

THE RACING RULES OF SAILING 2021-2024
Marginal Marking Details

2021-2024 Edition

40 PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

40.1 Basic Rule

When rule 40.1 is made applicable by rule 40.2, each competitor shall wear a personal flotation device except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices.

40.2 Rule 40.1 applies

- (a) if flag Y was displayed afloat with one sound before or with the warning signal, while *racing* in that race; or
- (b) if flag Y was displayed ashore with one sound, at all times while afloat that day.

However, rule 40.1 applies when so stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions.

2017-2020 Edition

**40 PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES;
LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT**

When flag Y is displayed with one sound before or with the warning signal, competitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. When flag Y is displayed ashore, this rule applies at all times while afloat. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices

US Sailing prescribes that every boat shall carry life-saving equipment conforming to government regulations that apply in the racing area. Go to rules.ussailing.org and click the 'PFD' link for more information.

Comments from [The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 Study Version](#)

- The phrase 'When rule 40.1 is made applicable by rule 40.2,' was added on 4 June in response to comments that pointed out that, without the added phrase, rule 40.1 applies at all times while racing, which of course, is not our intent. Our intent is that 40.1 apply only when it is made applicable by rule 40.2.
- Submission 161-19 as edited. Further edited on 5 May for clarity and ease of reading. In (a) and (b), 'signal' deleted for consistency with several other rules (see, for ex., rules 27 and 29).