

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 37 and Race Signals

A submission from US Sailing

Proposals 1 and 2 are independent of one another.

Objectives

To give rule 37, which is a safety rule, a more appropriate location in Part 3, and to align rule 37 and its corresponding race signal to good race committee practice.

Proposal 1

Renumber current rule 37 as rule 25.

Consequential Change

Renumber current rule 25 as rule 24.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons for Proposal 1

1. Rule 37 is a safety rule and deserves a more prominent position in Part 3. In its current position in Part 3, rule 37 looks like an afterthought.
 2. In Part 1, the first rule is safety. In Part 4, the first rule is a safety rule. Logic suggests that in Part 3 the first rule to mention a flag should be the rule that is a safety rule.
 3. There are many racing days when flag V is not displayed. It would be easy for competitors and support persons not to know what it means. Making it the first of the many flags mentioned in Part 3 makes it more likely that everyone connected with an event (officials, support persons and competitors) will know its meaning and comply with its requirement.
-

Proposal 2

Change rule 37 as follows:

37 SEARCH AND RESCUE INSTRUCTIONS

When the race committee displays flag V with ~~one~~ **four long** sounds, all boats and official and support vessels shall, if possible, monitor the race committee communication channel for search and rescue instructions.

Change RACE SIGNALS, Safety, as follows:

Safety



↑ — — — — (Replace one long sound with four long sounds)

Current Position

As above.

Reasons for Proposal 2

1. One long sound signal is not unique in Race Signals or in the IRPCAS. One long sound signal does not convey the urgency that is required for this important safety signal.
 2. Showing the dashes of four long sounds is chosen to separate this signal from ALL the other sound signals in Race Signals. There should be no doubt about the meaning of this signal.
 3. Four long sounds is a signal that is not found in the IRPCAS or government right of way rules.
-