

WORLD SAILING DEVELOPMENT RULE

Version 3, effective January 2025

DR21-01 ALTERNATIVE STARTING PENALTY

Under Regulation 20.3(d)(ii), World Sailing has approved the use of this rule as set out in this approval document.

This rule only applies if the relevant version of the rule is included in the notice of race ('NoR').

BACKGROUND AND DESIRED OUTCOME

In a race with large boats, high speed boats, or a race with a large fleet, the organizing authority may want an OCS boat to NOT return to correct her starting error. This may also be a desired outcome for races with handicap starts (staggered starts) or long-distance races where the wish is to be able to record a boat as a finisher (adjusted for a suitable penalty) if it was OCS.

Under the 2025-2028 RRS, it is not possible for the notice of race or sailing instructions to make the necessary rule changes to allow for this scenario. The reason for this is the definitions *Start* and *Sail the Course*.

Definitions cannot be changed, and therefore World Sailing is making this development rule to allow an alternative penalty for OCS boats.

Penalties may be changed under the racing rules. This development rule allows organizing authorities to create a suitable penalty for OCS boats, that is appropriate for the circumstances of the event. Some events may want to impose a penalty to the elapsed time/score, other events may want to impose an action / requirement on the boat while it is racing.

WHO MAY USE THIS DEVELOPMENT RULE?

Any organizing authority that wishes to include a penalty for an OCS boat that did not start, other than returning to the starting line and starting.

The use of this development rule does not require MNA approval under rule 86.3.

CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES THAT REQUIRE REGULATION 20.3(d)(ii) APPROVAL:

This development rule requires that the following change shall be used:

1. Change definition *Start* as follows:

Start A boat *starts* when her hull having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side either

- (a) at or after her starting signal, or
- (b) during the last [insert time] before her starting signal.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR USING THIS DEVELOPMENT RULE

Race committees should not use rules 30.2, 30.3 or 30.4 with this development rule.

The organizing authority / race committee needs to decide if they want an OCS boat:

- (a) to have both the option to return and start (comply with new (a) of the definition) or to take the applicable penalty; or
- (b) to only have an option to take the applicable penalty.

Examples where an organizing authority may want to prevent a boat from returning to start are when starting areas have limited navigable water and a large number of boats starting, when the boats are restricted in their ability to manoeuvre within the area around the starting line, or when the presence of spectator vessels may make it dangerous for a boat to return to start.

Depending on the arrangement that the organizing authority is using under this development rule, the following rules may need to be changed: Rules 29.1, 30, A5.1.

HOW TO ADD THIS DEVELOPMENT RULE TO A NOTICE OF RACE

1.

An appropriate section of the NoR contains the change allowed by World Sailing. The text of this definition cannot be changed further by the NoR/SI or by prescription. World Sailing recommends the appropriate section is the one that refers to the Rules that apply.

2.

Following on from the clause above, detail what is to be done if a boat is OCS. This can be changed by the OA depending on its desired circumstances. This clause may include a rule that prohibits a boat from returning to start. The clause then describes the penalty for being OCS. Different examples of penalties are provided as suggestions.

Sample language for the NoR:

Instruction / Description	Sample language
<p><i>This clause contains the change allowed by World Sailing. The text of this definition cannot be changed further by the NoR/SI or by prescription.</i></p> <p><i>Replace [insert time] with the time prior to the start the OA wishes this alternative starting penalty to apply from. This could be in seconds or may be a minute or more.</i></p>	<p>Under World Sailing Development Rule DR21-01, change the definition <i>Start</i> as follows:</p> <p>Start A boat <i>starts</i> when her hull having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) at or after her starting signal, or (b) during the last [insert time] before her starting signal.

<p><i>Add this following clause</i></p> <p><i>Delete option in [] that contains the language regarding re-starting that the OA does not want to use.</i></p> <p><i>Then add examples of language for penalties.</i></p> <p><i>Common options for reference are below</i></p>	<p>When a boat <i>starts</i> in accordance with item (b) of the definition <i>Start</i>, [she shall not return to the pre-start side of the line, and] [she may return to the pre-start side of the line to comply with item (a) of the definition of <i>Start</i>, but, if she does not] the starting penalty shall be:</p>
<p><i>Option 1:</i> <i>OCS Scoring penalty.</i></p>	<p>she shall receive a Scoring Penalty calculated in accordance with RRS 44.3(c).</p>
<p><i>Option 2:</i> <i>OCS Time penalty.</i></p> <p>Replace [] with the time penalty the OA wishes to apply.</p>	<p>[] shall be added to her elapsed time.</p>
<p><i>Option 3:</i> <i>OCS Turns penalty.</i></p>	<p>she shall take a Two-Turns Penalty in accordance with rule 44.2.</p>
<p><i>Option 4:</i> <i>OCS Stop/Go penalty.</i></p> <p><i>Insert times, line description and direction as required.</i></p>	<p>she shall cross [insert description of a line] and then she shall wait [insert time] before crossing [describe a line again] from [describe direction] and resume sailing the race.</p>

EXPIRY DATE:

This development rule applies until 31 December 2028, unless changed or revoked earlier by World Sailing.

World Sailing may change this development rule and issue a new version of this document. The new version shall be used in events not yet started and may be used in events that are running if suitable notification of the change is issued to competitors.

FEEDBACK

The World Sailing Racing Rules Committee is interested in feedback on the use of this development rule and on what penalties were used. Such feedback will allow this development rule to be changed to include standard wording for such penalties.

A representative of the Organizing Authority shall send a report to World Sailing promptly after the event describing the experiences with this development rule. If possible, please include views of the competitors. The report shall be emailed to: rules@sailing.org, referencing the applicable development rule number that appears on the top right of this document.