before the starting signal. If a general recall is signaled or the race is abandoned after the starting signal, the race committee shall display her sail number before the next warning signal for that race, and if the race is restarted or resailed she shall not sail in it. If she does so, her disqualification shall not be excluded in calculating her series score.

# Zulu, Uniform or Black Flag Rule



Reminder:

RRS 21.1 provides that an OCS boat returning to the pre-start side of the starting line in order to start properly

has no rights

Also note RRS 23.1:

If reasonably possible, a boat not *racing* shall not interfere with a boat that is *racing*

Translation:

Stay away from boats in the division starting ahead of yours

# End of Basic “Conduct of A Race” Starting Procedures Review

Fair winds and following seas, all:  
Bottoms up!



# Starting scenarios and tactics

# When have you finished and then hit the mark!

- Go back over the line from the direction that you came from.
- Conduct your penalty turn.
- Finish (Don't hit the mark)

# Finishing – String Theory

- Go back over the line from the direction that you came from.
- Conduct your penalty turn.
- Finish (Don't hit the mark)

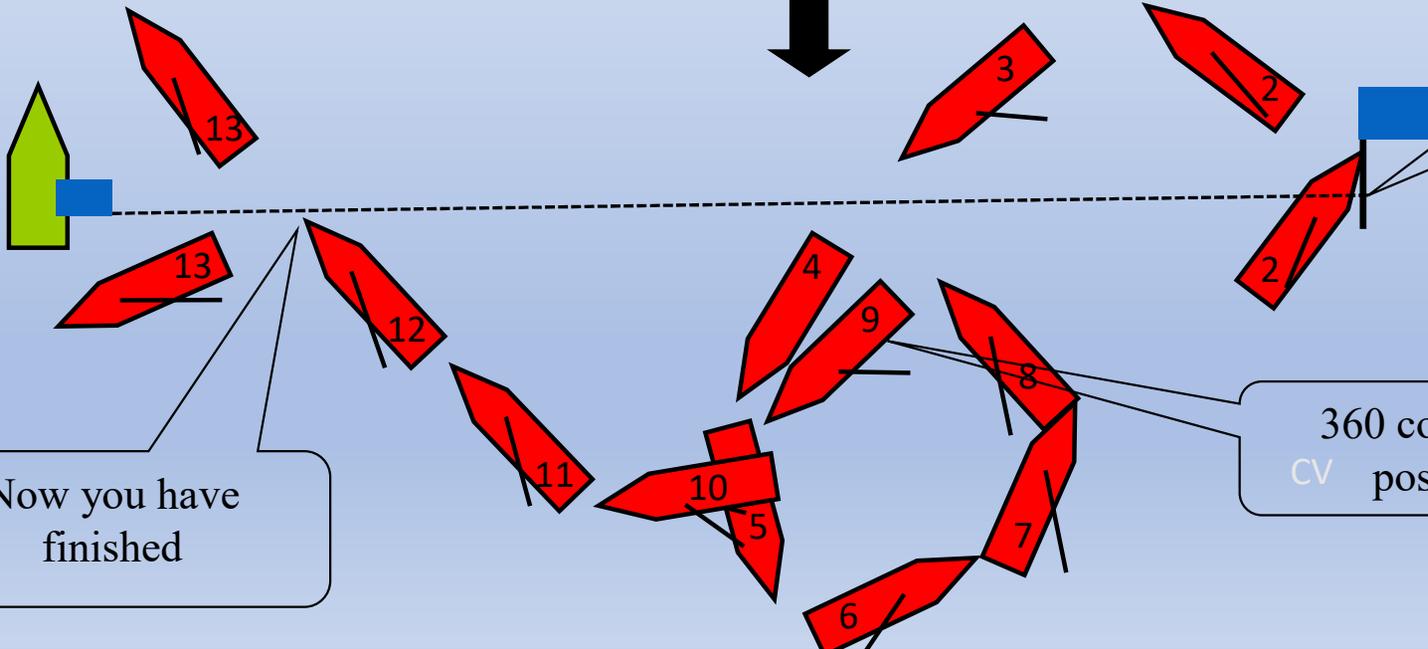
Note- Do not interfere with any other vessel.

You must "unwind" the string.  
See definition "sailing the course"

Click!  
You hit the mark!

360 complete at  
CV position 9

Now you have  
finished



# The Start

- If it is not your start, boats must stay clear !
- 23 INTERFERING WITH ANOTHER BOAT
- 23.1 If reasonably possible, a boat not racing shall not interfere with a boat that is racing.
- 23.2 If reasonably possible, a boat shall not interfere with a boat that is taking a penalty, sailing on another leg or subject to rule 21.1.
- However, after the starting signal this rule does not apply when the boat is sailing her proper course.
- When does the Race begin? When the Prep flag sounds
- What will I hear on the radio? Most likely nothing!
- When is the time taken? When the flag goes up or down – not the sound signal
- Which takes precedence the flag raised / lowered or the sound signals? The flag movement up or down

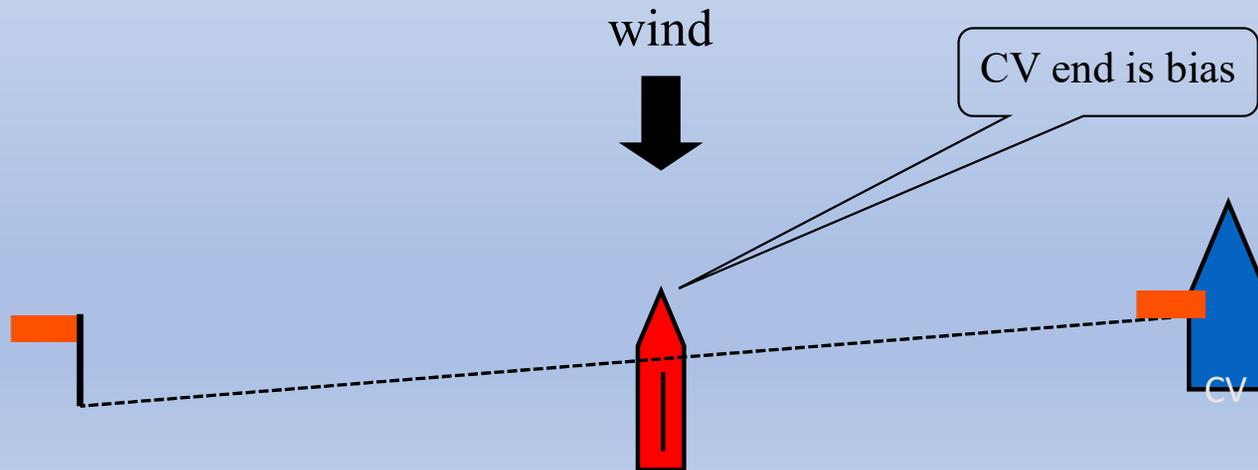
## Goals for a good start.

- Be:
  - On Time
  - At the line at full Speed
  - In “clean air”
  - Have options when approaching and after crossing the line – Tack, or stay on!

- How to achieve these goals.
  - Picking the place to cross the line.
  - When to start accelerating.
  - Creating and defending a gap to leeward.
  - Timing - Judging time and distance to the line.

# Finding line Bias -

- Approach the line slowly.
- At the line luff until the wind indicator is fore and aft.
- If the line is square neither the pin or Committee Vessel (CV) will be ahead of the beam.
- If either is ahead of the beam, that is the line bias.

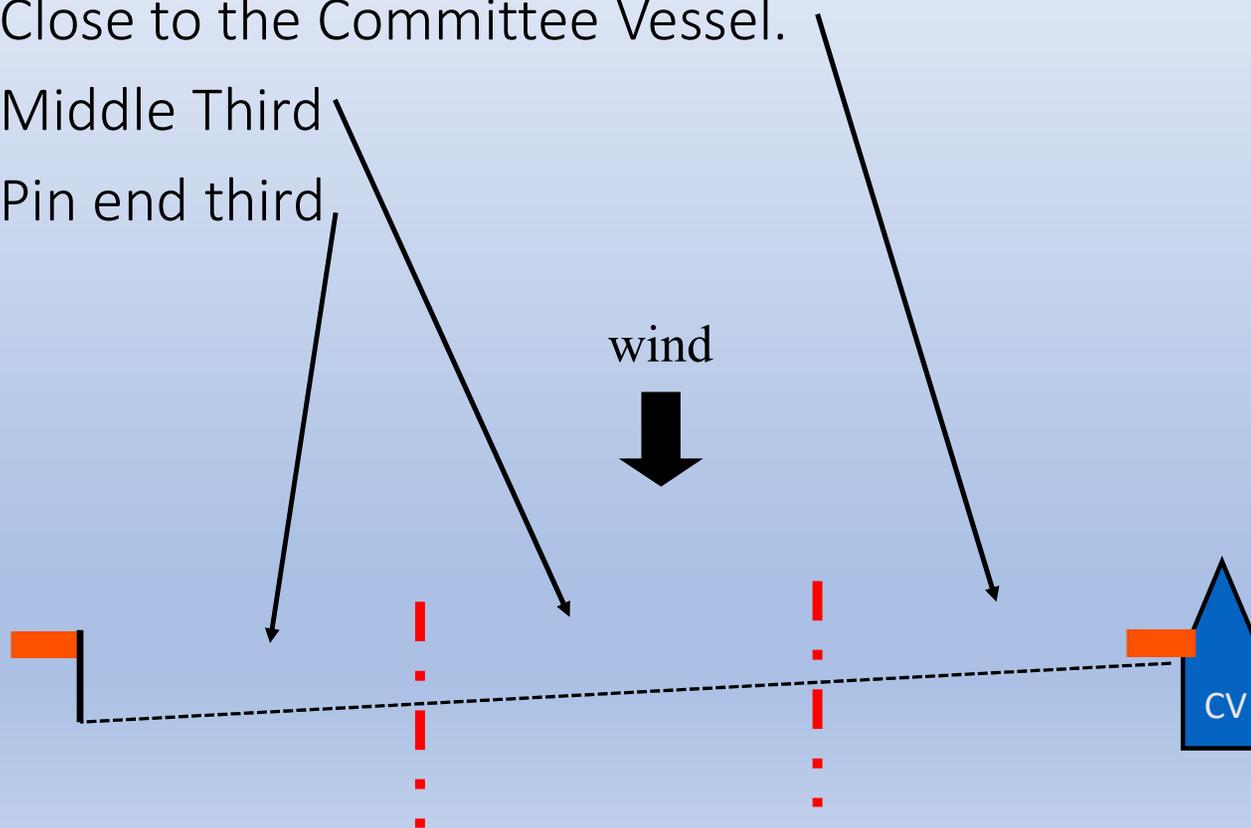


Note- the start line is between the staff that holds the flags!

# Which end is best?

## Divide the line into 3 sections

1. Close to the Committee Vessel.
2. Middle Third
3. Pin end third



# 1. Close to the committee vessel

- Easier to hear the count down
- See where the PRO is looking. They are watching to see if someone is over.
- Safest place to start. If you mess up the start you have to duck the whole fleet so won't be over early.

## 2. Middle third

- The most difficult as boats block your view from the CV.
- Little or no room to maneuver.
- Hardest to judge the line as other boats are in your sight line.

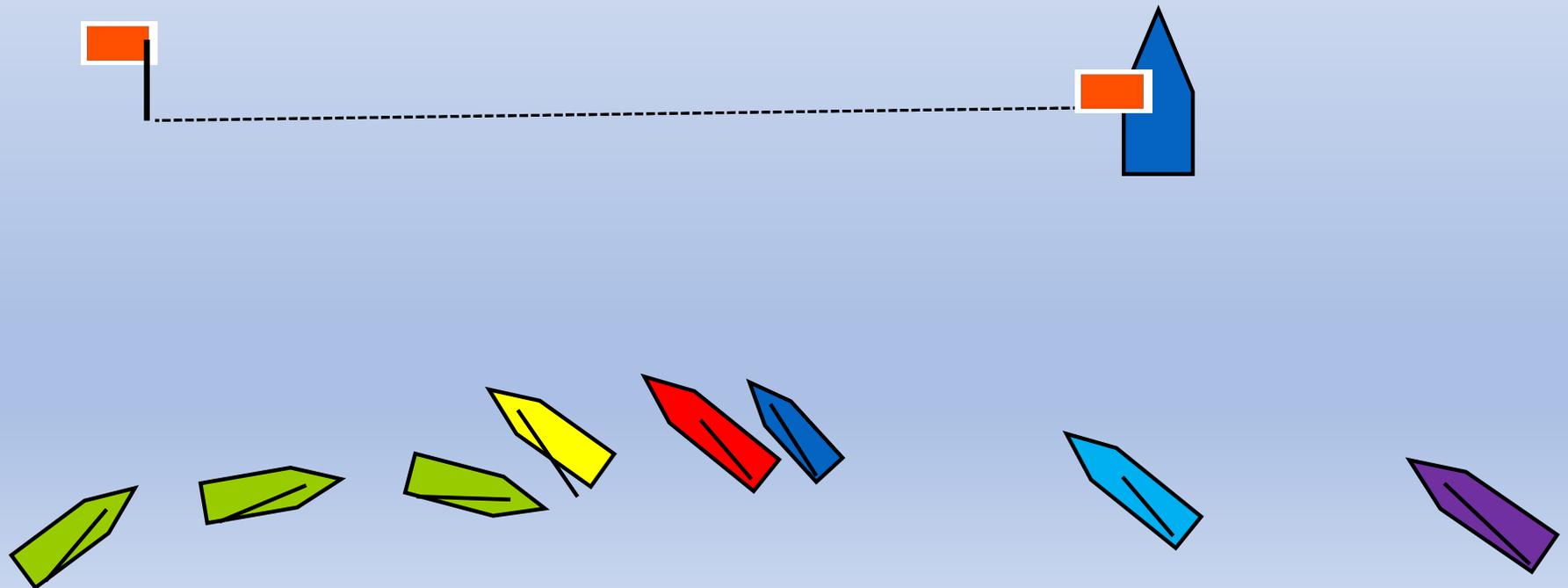
## 3. Pin End

- Easiest to duck out.
- Can be crowded.
- Hard to judge the line and see / hear signals.

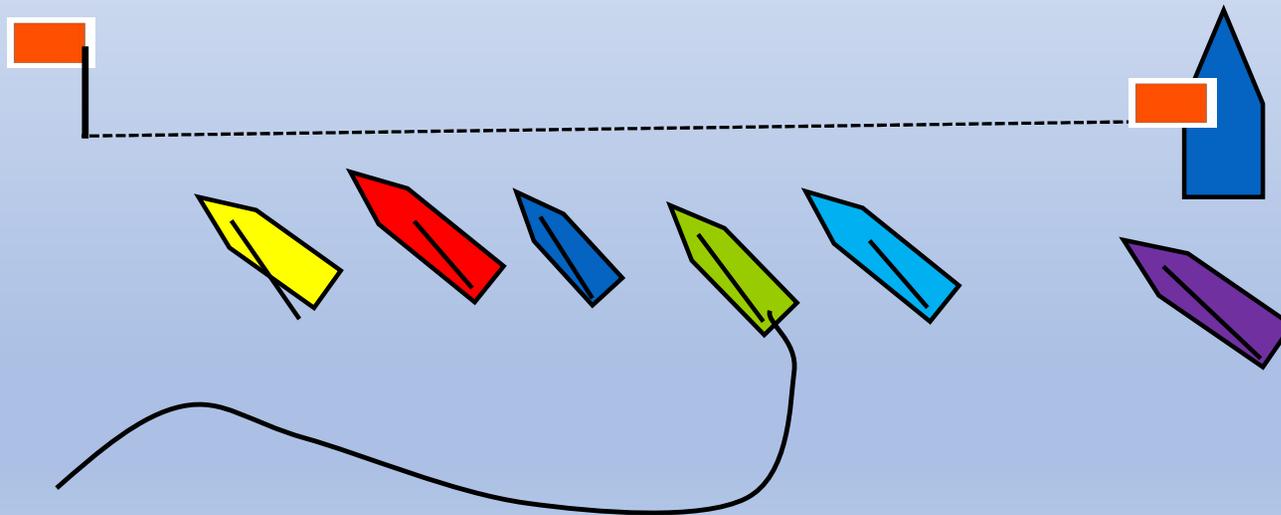
# Three ways to approach the line.

1. The Port approach to pick a hole
2. The Barging approach – CV favored end  
Danger of getting cut off by a leeward boat.
3. The Starboard timing – Pin end favored

# 1 - The Port approach to pick a hole

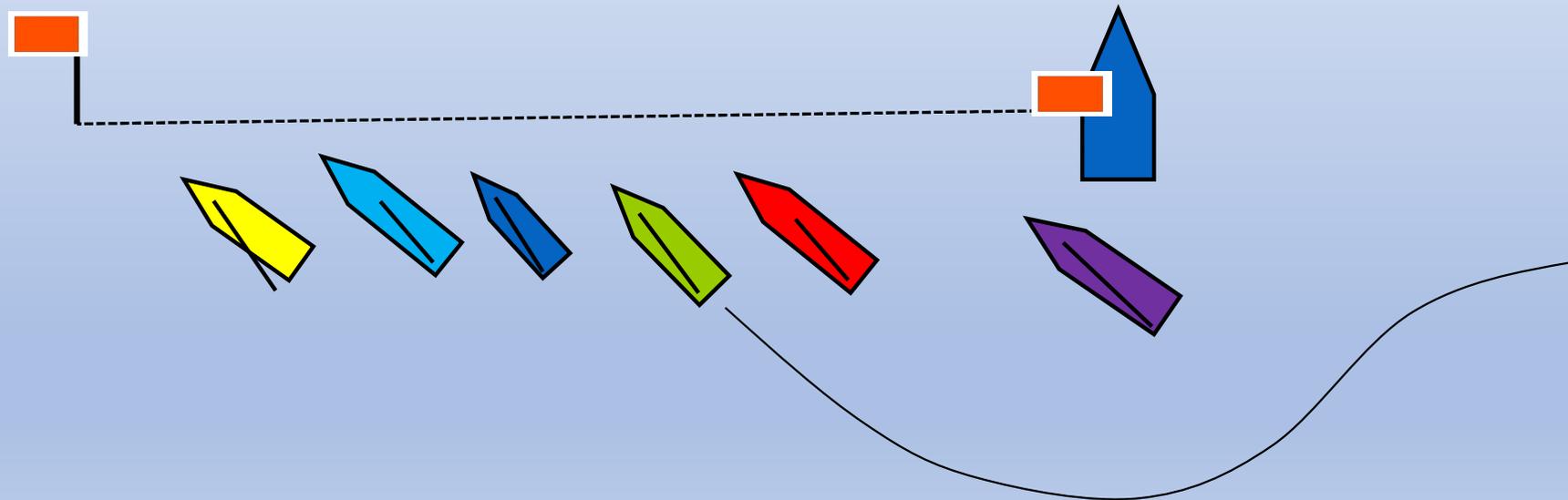


# 1 - The Port tack approach. (looking for the gap)



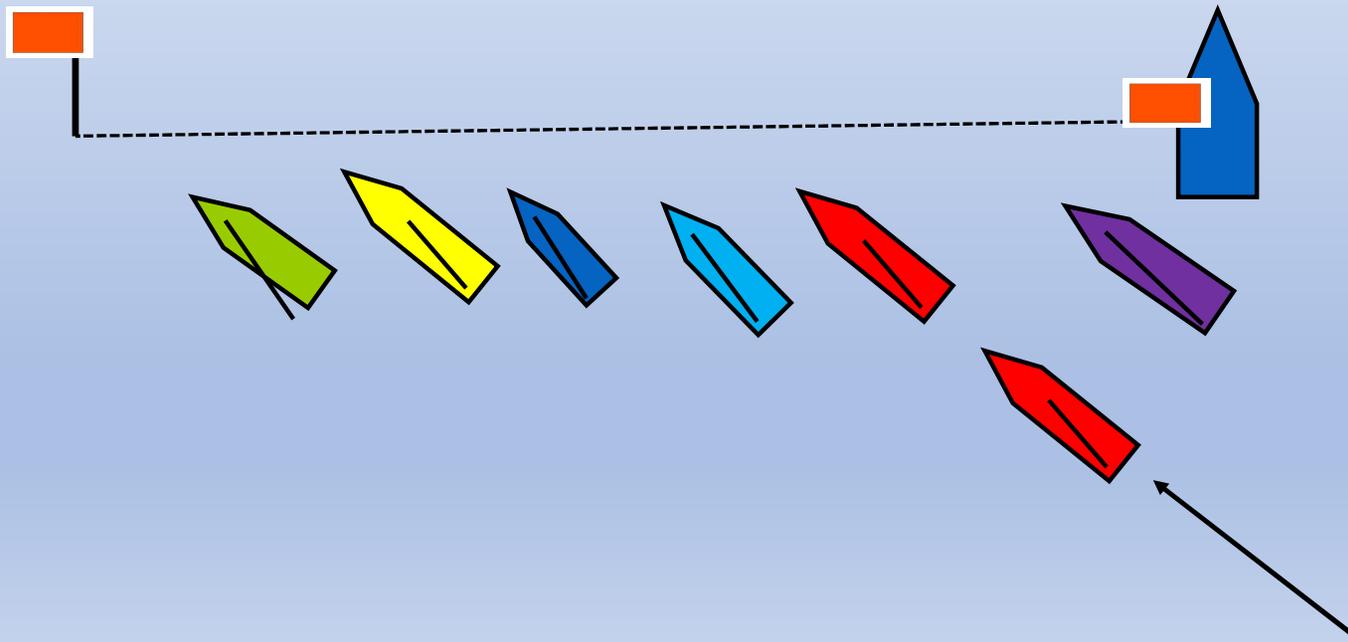
## 2 - The Barging approach –

- CV favored end  
Danger of getting cut off by a leeward boat.



### 3 - The Starboard timing – Pin end favored

- Pressure to get pushed over. Protect you leeward side.
- Keep moving and don't point as high as you can (it appears that you have no room leeward to you)

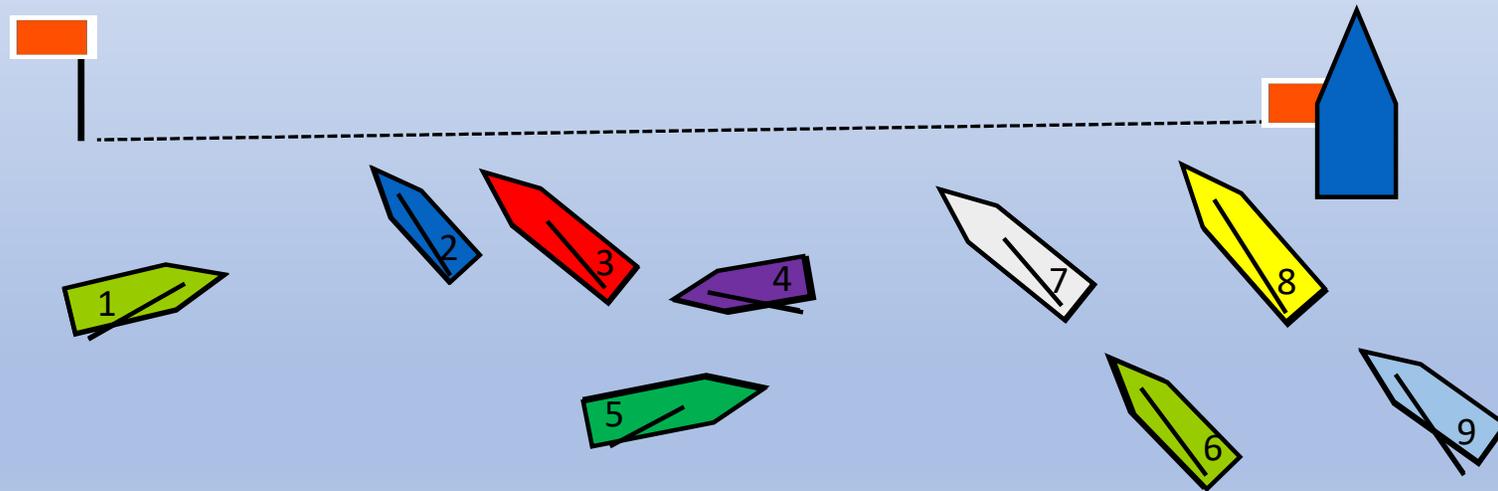


# Timing

- Have one-person dedicated to setting the timer.
- Keep the Committee vessel visible (Why?)
- Try to have a count down to help the time setter.

- 5 Minute Signal - Is this my division (my race)?
- Check the rig configuration and crew placement.
- 4 minutes – Check time with P (Engine out of gear) angle and wind still the same.
- 3 minutes – Look up Wind confirm conditions unchanged. Engine secured.
- 2 minutes – Confirm start strategy.3.
- 1 minute – Consider impact on other boats around you.
- 30 seconds – Gap to leeward. Will I be forced up in another 10 seconds
- 15 seconds – Accelerate towards the line

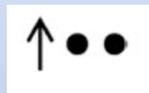
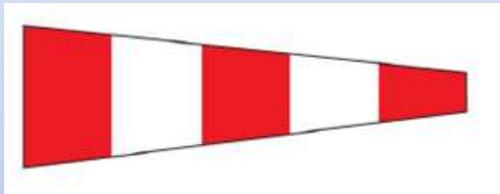
What is happening to each of these boats?  
Position - 45 seconds



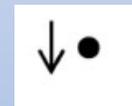
The flags that you will see for a normal start

# Postponement (if required)

- Two short horns when it is raised

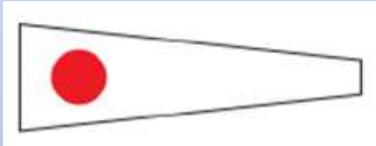


- Postponement Flag down (AP Answering Pennant)



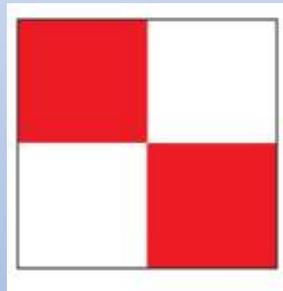
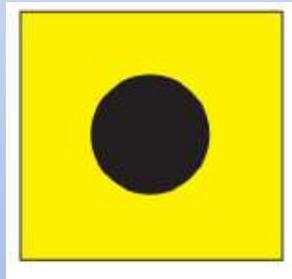
- One horn
- When the AP comes down, one minute late you will see the next signal.

One minute later –  
Warning Signal - Five minutes  
Class and or Division Flag up, one sound signal.



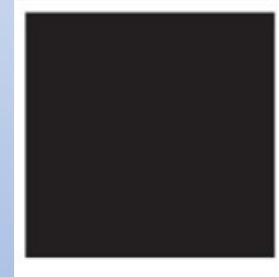
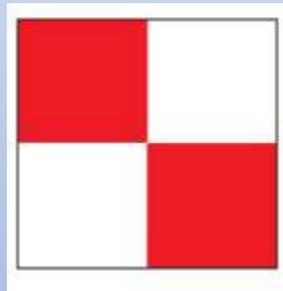
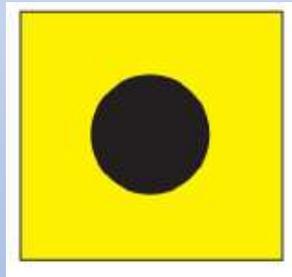
# Preparatory signal - Four minutes

- Flag up
- One short signal



# Preparatory signal down - one minute

- One long signal



# Race starts

- Class flag goes down!
- One horn

