

**RULE 1.2 — LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AND
PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES**

A boat shall carry adequate life-saving equipment for all persons on board, including one item ready for immediate use, unless her class rules make some other provision. Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions.

Rule 1.2 gives the highest prominence to these safety issues. Note that it is **each sailor's** responsibility to decide when to wear his or her life-jacket (often referred to as a "personal flotation device" or "PFD"). Often class rules and/or sailing instructions will require you to wear your life-jacket any time you go afloat. Be sure to check those rules.

Also, the race committee can require you to wear your life-jacket by displaying flag Y (rule 40, Personal Flotation Devices). Note, however, that though the race committee has the option to use this signal, it does not shift away from you any of your responsibility for your own safety (see rule 3, Decision to Race). Rule 40 also clarifies that wet suits and dry suits are not adequate personal flotation devices.