

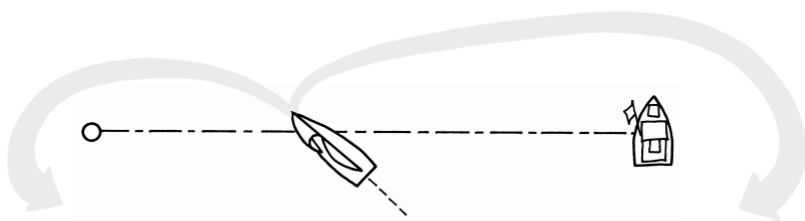
## START

A boat *starts* when, her hull having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, 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.

You cannot *start* until after the starting signal for your class. If any part of your hull is on the course side of the starting line at the starting signal, you must return completely behind the line to *start* correctly (rule 28.1, Sailing the Course). If you don't, the race committee is required to score you OCS (on the course side) or DNS (Did not *start*) without needing to protest you (rule A5.1, Scores Determined by the Race Committee). If you feel the race committee has incorrectly scored you OCS or DNS, you can request redress under rule 61.4(b)(1) (Redress Decisions).

Notice that you *start* when, having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after the starting signal is made, **any** part of your hull first crosses the starting line. There is no mention of crew or equipment. If your bow person is calling the line from the pulpit and inadvertently sticks their hand over the line just before the gun, or if your crew, by going out on the trapeze, mistakenly puts their head over the line one second before the gun, it does not matter. It is only the hull that matters. The same is true if anchored and your anchor and anchor line are over the starting line. See the discussion of the definition *Finish* for more explanation of what the “hull” is.

The definition refers to rule 30.1 (Starting Penalties; I Flag Rule), commonly referred to as the “one-minute-rule” or “round-an-end rule.” Notice that the race committee can signal the I Flag Rule on any start it wants simply by displaying flag I as the preparatory signal. When it is lowered one minute before the starting signal, accompanied by one long sound signal, the one-minute period of rule 30.1 has begun. The purpose of the rule is to keep people from charging over the line early and making it difficult for the race committee to have a fair start. The way it works is, if you are on the course side of the starting line or



*When rule 30.1 (the “I Flag Rule”) is in effect, a boat that is on the course side of the starting line at any time during the final minute before the starting signal must sail outside one of the starting marks and across the extension of the starting line before starting. Typically the fastest way to do this is to sail around the closest end of the starting line. She may do this immediately if she chooses; i.e., she does not need to wait for the starting signal before going around an end.*

its extensions during the minute before your starting signal, you must sail back to the pre-start side of the line outside one of the starting marks across the extension of the starting line before starting. Typically the quickest way to do this is to sail around one end of the starting line or the other at some point before *starting* correctly. Notice you can sail around an end immediately; you don't have to wait for the starting signal to be made.

Notice that anytime you are sailing back towards the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions **after** your starting signal, you have to *keep clear* of any boats not doing so until you are completely on the pre-start side (rule 21.1, Starting Errors; Taking Penalties; Backing a Sail).

Notice also the more stringent starting penalties available to race committees in rules 30.2 (Z Flag Rule), 30.3 (U Flag Rule) and 30.4 (Black Flag Rule).