

I guess I ought to hop in on this discussion since we all know that this is about the Art Lent (me) tactic. Most of you probably haven't noticed that ever since the proposed variation to the starting line rule came up I have not been circling the mark prior to the start as I used to even though it is perfectly legal within the standard racing rules and AMYA. What I had been doing is a gamble. I realize that a boat approaching the start from the side has no rights unless he happens to be on starboard and all the affected boats are on port. He is gambling that no one will hit the start on time close to the mark.. Some time it works and many times you have to give way and go behind the incoming boats. If you want a rule to prevent this I have no problem with the rule as stated below:

" If a boat is over early, that boat must stay on the course side of the line until the gun goes off, then proceed around either end of the start marks prior to restarting while adhering to standard right of way rules."

The problems with imposing an additional 360 rule are as I see it:

Some have proposed that the 360 rule would not apply for being over in the last few seconds. Then the question remains at what time does the rule change. Some one has proposed 2 seconds. The RD has great difficulty judging which boats are over early and announcing these boats in a timely manner. Now if you add the 2 second rule the RD must not only immediately after the start determine who all were over early but also somehow record in his mind at which second each was over and announce all this information. Sorry, as the RD I don't think I could do that.

If you impose the 360 penalty for all over early cases, then you will end up with very unaggressive starts which will deflate the most important challenge of the sport of sailboat racing.

As Dennis noted several times , once you start deviating from the standard rules you can create a can of worms of more problems.

This discussion has been going on now for over a year I think. I hope it is put to bed soon. In closing I will follow what ever rule is decided on as long as it is documented. I may not prefer the rule but I love sailing too much to give up the hobby over this. Sorry if I have caused this can of worms and I apologize for being an aggressive sailor.

ART.