

World Sailing Racing Rules Question and Answer Service

Q&A 2023.008

29 June 2023

Calling OCS

Situation

Rule 29.1 was not changed and the race was started using P flag.

At the start of a race, boat A was in doubt whether she was OCS or not.

The race committee did not display flag X and did not make an additional sound signal. Boat A kept sailing.

About 40 seconds after her starting signal, the race committee announced via VHF that boat A was OCS and she heard the VHF call.

Question 1

Was boat A recalled in compliance with the rules?

Answer 1

No.

Rule 29.1 requires the race committee to promptly display flag X with one sound and this rule has not been changed. The radio call was not an official means of communication for an individual recall.

Question 2

If the answer to the previous question is no, what are the rights and obligations of boat A after this radio call?

Answer 2

Even though the requirements of rule 29.1 were not met, at the moment boat A heard the radio communication she realized that she was on the course side of the starting line and she was hence required to return to the starting line to comply with rule 28.1. See case 31.

If she returns to the starting line and starts correctly, she is entitled to redress since the race committee did not signal the individual recall according to rule 29.1. Otherwise, she shall be scored OCS and she failed to comply with the basic principle. See case 31.