

## A Note on OCS and Z Flag Penalties

This note clarifies how the WNS will address **Z Flag penalties** and **OCS (On Course Side)** situations during races.

### Relevant Rules from the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS):

#### Definition of Start

*A boat starts when, her hull having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with rule [30.1](#) if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side of the course side.*

#### 29.1. Individual Recall

When, at a boat's starting signal, any part of her hull is on the course side of the starting line or she must comply with rule 30.1, the race committee shall promptly display **flag X** with one sound signal.

- The flag will remain displayed until:
  1. The hull of each boat has returned completely to the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions.
  2. Each boat has complied with rule 30.1 (if applicable).
- However, the flag will be lowered no later than:
  - Four minutes after the starting signal, or
  - One minute before any subsequent starting signal, whichever comes first.
- If rules 29.2, 30.3, or 30.4 apply, this rule does not.

#### 30.2. Z Flag Rule

If **flag Z** is displayed:

- No part of a boat's hull may enter the triangle formed by the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal.
- If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she will receive, without a hearing, a **20% Scoring Penalty** as outlined in rule 44.3(c).

#### Key Points about the Z Flag Rule:

1. **The penalty applies even if the race is restarted or re-sailed**, but not if it is postponed or abandoned before the starting signal.
2. If a boat is identified breaking the Z Flag Rule in a subsequent attempt to start the same race, she will receive an additional 20% Scoring Penalty.

3. The boat will not be scored worse than "Did Not Finish" (DNF).
4. If boats break the Z Flag Rule but there is no General Recall, those boats will receive an Individual Recall and be treated under **RRS 29.1** and **RRS 30.2**. and will therefore be required to return completely to the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions.

**Example of a Z Flag Penalty Calculation:**

- **Regatta Details:** 54 boats entered.
- **20% Scoring Penalty:**
  - 20% of 54 boats = 10.8, rounded to the nearest whole number = 11 places.

**Scenario:**

- A boat infringes the Z Flag Rule and finishes 17th.
- Her final score for that race will be: **17 + 11 = 28**.

By ensuring all competitors understand these rules, we aim to maintain fair competition and consistent application of penalties during the WNS.