



International Optimist Dinghy Association of Ireland

MAJOR EVENT SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

2026 v1.0

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the Sailing Instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

The notation '[SP]' denotes a rule for which a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee without a hearing, or a discretionary penalty applied by the Protest Committee at a hearing.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*. The Prescriptions of Irish Sailing will apply.
- 1.3 These SIs cover all IODAI events for Main and Regatta Fleets, and will be supplemented by Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSIs) for each specific Regatta.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted 30 minutes before flag D is displayed (see SI 5.3) on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on racingrulesofsailing.org, the link will be provided in the SSIs.
- 3.2 The race office location is specified in the SSIs.
- 3.3 [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall place advertising or equipment provided by the organising authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.
- 4.3 [DP] Boats may be required to carry cameras, sound equipment or positioning equipment as specified by the Organising Authority. Information from this equipment shall not be used by a boat as evidence in a hearing. This changes RRS 63.4 (b).

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed as set out in the SSIs.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in Race Signals AP. This changes Race Signal AP.
- 5.3 [DP] Boats shall not leave the shore until flag D is displayed with one sound signal. The warning signal will not be made less than 60 minutes after flag D is displayed.
- 5.4 When flag T is displayed ashore with one sound signal, competitors shall tally out per MESI 19.3 but not launch until flag D is displayed.
- 5.5 Flag D and flag T shall be lowered after the last boat has launched or 60 minutes after first displayed, whichever is earlier.
- 5.6 Flag R displayed over flag D and/or Flag T indicates they apply to the Regatta fleet only.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 The schedule of races will be set out in the Regatta NOR and SSIs.
- 6.2 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting flag may be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 6.3 An additional race may be run at the discretion of the Race Committee on a given day. To indicate this intention, the finish boat will display an orange flag at the end of the last scheduled race of the day.
- 6.4 Regatta Racing schedule of racing will be determined by the coaches and RO and communicated separately.

7 CLASS DIVISIONS AND FLAGS

7.1 At Regional and National Championship Regattas, Main fleet boats will be divided into two divisions:

- Senior Division: Sailors aged twelve to fourteen on 1st January of the year of the regatta.
- Junior Division: Sailors aged under twelve on 1st January of the year of the regatta.
- Regatta Racing shall sail as one fleet.

7.2. Gold, Silver and Bronze Fleets

Within each division there will be a further split into Gold, Silver and Bronze Fleets. Boats will be assigned to a fleet based on the criteria and rules of management for fleet qualifications. IODAI fleet rules are available on the IODAI website at www.iodai.com. Gold and Silver & Bronze fleets shall have a single start within their division.

7.3 Bronze Fleets

The OA reserves the right to move the Senior and/or Junior Bronze Fleets to the Regatta Racing course should conditions require. This decision will be notified by displaying flag R over O (Senior Fleet) and/or over J (Junior Fleet) with two sound signals ashore prior to the launch signal per SI 5.3. Arrangements for that day's racing for the Bronze Fleet(s) shall be communicated verbally at the Regatta Fleet briefing.

7.4 All boats shall display fleet identification ribbons provided at registration. Ribbon colour will be at the discretion of the Organising Authority and may change between events. Ribbons will be provided at registration.

7.5 Class flags as set out below will apply:

Division	Class flag
Senior	O
Junior	J
Regatta Racing	R

8 RACING AREA

8.1 The NOR and SSIs will state the location of the racing area(s).

9 COURSES

9.1 The Main fleet course to be sailed will be specified in the NOR but will either be Course A or B from Attachment A.

- 9.2 The diagrams in Attachment A show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 9.3 At National and Regional Championships, the Junior Division will be the first class to start. Where Course A is in use, no less than 5 minutes before the warning signal, the race committee may change the starting order of races by the display of flag G accompanied by repeated sound signals. When flag G is displayed:
- the Senior Division shall be the first Division to start, and shall sail the Outer Loop course
 - the Junior Division shall sail the Inner Loop course
- 9.4 The Race Committee may elect to start Junior and Senior Divisions together. In this instance, the course shall be the Outer loop course. flag Numeral 2 shall be displayed with the Orange flag in SI 6.2, and both class flags shall be displayed at the warning signal.
- 9.5 Regatta Racing Fleet will sail Course C as set out in Attachment A.

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Marks will be described in the SSIs.

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1 Official boats, including a safety boat in close attendance to a craft or competitor in difficulty, are designated as an obstruction. Other obstructions may be set out in the SSIs.

12 THE START

- 12.1 The starting line will be between a pole or mast displaying an Orange flag on the committee boat on the starboard end, and a staff displaying an orange flag on the pin-end boat at the port end.
- 12.2 [NP][DP]The Race Committee may lay marks to designate a holding line to leeward of the start line - see Attachment A, Holding Area. Boats not yet scheduled to start shall remain to leeward of the holding line and its extensions from the time of the first Warning Signal of the first scheduled fleet until the division preceding the boat's scheduled start has started and cleared the line.
- 12.3 A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

13 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position.
- 13.2 Minor course changes might not be signalled. This changes RRS 33.
- 13.3 If one or other of the gate marks is missing, the remaining mark shall be rounded to port. This changes RRS 34.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line is between a staff or mast displaying a blue flag on the finishing boat at the starboard and the course side of a mark at the port end.
- 14.2 If at Gate 3a/3b an official vessel displays flag F and makes repeated sound signals, boats shall round mark 3b to port and then sail directly to the Finish.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 Appendix P will apply, except that RRS P2.3 is deleted and in RRS P2.2 "second" is changed to read "second or subsequent".
- 15.2 RRS Appendix T will apply. If a party is not present at an arbitration meeting, any party that was present may take a Post-Race Penalty at any time until the Protest Committee has completed taking evidence. This changes RRS T1 (a).
- 15.3 [NP][DP] A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under RRS 44.1 shall submit an acknowledgement form on racingrulesofsailing.org at the link specified in the SSIs within the protest time limit.
- 15.4 RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply. If a party, having been informed that an Arbitration Meeting will be held, does not attend, other parties may take a Post-Race Penalty at any time until the protest committee has completed taking evidence. This changes RRS Appendix T1(a).
- 15.5 [NP]A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under RRS 44.1 shall complete an acknowledgement form on racingrulesofsailing.org at the link specified in the SSIs within the protest time limit.
- 15.6 Whistle System: To encourage boats to take penalties afloat, Jury members may blow a whistle when they see what they believe to be a breach of a rule.

16 TIME LIMITS

- 16.1 The Race Time Limit is 80 minutes.

16.2 The race committee may also award a race score to a boat that is still racing by displaying to them flag W with one sound signal from an official vessel (which may be in motion). A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course, shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing. A race score under this sailing instruction will be the score they would have received had they sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. However, when two or more boats that are overlapped are notified, they will be scored as if they were tied. The decision by the race committee to use this procedure or not to use it shall not be grounds for requesting redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a) and 61.4(b)(1).

17 HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 Boats intending to protest or request redress, for an incident on the race course, shall inform the Race Committee finishing vessel at the finish line immediately upon finishing the race, and receive acknowledgement, or if they do not finish, inform either a Jury vessel or a safety vessel as soon as practicable after they retire. This changes RRS 60.2(a).
- 17.2 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after all boats have tallied in or the race committee has accounted for any boats not tallied in, or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 17.3 Hearing request forms shall be submitted on racingrulesofsailing.org at the link specified in the SSIs.
- 17.4 Notices will be posted no later than 15 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Arbitration meetings and protest hearings may begin without a notice and within the protest time limit with the agreement of all parties. Hearings will be held in the protest room, as specified in the SSIs, beginning at the time posted.
- 17.5 A list of boats that have been penalised for breaking RRS 42 under Appendix P will be posted on racingrulesofsailing.org.

18 SCORING

- 18.1 The scoring system is in accordance with Appendix A.
- 18.2 The number of races required to be completed to constitute a series and the number of worst scores to be excluded will be specified in the NOR.

19 [DP][NP] SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as practicable after they retire.
- 19.2 Boats wishing to leave their race course area before the end of the day's racing shall not do so unless authorised by a safety boat. The safety boat will instruct boats in the procedure for returning ashore.
- 19.3 Boats will be attributed a tally number at registration.
 - 19.3.1 Each boat shall, in person, tally out with the correct tally number before launching.
 - 19.3.2 Each boat shall, in person, tally in using the correct tally number within 10 minutes after the last boat in her Division (or fleet if fleets are racing separately) is ashore.
 - 19.3.3 [SP]A boat that does not tally out according to SI 19.3.1 will receive a Standard Penalty for the first race of the day. A boat that does not tally in according to SI 19.3.2 will receive a Standard Penalty for the last race of the day.
 - 19.3.4 The Standard Penalty for tallying shall be 5 points for the first infringement of the series, 10 points for the second and 20 for the third and subsequent infringements.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee.
- 20.2 [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised in writing by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity online at racingrulesofsailing.org at the link specified in the SSIs, which may be after the race.

21 [DP] EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 21.2 When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.
- 21.3 Boats instructed shall report immediately to a nearby measurement vessel displaying a yellow flag marked "Measurer" or "M". Measurement checks may be made using photography.
- 21.4 After finishing, boats shall not alter any settings on their boat until after they have cleared the measurement boat area.

23 OFFICIAL VESSELS

23.1 Official vessels will be identified as set out in the SSIs.

24 [NP] [DP] SUPPORT TEAMS

- 24.1 Support Person Vessels shall comply with the directions from the Race Committee. The Organising Authority may request that a minimum of two persons are in support vessels and this will be notified in the NOR.
- 24.2 All Support Person Vessel crews, safety crews and coaches shall attend briefings by the Race Committee and Organising Authority as published in the event schedule.
- 24.3. All Support Person Vessels shall carry on board and operate while on the water a VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF channels and agree to assist the Race Committee if directed to do so. See RRS37.
- 24.4 Support Person Vessels shall stay below the Holding Area (see Attachment A, Holding Area) or otherwise 100m outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired, or the Race Committee signals a postponement or abandonment other than during a start sequence. Further, Support Person vessels shall stay below the holding area or otherwise 250m outside areas where boats are racing from the time of a preparatory signal until after the start signal.
- 24.5 Competitors shall not approach any vessel other than an official vessel or a registered Support Person Vessel from their first warning signal of the day until they finish their last race for the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 24.6 Except when requested by, or agreed with, the Race committee, Support Person Vessels shall not tow competitors to or from the race area or enter the race area. When the Race Committee permits towing, Support Person Vessels shall take a minimum of 4 boats on tow.
- 24.7 When afloat, all persons on a Support Person Vessel shall wear a personal flotation device at all times. When the engine is running the driver shall use a kill cord at all times.
- 24.8 Support persons or competitors shall not fly drones over the clubhouse or surrounding boat park or the race area, at any time, without the prior written consent of the Race Committee.

25 TRASH DISPOSAL

25.1 Trash may be placed aboard official or support person vessels.

26 BERTHING

26.1 [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park.

28 PRIZES

28.1 Prizes will be given as set out in the NOR.

29 RISK STATEMENT

29.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.'

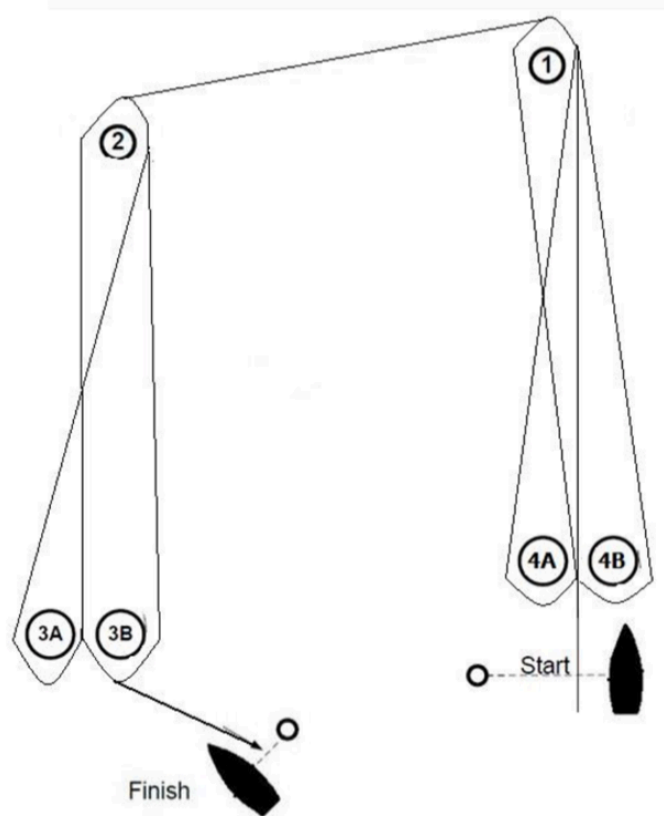
Sailing is, by its nature, an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees to and acknowledges the risk statement as included in the NOR.

30 INSURANCE

30.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with an adequate cover per incident or the equivalent.

Attachment A

Course A

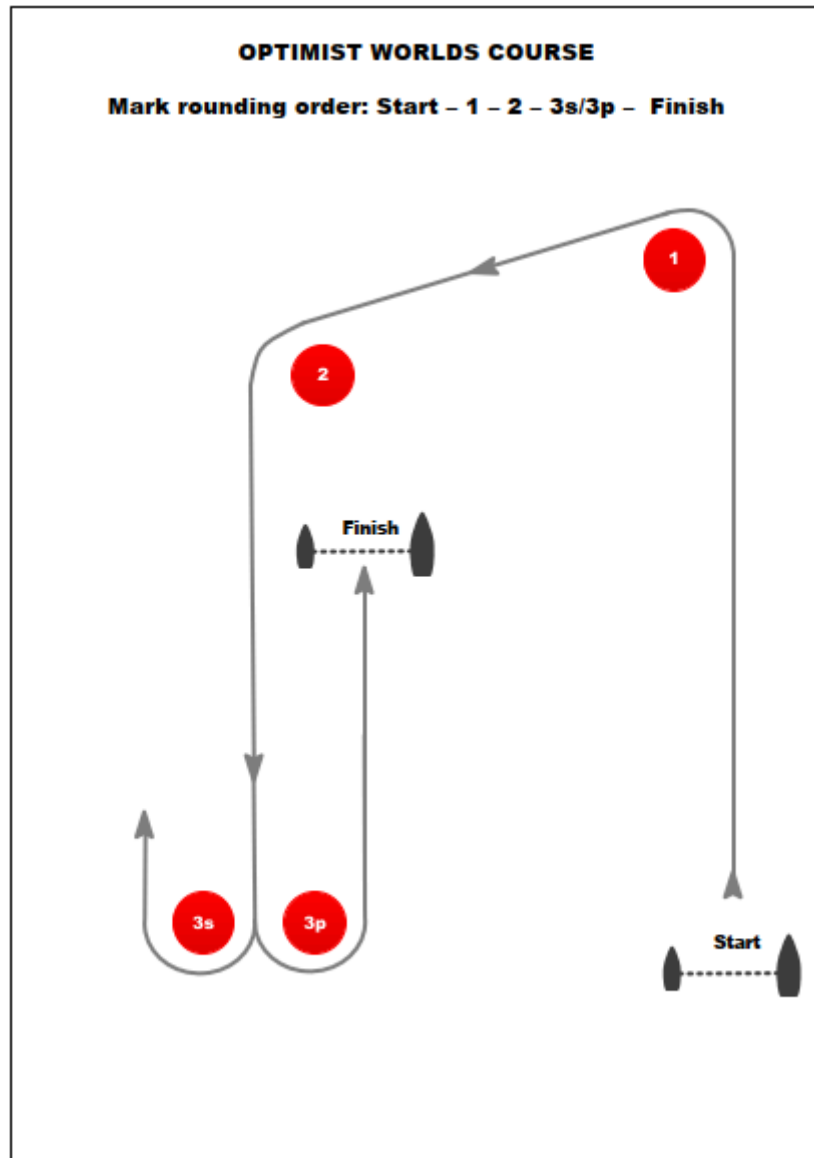


All marks are to be rounded to Port with the exception of the leeward gates at 3A/3B and 4A/4B. Boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either mark.

Outer Loop Course - Mark 1, 2, 3A/3B, 2, 3B, Finish

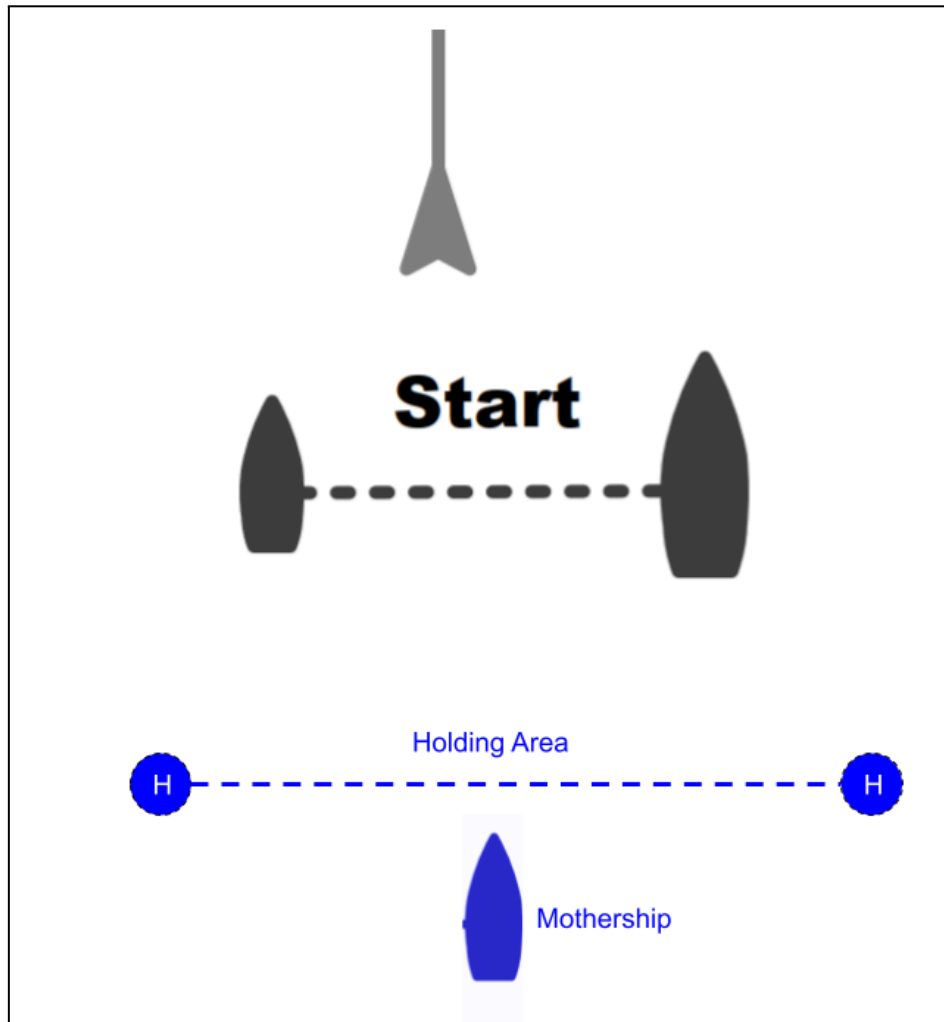
Inner Loop Course - Mark 1, 4A/4B, 1, 2, 3B, Finish

Course B

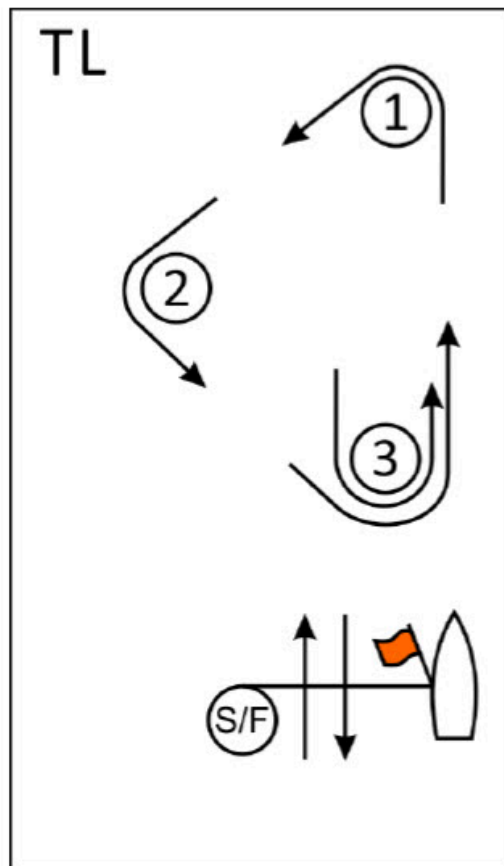


All marks are to be rounded to Port with the exception of the leeward gates at 3A/3B. Boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either mark.

Holding area



Course C



Mark rounding order
Start-1-2-3-1-3-1-Finish

Attachment B

The following provisions may be applied if so stated in the SSIs should the weather forecast suggest they may be of benefit.

7.5 is deleted and replaced with

7.5B

Class flags as set out below will apply:

Division	Fleet	Class flag	Abandonment N+ Numeral
Senior	Gold	O	5
Senior	Silver	O	4
Senior	Bronze	O	3
Junior	Gold	J	2
Junior	Silver	J	1
Junior	Bronze	J	0

16.3B is inserted as follows:

16.3B The Race Committee may signal afloat or ashore that a race has been postponed or abandoned for divisions and fleets by displaying flag N and a numeral pennant as set out in MESI 7.5B.

18.3B is inserted as follows:

18.3B In adverse weather conditions, the race officer may decide to stand down certain groups of sailors using the signals set out in MESI 7.5B. Sailors who have been stood down in this manner shall be awarded average points for those races in the series. The application of this procedure shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).