

Q

Please explain Notice of Race 2.3 (a) and Sailing Instructions 12.2

A

The intent of these two sections is very simple. If a boat is OCS (possibly by just a few feet) and fails to return to the starting line and start correctly, the Race Committee will score her as finishing but assess a 30 minute penalty. Again, the intent is to allow a boat that thinks they have started correctly to be scored in the race (with a penalty) rather than be disqualified and given no finish time.

Section 2.3(a) of the Notice of Race alters the definition of *start* because the definition of *finish* requires a boat to have started, and a boat that is OCS under the standard definition of *start* has not started. So 2.3(a) allows an OCS boat to have satisfied option (b) of the modified the definition of *start*.

Section 12.2 of the Sailing Instructions limits the amount of time that a boat can be OCS and still qualify for the penalty. If she starts more than a minute early (i.e. with the wrong division), then she has not started under the modified definition of *start*, 12.2 will not apply and the boat will be scored OCS. But if she is OCS within the last minute, or really within the seconds before her start, then 12.2 will apply and the race committee can afford her a finish time and assess a penalty.

As always, a boat that is OCS may return to the starting line and start properly, satisfying option (a) of the modified definition of *start*. Having done so, she may race and no penalty will be assessed.

Dave Wehnes

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