




LETS GO RACING

Here it is race day. You've polished up your boat. Polished up your good manners so you won't abuse you crew. And you are ready to race. But are you?


Do you know that the start sequence for sailboat races has been a five-minute countdown series since 2001? If your club is still using the old 10-minute system, someone needs to take the 21st century by the horns and get things modified.


So, here's how the sequence goes.

If everything is on schedule, when you get out to the committee boat you will see an **RC** flag and an orange flag that delineates the committee boat end of the start line. If things are running late, you will see the previous two flags and the  **AP** signal. That's a red and white pennant, which is also called the  **Answering Pennant**.


When the  **AP** comes down, it signifies one minute until the class flag is raised. The class flag is the one which is so designated by the Sailing Instructions. So, at this point, there are six minutes until the start.

The **Class Flag** goes up at five minutes before the start and remains up until the start. This is a warning flag only. The Rules of Racing (RRS) don't kick in for another minute. **It is accompanied by a sound signal.**

The  **P** (Preparatory) flag goes up at four (4) minutes before the start. The P flag is blue with a white, square center. **It is accompanied by a sound signal.** This flag will remain up for three minutes.

The  **P** flag comes **down** at one minute before the start. **It is accompanied by a LONG sound signal.** The only flag still up is the **Class Flag**.

START: The Class Flag comes down. **It is accompanied by a sound signal.** You should be at or very near the starting line going fast.

 **FINNISH:** Blue Flag with Class Flag. **No sound signal.** The race committee boat is in position.

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OTHER FLAGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



X: Blue cross on a white background. It means that one or more boats have started prematurely. The race committee may, but is not obligated to, inform the guilty boat(s). This flag will be lowered when all premature boats have returned or after 4 minutes, whichever comes first.



FIRST SUBSTITUTE: This is a triangular flag with blue edges top and bottom and a yellow center. This flag indicates a **General Recall**. Everybody starts over. New start sequence, etc.



I: Yellow flag with solid black circle at center. This indicates that Rule 30.1 (the around-the-ends rule) is in effect at the start. **RULE 30.1 IN EFFECT** A boat over the line during the minute before the start must sail to the pre-start side of the line around either end before starting. If they fail to do this they will be scored OCS



Z: Yellow, red, blue and black triangle. This indicates that Rule 30.2 (20% penalty rule) is in effect at the start **RULE 30.2 IN EFFECT** A boat within the triangle formed by the ends of the line and the first mark during the minute before the start will receive a 20% scoring penalty



BLACK FLAG: This flag is all black. It means that any boat on the course side of the start line within a minute prior to the start is disqualified. **RULE 30.3 IS IN EFFECT** A boat within the triangle formed by the ends of the line and the first mark during the minute before the start will be disqualified without a hearing



Y: Diagonal red and yellow stripes. This flag means that all competitors are **required** to wear personal buoyancy.



L: Diagonal yellow and black squares, two each. Ashore, it means that a notice to competitors has been posted. Afloat, it means come within hail or follow me.



M: Blue flag with white X. This flag means, "The mark is missing. Round me instead of the missing mark."

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S: White with blue square. REPEATED SOUND SIGNALS This flag means, "The course has been shortened. The finish is between this flag and the nearby rounding mark," RULE 32.2 IS IN AFFECT



C: Red, white and blue horizontal stripes. REPEATED SOUND SIGNALS This flag means, "The course has been changed." Look for compass heading to new mark and/or + or - sign indicating leg will be longer or shorter and/or RED or GREEN flag indication direction of course.



N: Blue and white checkers. This flag means, "The race has been abandoned." It should be accompanied by 3 sound signals.



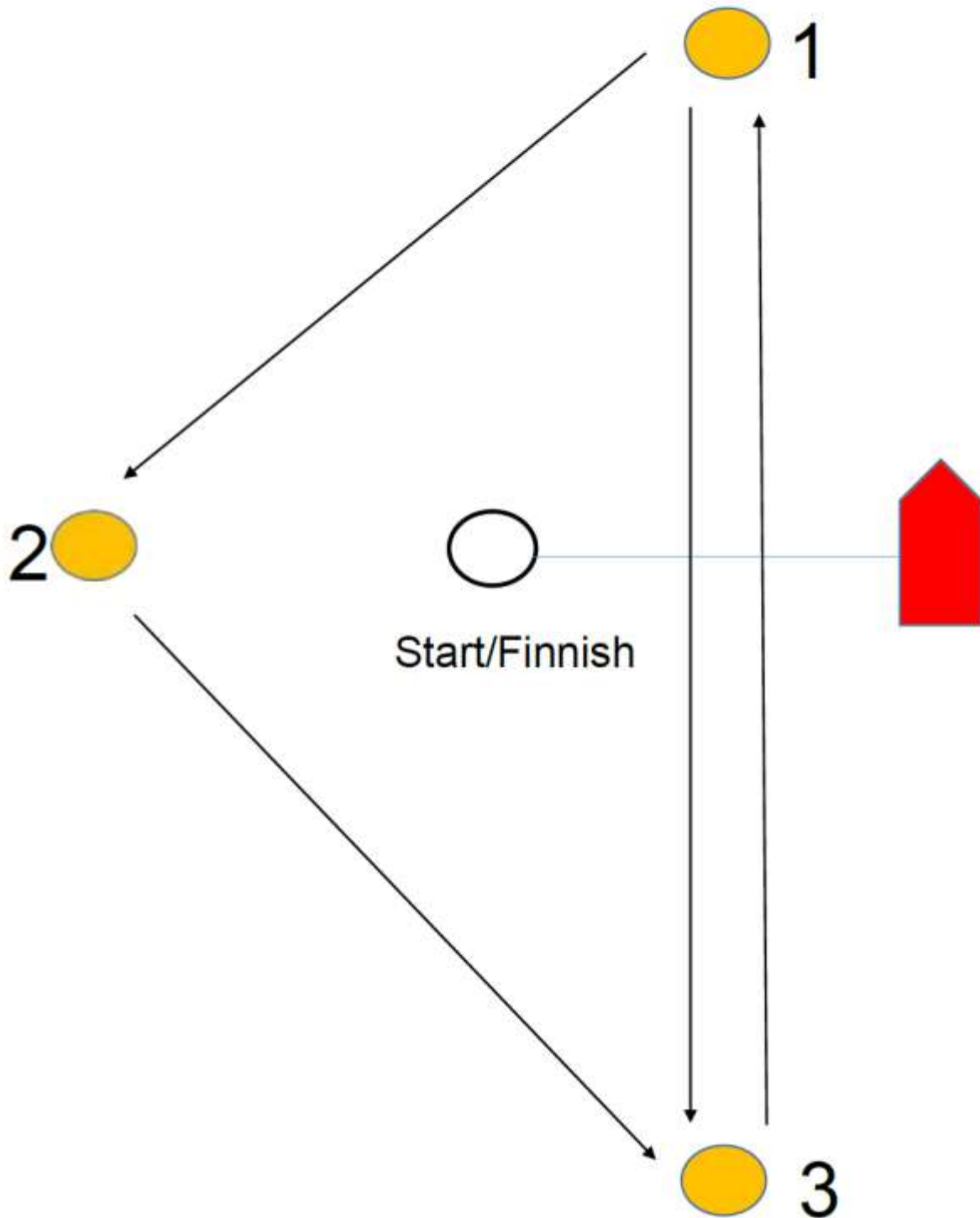
N over A: This combination means, "Races have been abandoned. Further signals will be made ashore."

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Olympic Course Card

Cruising Non Spinnaker Class
Racing Spinnaker Class

Start-1-2-3-1-3-Finnish
Start-1-2-3-1-3-1-2-3-Finnish

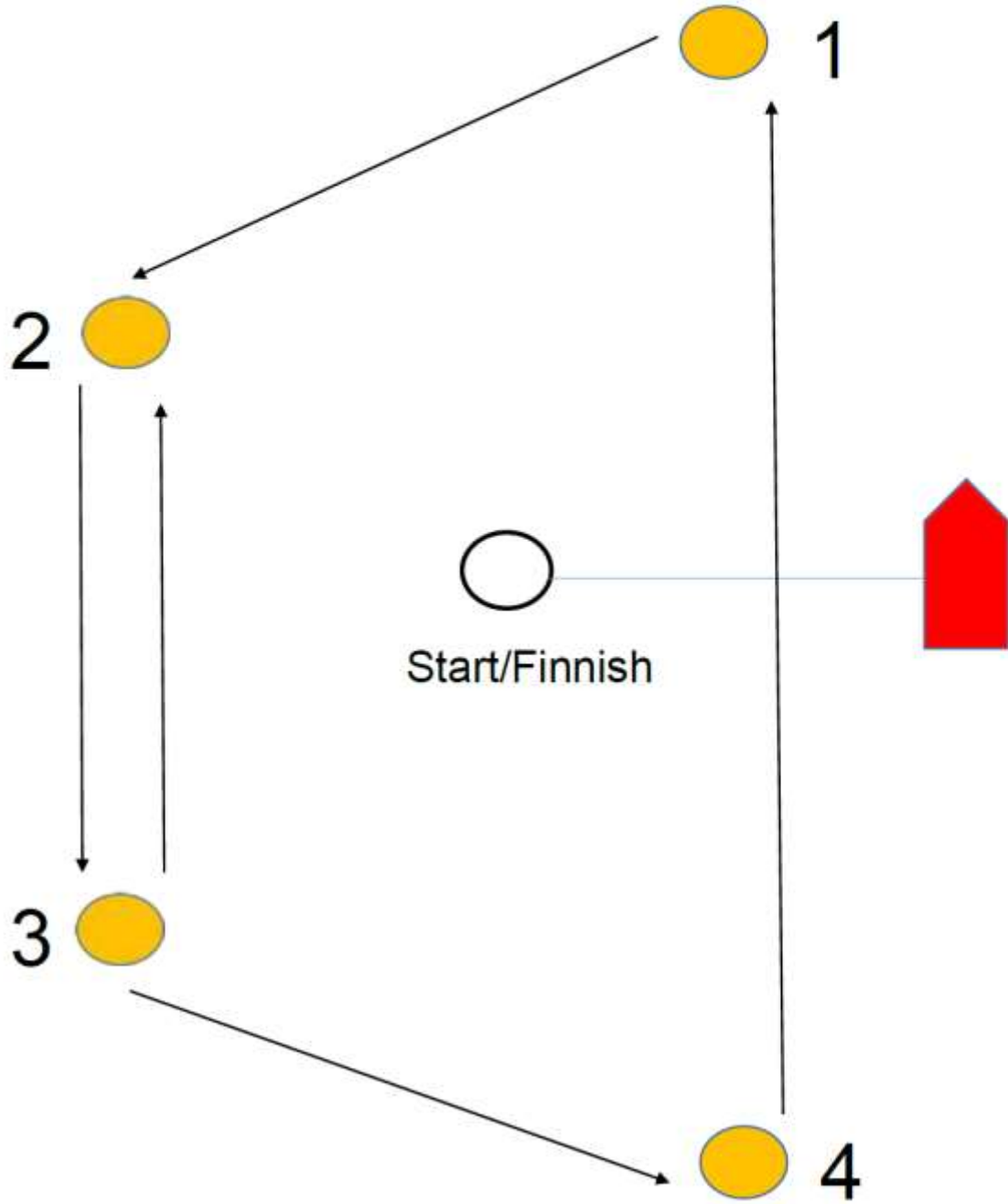


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Trapezoid Course Card

Cruising Non Spinnaker Class
Racing Spinnaker Class

Start-1-2-3-4-Finnish
Start-1-2-3-2-3-4-Finnish



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