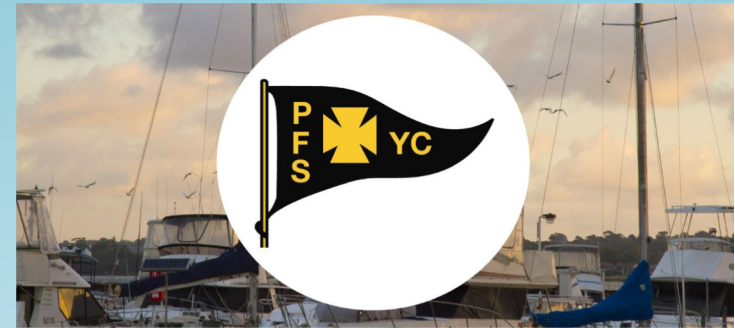


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Yacht Racing Starts, Flags & Protocols

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RACE OFFICERS

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Overview



- Introductions
- Code of Conduct
- Sailing Instructions
- Racing Starts at PFSYC
- Common flags in use at PFSYC
- Racing Rules & Protocols
- Quiz
- Q & A / Discussion

Flag signals between ships thought to have been used in antiquity (Thucydides refers to Athenian galleys executing coordinated manoeuvres in Peloponnesian War (~400 BC))



Maritime wars with the Dutch in 17th century prompted English development of rudimentary flag systems for instructions to the fleet - somewhat crude and ad-hoc, and one way. Admiral's ship = "flagship" (and/or the vessel that flew the Admiral's pennant?).

In 1790, Admiral Lord Howe issued a standardised reference (Signal Book) based on a numerary system in which numbers were the key to signal meanings, not, as previously, the mast or halyard from which the signal was flown.

In 1799, Admiralty issued a standardised signal code for the entire RN, followed by a more sophisticated version ("telegraph" flag = comprehensive phrase dictionary) in 1800, and a merchant marine version in 1817.

Above systems eventually incorporated into, and superseded by, the International Code of Signals (ICS) currently used for general maritime purposes. Naval usage is based on ICS with additional flags and protocols to match particular military requirements.

Flags and signals used to start, control and finish yacht racing are based on ICS.

Code of Conduct



- Based on rules and principles of ‘fairness’ – fair to ALL competitors
- Role of Race Officer: starting and finishing the race
- Course will be determined based on wind direction and wind speed
 - Consider the boat at the bottom of the fleet
 - It is a race course, not a survival race
 - Better to not start, than abandon – controversial with competitors
- Integrity and sportsmanship of competitors: when a rule is broken, a competitor will promptly take a penalty or retire

Safety

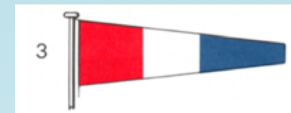
- Daylight sailing: Category 7: <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/piano.revolutionise.com.au/site/w2fzdwixn3nxneht.pdf>
- Night time sailing: Category 5: <http://www.qcyc.com.au/go/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ZNQNC8e9cWY%3D&tabid=320>
- Safety checklist: <https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/imagine/what-safety-equipment-do-I-need.asp>



Racing Rules & Protocols

- Link to Racing Rules.
https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/rules?part_id=61
- Club website
 - <http://www.pfsyc.com.au/keelboat-sailing--crew-register.html>

Course and Division Flags



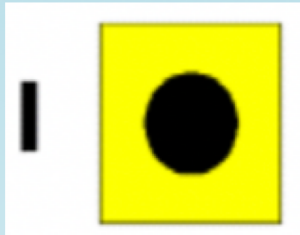
Racing Starts at PFSYC



- Standard starting system described in Racing Rules (RRS26)
- **Starting Procedure**
- At ten (10) minutes before:
 - The orange on Station Flag and course pendant raised + 1 sound
- At five (5) minutes before:
 - The Division Flag will be raised + 1 sound signal
- At four (4) minutes before:
 - The 'I' flag will be raised + 1 sound signal
- At one (1) minute before:
 - The 'I' Flag is lowered + 1 sound signal
- At Start time:
 - The Division Flag will be lowered + 1 sound signal



What is the difference between the I flag and the Blue Peter?

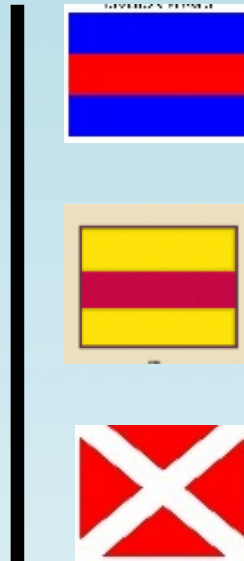


- **I flag:** can not cross the start/finish line after the I flag has been dropped – 1 minute before the start. Penalty: You need to go around the end of the line to rejoin the fleet – no rights (RR30.1)



- **Blue Peter:** You can cross back across the line directly. Therefore no penalties. You have no rights.

Combined Division



Sail the course related to the Division on the top.

Frostbites are sailed under Naval Numeral 2

Changes to Sailing Instructions



- Notices to competitors and any changes to sailing instructions will be posted on the Regatta board located downstairs on river side of building (bottom of stairs).
- An 'L' flag may be flown from the start box yardarm.

Crossing the Line Early

Three options

- Round the end of the buoy (Rule 30.1) I flag



Individual Recall (Rule 29.1)



- If a boat crosses the Start line before their starting signal, flag **X will be raised +1 Sound Signal**. The X flag will remain there for up to 4 minutes until all such boats go around Club Buoy (32A) and start again. If the offending boat does not comply it may be disqualified.

General Recall (Rule 29.2)



- If at the starting signal the start team is unable to identify boats that are on the course side of the starting line, or there has been an error in the start procedure, the start team may signal a general recall by raising the: **1st Substitute Flag + 2 Sound Signals**.
- Once the start team are ready, the 1st Substitute Flag will then be lowered + 1 sound signal. One (1) minute after the 1st Substitute Flag is lowered, the five (5) minute start sequence begins.

Postponement, Abandoned, Shortened



- **Postponement (Rule 27.3) – before Starting signal**
 - Answering pendant (AP) + 2 sounds



- **Abandonment (Rule 32.1) – after Starting signal**
 - Flag N over A + 3 sounds



- **Shortened Course (Rule 32.2)**
 - **At Start:** first crossing through Start/Finish Line
 - **During Course:** next pass through Start/Finish line