

## Rules Specialist Group 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing

### Rule 32 Shortening or abandoning after the start

Issued 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Response from the Rules Specialist Group to questions submitted about abandoning a race.

This is a majority opinion of the group.

In providing the following answers the RSG has been guided by similar responses issued by World Sailing's Q and A panel question G002 and USA appeals book Question 100.

See addendum 1

#### 1. [Questions](#)

1. Under what circumstances can a race committee abandon a race?
2. Could a race committee abandon a race after it has been completed?

#### 2. [Response](#)

##### 1. [Answer to Question 1](#)

After the start the race committee may *abandon* the race because of foul weather (rule 32.1(a)), because of insufficient wind making it unlikely that any boat will *finish* within the time limit (rule 32.1(b)), because a *mark* is missing or out of position (rule 32.1(c)), or for any other reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition (rule 32.1(d))

It is important to note that World Sailing case 28 states:

Rule 32.1(d) makes it clear that the most important criterion for abandoning a race is that, for some reason, the safety or fairness of the competition has been adversely affected. Rules 32.1(a), (b) and (c) give examples of reasons that may justify abandoning a race; rule 32.1(d) implies that there may be other reasons.

##### 2. [Answer to Question 2](#)

Yes. A race committee may abandon a race after it has been completed for one of the reasons listed in rule 32.1 but shall not do so without considering the consequences for all boats in the race or series as provided in the last sentence of rule 32.1.

Whilst it is not unusual for a race to be *abandoned* after the starting signal and before one boat *finishes*, it is uncommon for a race to be *abandoned* after one or more boat *finishes*, and an even rarer circumstance for a race to be *abandoned*

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where all boats have *finished*. In these circumstances where a race has been completed the race committee should also consider acting under rule 60.2(b) and request redress for all boats affected as, after a race has been completed, the only option for race committee is to abandon the race, whereas under rule 64.2 a protest committee can make other arrangements which may be fairer for all boats affected.

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21/2/2020