

AYC Race Management: A discussion of changing (shortening) the course to finish at the original Start/Finish line given a two-lap course with a mid-course Start/Finish line.

The guiding rules that dictate what we must do are in the RRS, Part 3, rules 32.1 & 32.2 plus rule 33.

Rule 32.1 tells us we may make a change under the conditions listed, one of which is a lack of wind. Rule 33 tells us that we must display a "C" flag at the last rounding mark before the change and, if the direction is changed, signal either a change to starboard (Green Triangle) or Port (Red Square). If the length is changed display a Minus ("-") if the leg is shortened, and a Plus("+") if it is lengthened. The direction and the length may be signaled together or any one of those signals alone with the "C" flag.

So, to shorten our two-lap course to finish at the original Start/Finish line, at the last leeward mark, signal a "Charlie" ("C" flag) with a Minus ("-") with repetitive sounds notifying all boats as they pass that leeward mark. *(Note: best practice is to make the repetitive sounds unique as to avoid confusion. A single sound, two sounds, and three sounds have specific meanings – see Race Signals inside the back cover of the RRS.)*

While the signaling is taking place at the leeward mark, the windward mark boat must set a change mark with a black band on the original Start/Finish line. *(Best practice is to tie the finish mark and this change mark together. This way no new anchor system is needed.)* The change mark does NOT have to be in place before signaling the change at the leeward Mark. See rule 33. It does have to be in place before the two-sound signal is made by the Signal (now Finish) boat.

Rule 32.2 tells us: While this is happening the Signal boat removes its Orange line flag and replaces it with an "S" flag and, as boats approach within hearing distance, makes two (2) sounds - only once. While it is best to give more time (warning) of the Shortened course, by rule the only requirement is that the signal must be made before the first boat crosses that new finish line. See rule 32.2

The finish is now between the "S" flag and the change mark with its black band (not the original Start/Finish mark if it has drifted toward the course side of the line). *(Best practice: Avoid confusion and tie the change mark to leeward of the original Start/Finish mark.)* Reminder: a boat finishes when any part of her equipment in normal position visually penetrates the course side of the finish mark. As we use Tetrahedrons, this will be a slanted surface which requires careful observation in close finishes between multiple boats.