

As Fleet Captain, I'd like to welcome you and thank you for taking the time to review my Race Committee presentation.

A successful race program depends on volunteers who are confident, organized, and understand the procedures that keep racing fair, safe, and enjoyable for everyone on the water. Whether you are brand new to Race Committee duties or already have experience, this session is designed to provide a clear overview of race signals, starting sequences, communication, and on-water responsibilities. Our goal is to make Race Committee work approachable, consistent, and enjoyable while helping build a strong and supportive racing program for the club.

Thank you again for volunteering your time and supporting sailing at our club. Let's get started.



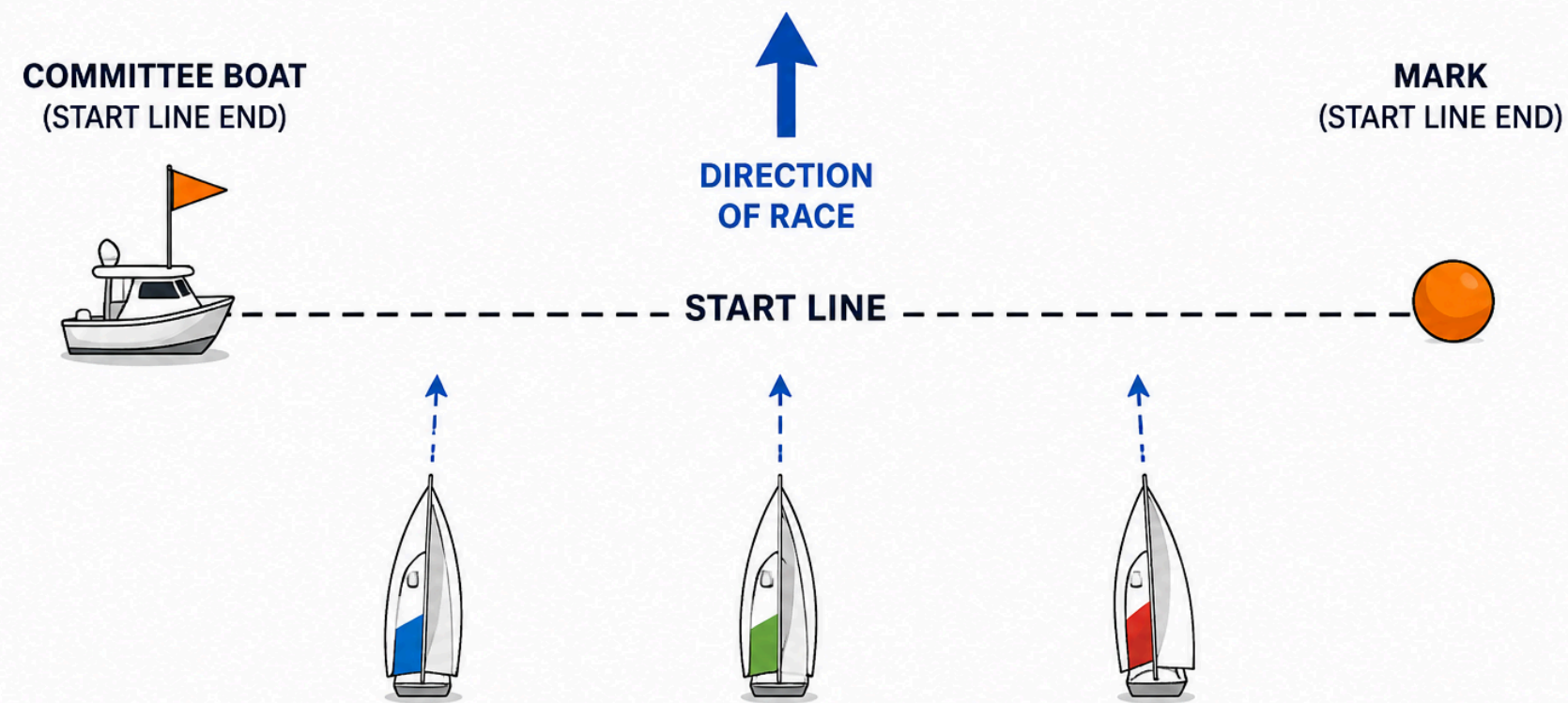
Sylvan Lake Sailing Club

Race Committee Start Guide

Including AP Flag Procedure and Division Start
Sequences

Race Start Line Diagram

START LINE DIAGRAM



HOW IT WORKS:



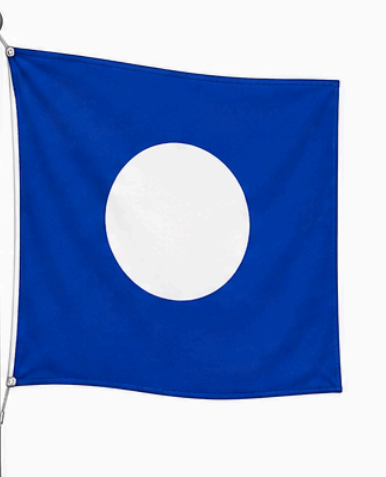
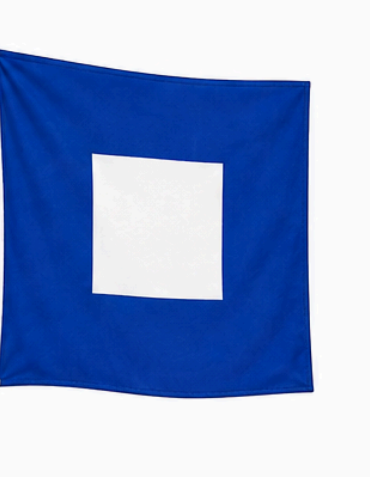
- The start line is between the Committee Boat and the Mark.
- Boats must start from the pre-start side (below the line).
- Boats will sail toward the first mark (upwind) after the start.

VISUAL OVERVIEW

Committee Boat • Start Line • Pin Buoy • Wind Direction

Racing Flags Reference

SAILING RACING FLAG REFERENCE

<p>AP</p> 	<p>DIV 1</p> 	<p>DIV 2</p> 	<p>PREP</p> 
<p>AP FLAG</p> <p>Postponement – All races postponed.</p>	<p>DIVISION 1</p> <p>Division 1 warning/start signal.</p>	<p>DIVISION 2</p> <p>Division 2 warning/start signal.</p>	<p>PREPARATORY FLAG</p> <p>Preparatory signal before the start.</p>

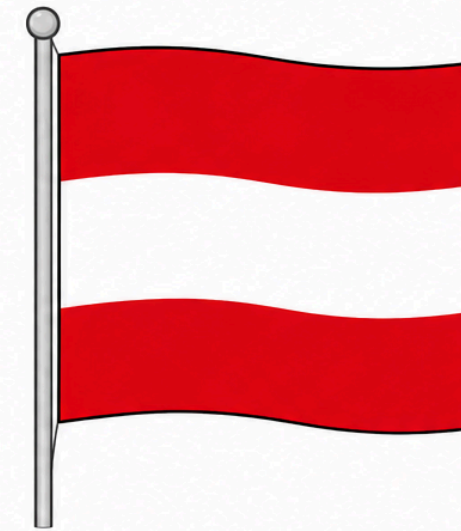
AP Flag UP – Postponement Signal

AP Flag UP + 2 Horn Blasts = All Races
Postponed

When you see the AP flag raised, all racing is
postponed until further notice.

AP

POSTPONEMENT (ALL RACES)



MEANS:

The race is postponed.
No warning signal will be made.

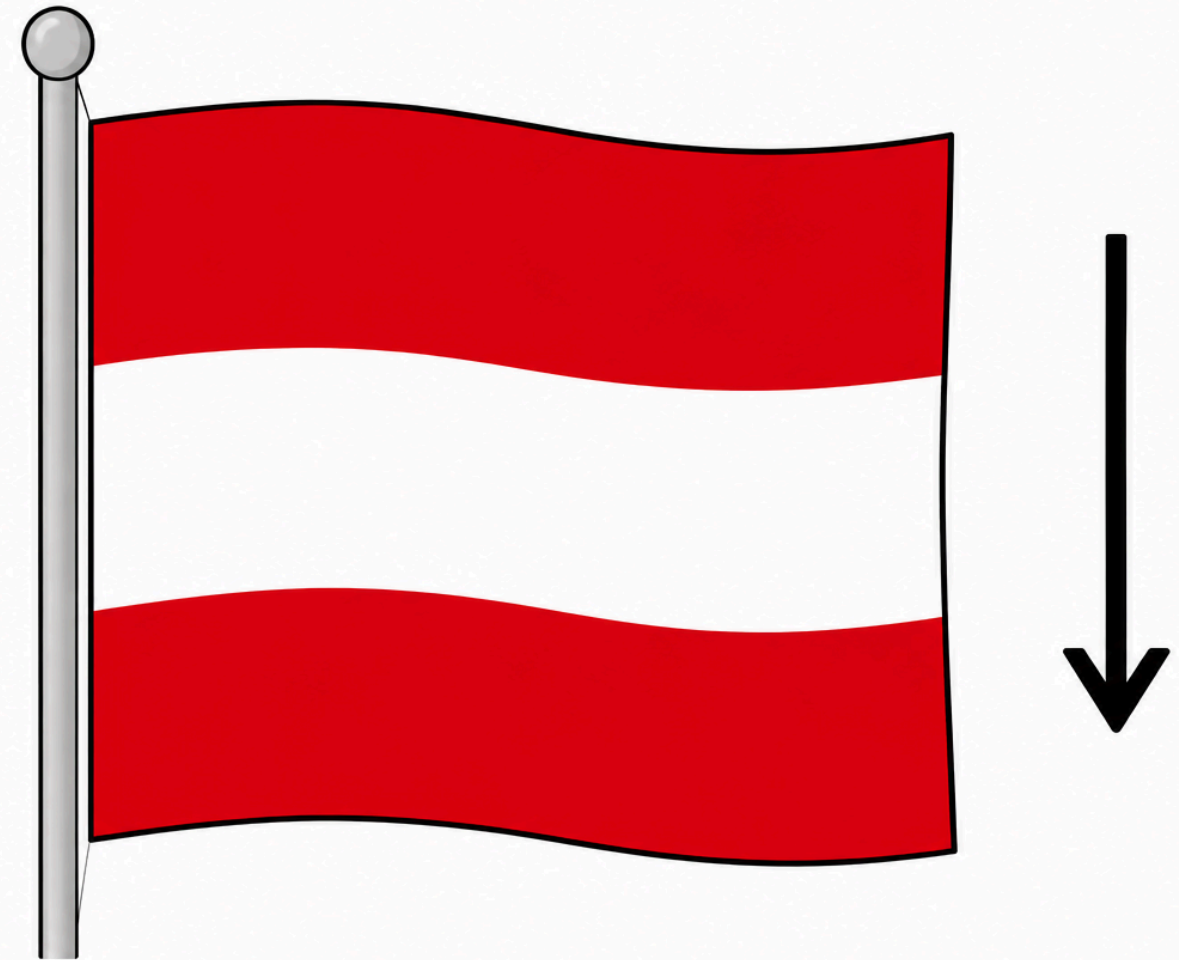
WHEN DISPLAYED:

Displayed from ashore or on the race committee signal boat.

AP Flag DOWN

AP Flag DOWN + 1 Horn Blast = Race Will
Start Soon

Race Resuming Soon



1:00



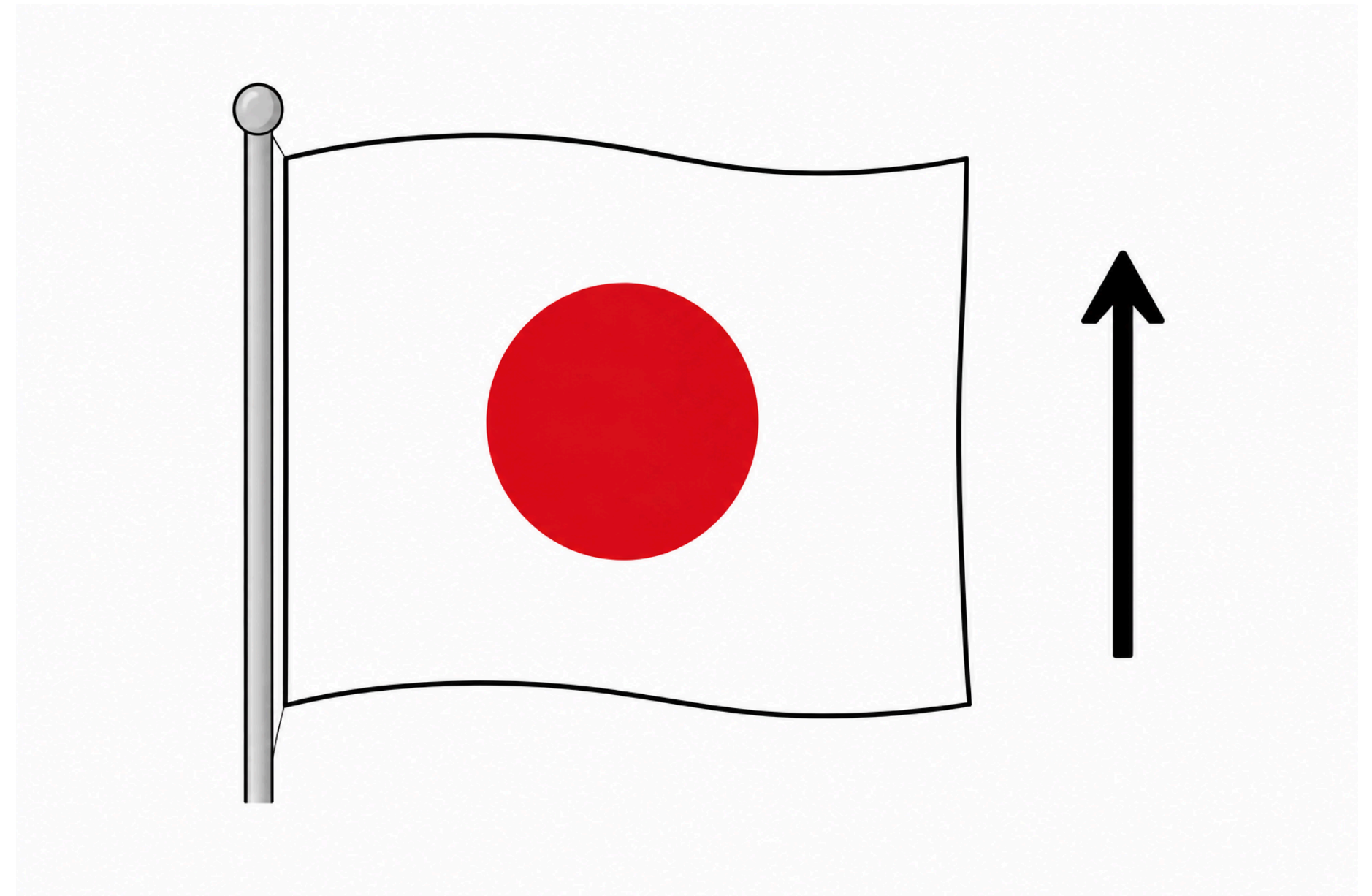
1-MINUTE WAIT PERIOD

Wait 1 Minute After AP Flag DOWN
Before Starting Division 1 Sequence

5:00

Division 1 Flag UP + 1 Horn Blast
(Warning Signal)

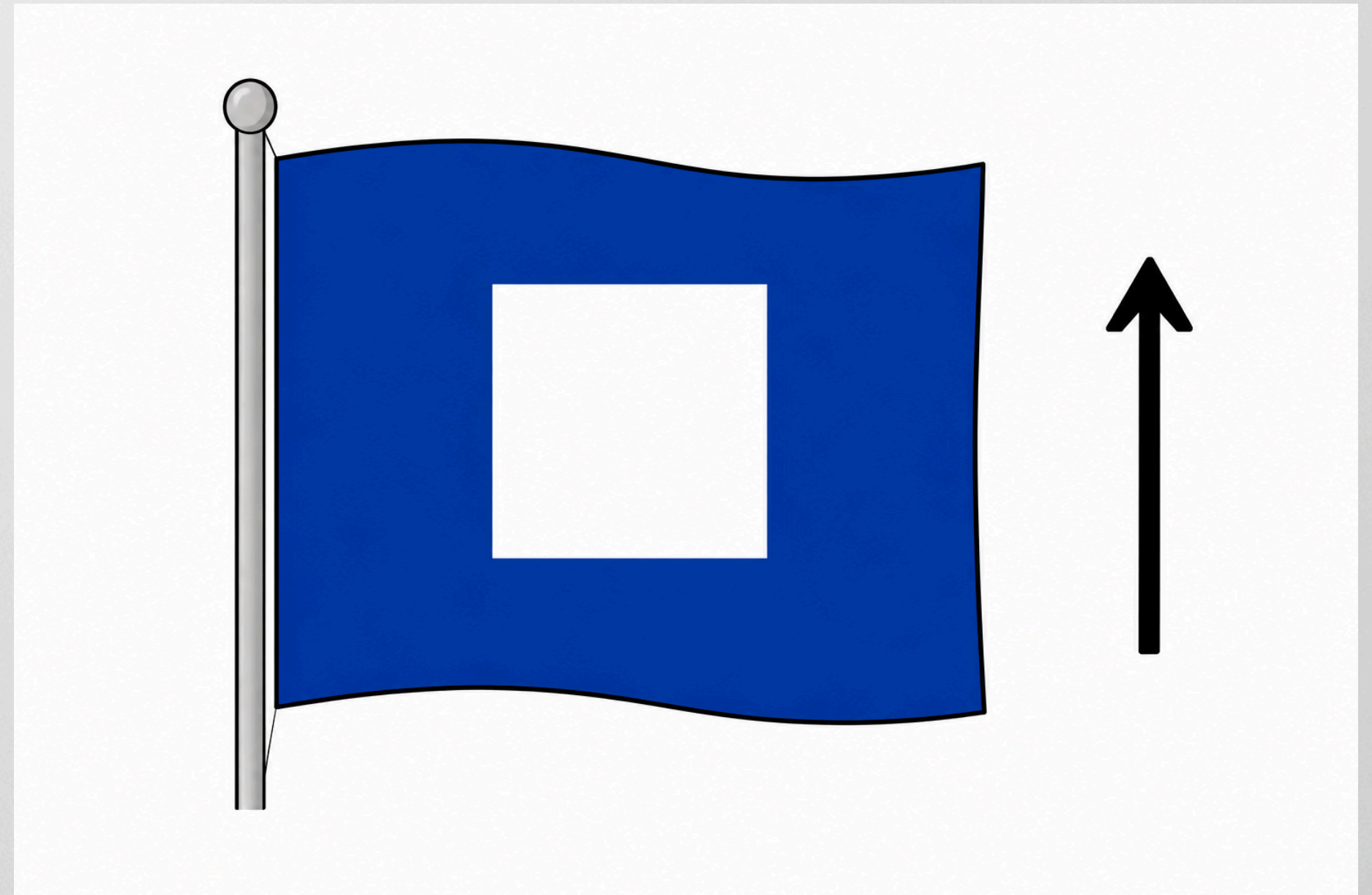
Division 1 Warning Signal



4:00

P Flag UP + 1 Horn Blast
(Preparatory Signal)

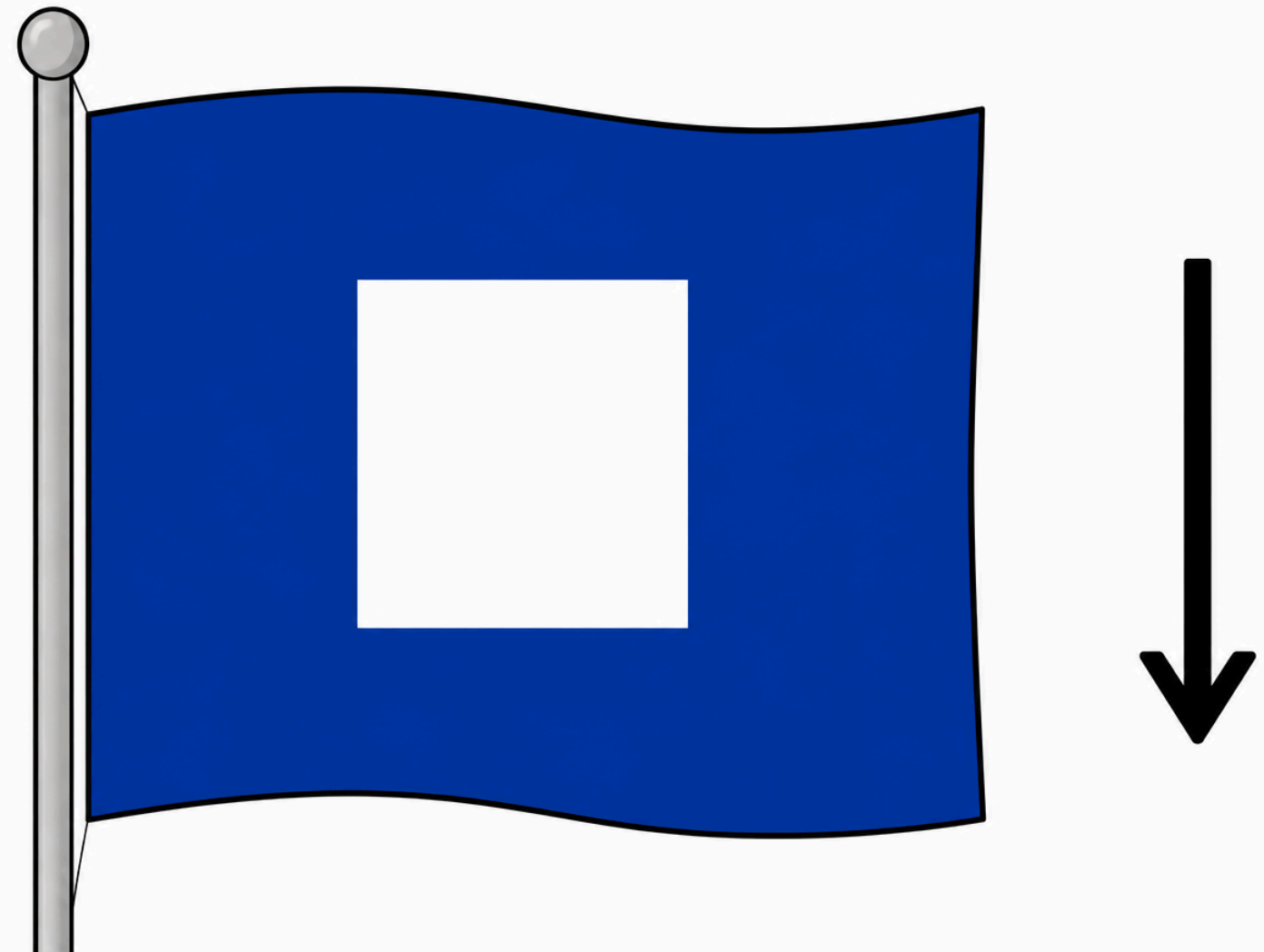
Division 1 Sequence



Division 1 – 1:00

P Flag DOWN + 1 LONG Horn Blast
(One-Minute Signal)

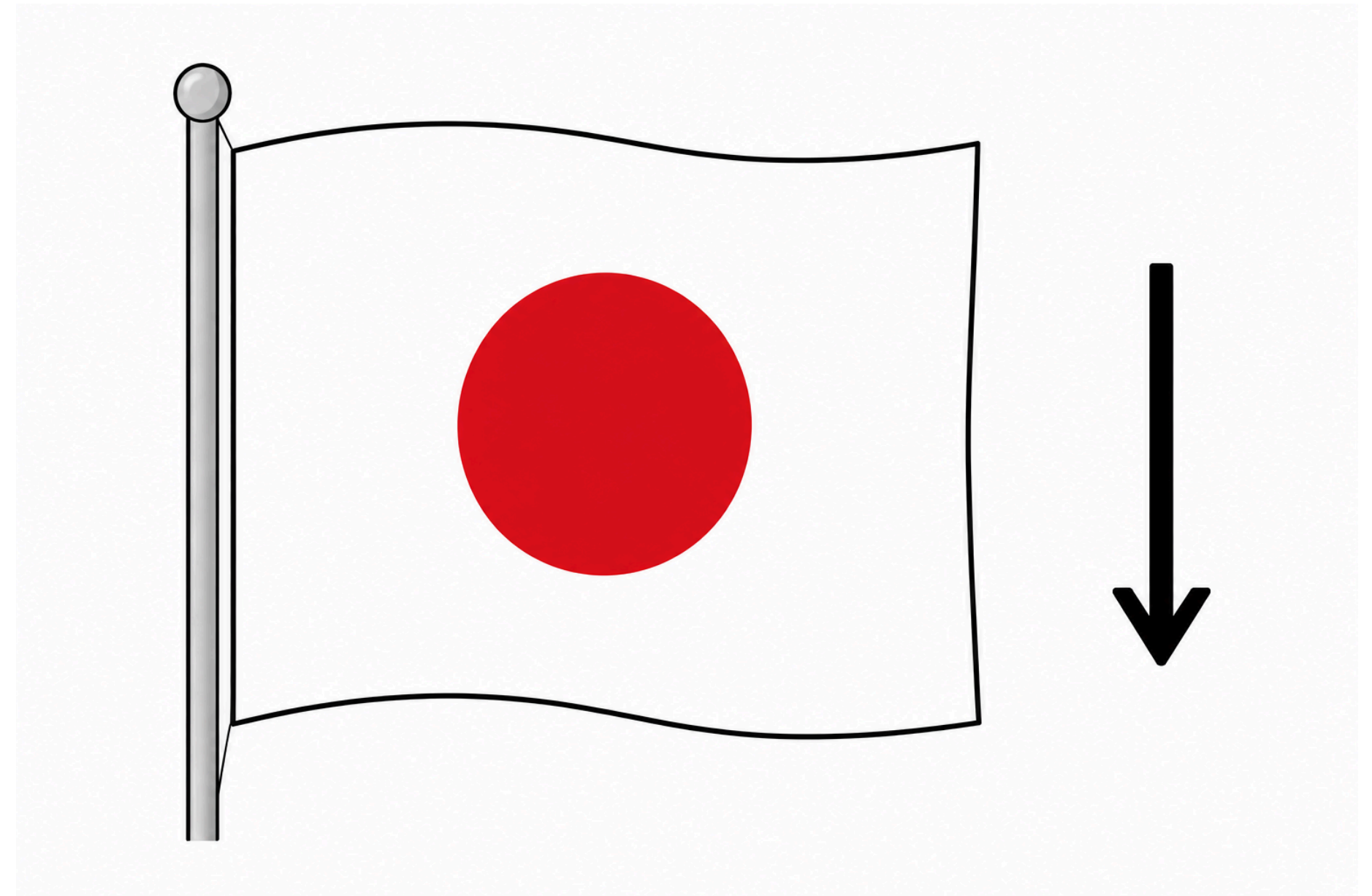
Marine horn icon: LONG blast emphasis



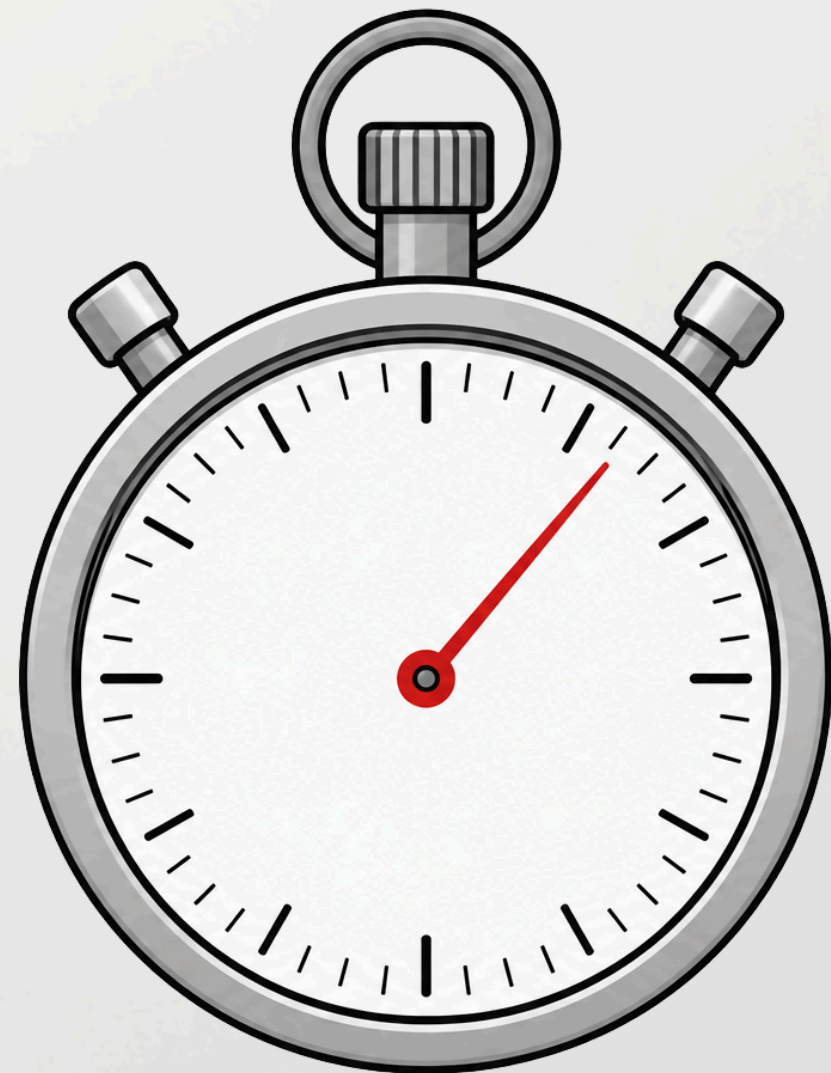
0:00

- Division 1 Flag DOWN + 1 Horn Blast (Start Signal)

- Division 2 sequence starts in 1:00 minute



1:00



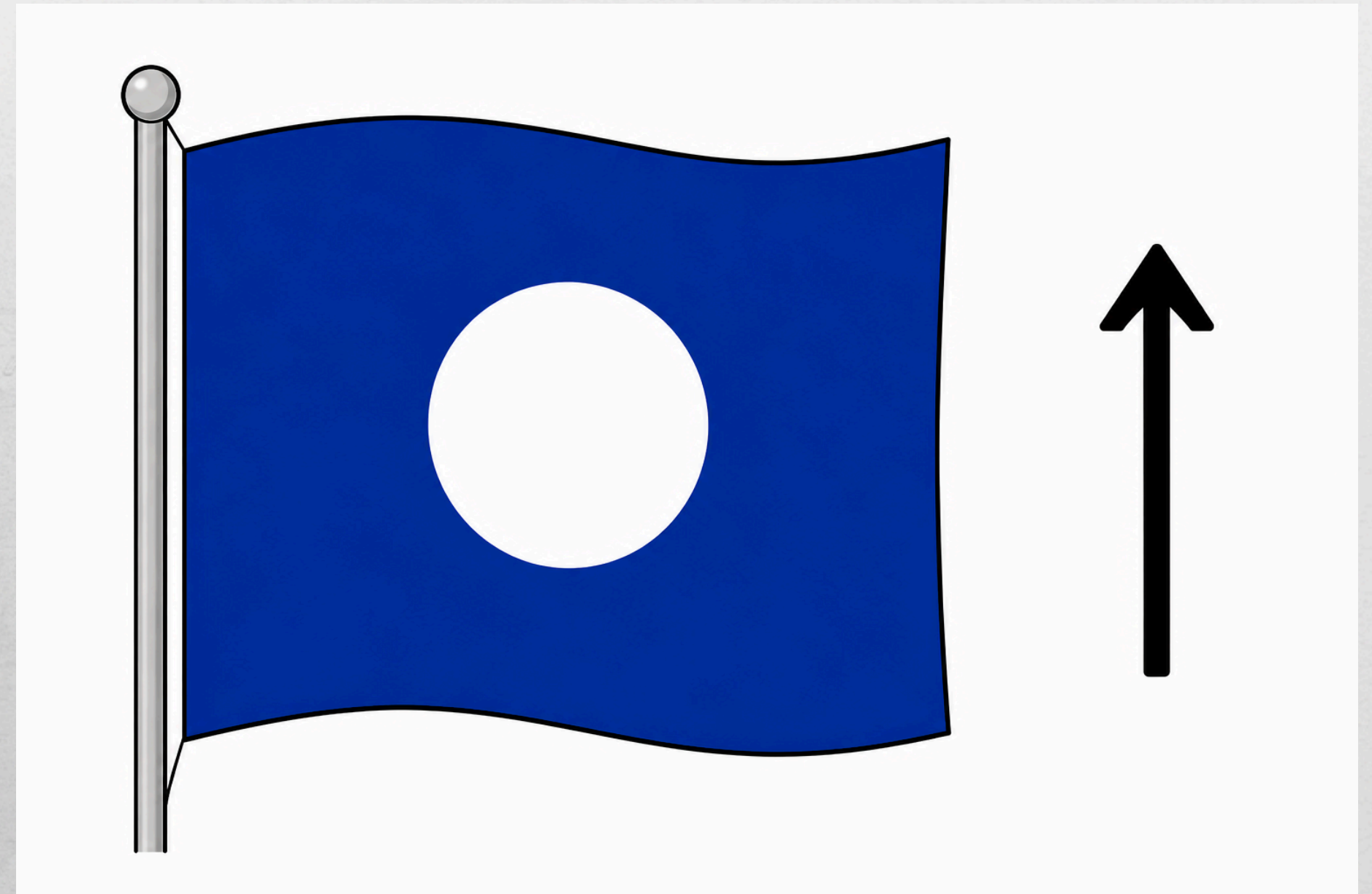
1-MINUTE WAIT PERIOD

Wait 1 Minute Before Starting
Division 2 Sequence

5:00

Division 2 Flag UP + 1 Horn Blast
(Warning Signal)

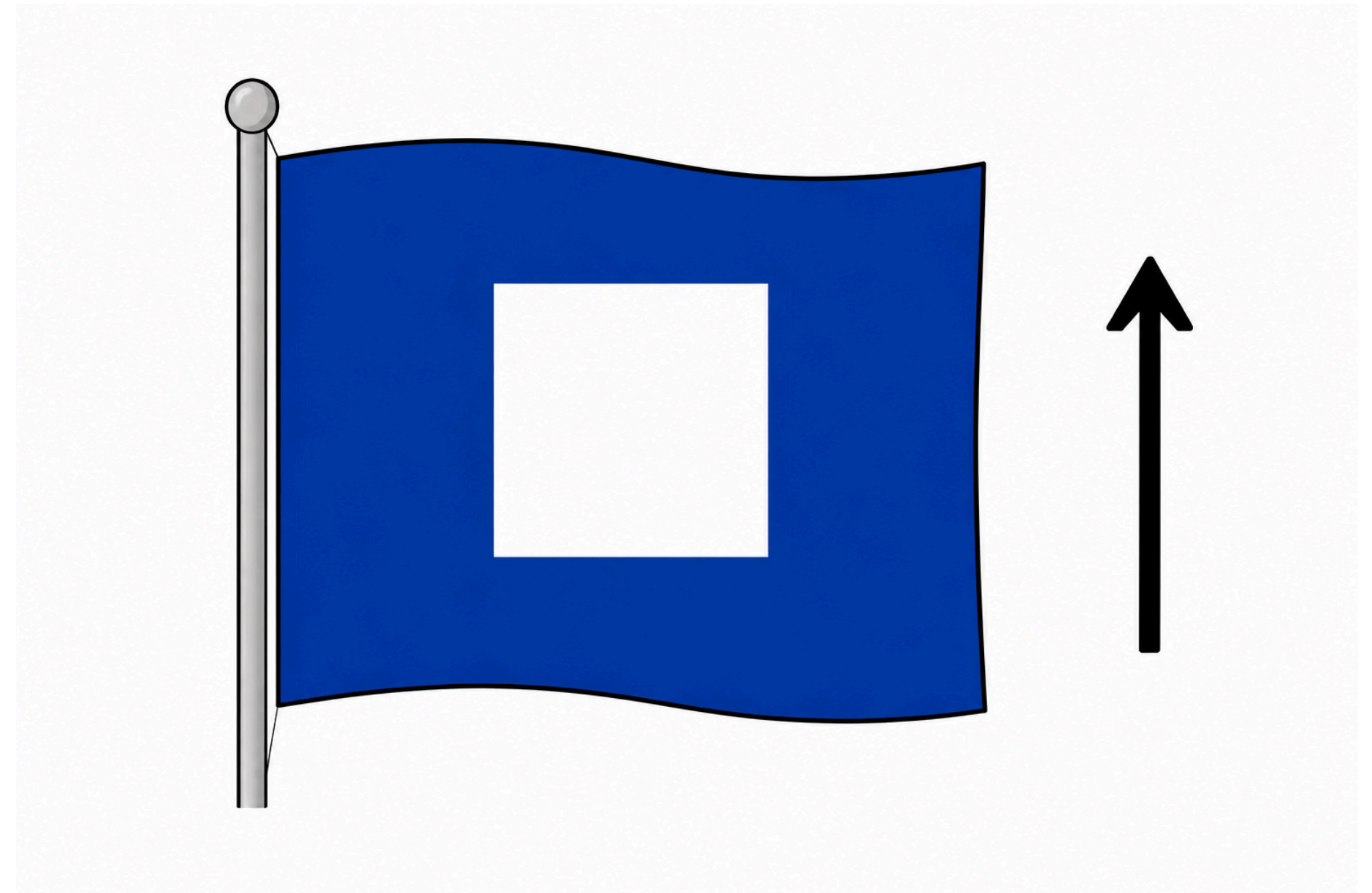
Division 2 sequence begins now



4:00

P Flag UP + 1 Horn Blast
(Preparatory Signal)

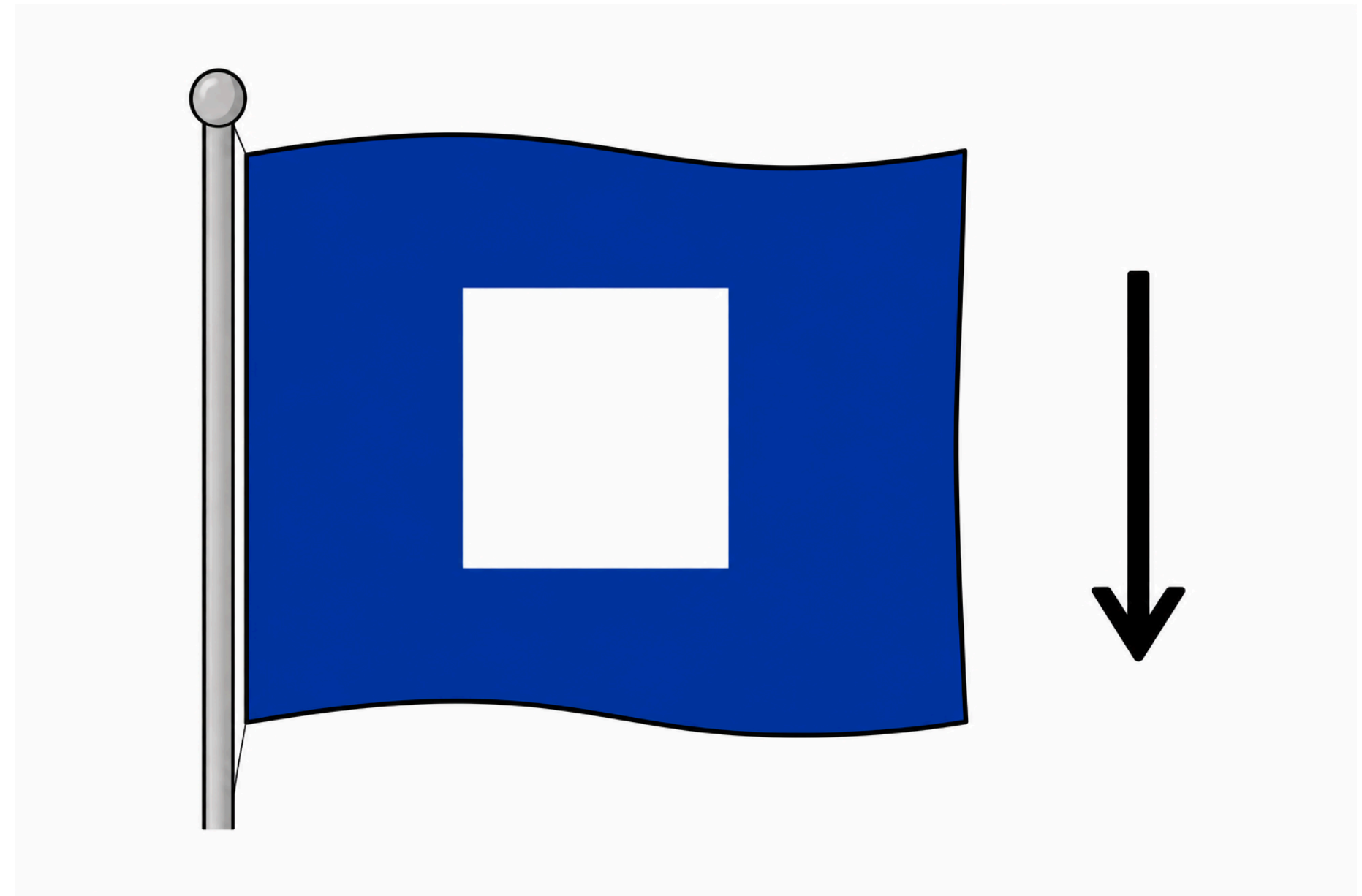
Division 2 Preparatory Signal



1:00

P Flag DOWN + 1 LONG Horn Blast
(One-Minute Signal)

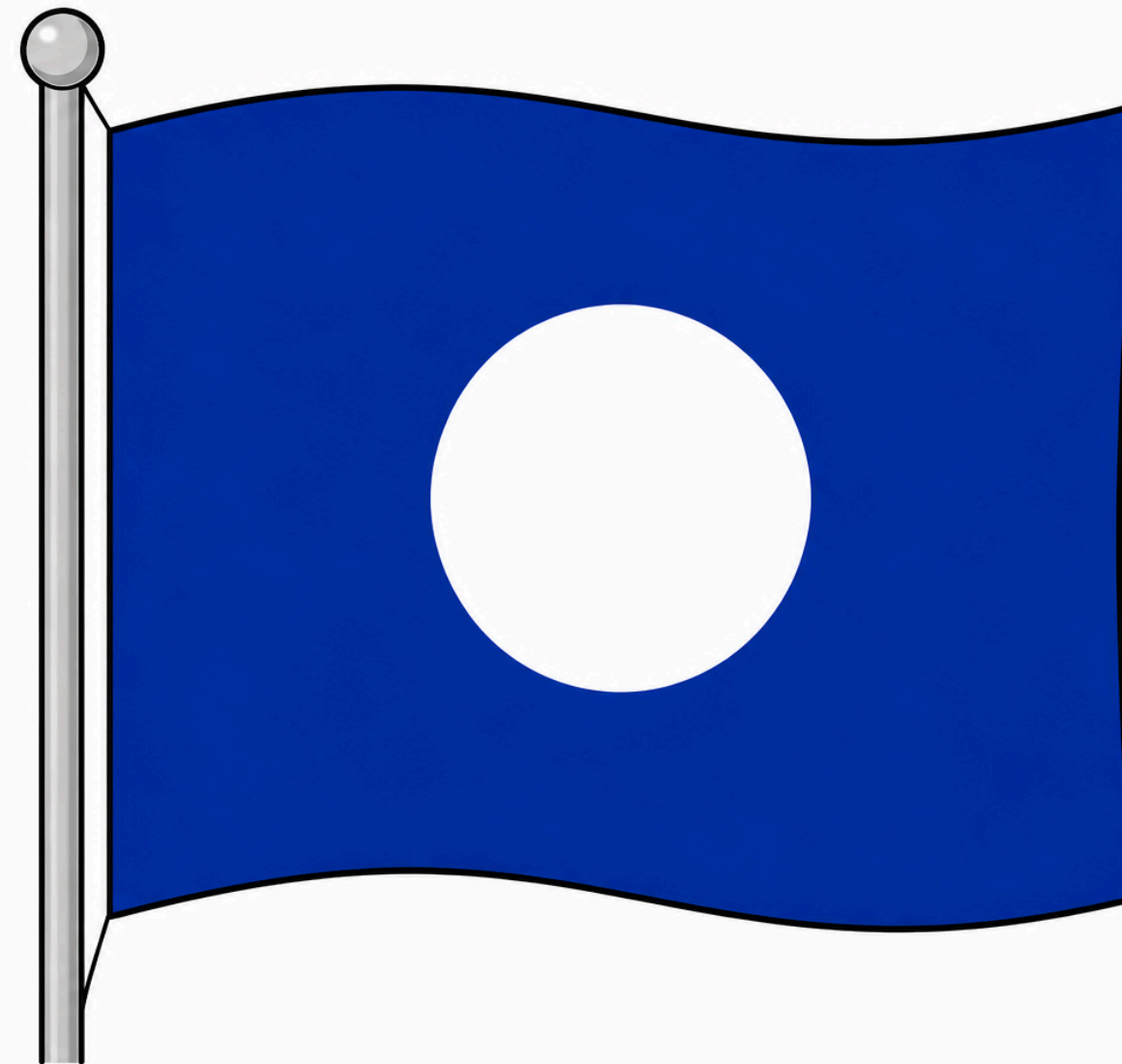
Division 2 one-minute warning
Marine horn icon: LONG blast



Division 2 – 0:00 Start Signal

Division 2 Flag DOWN + 1 Horn Blast (Start Signal)

Marine horn icon signals the official start of Division 2 racing.



Summary & Race Committee Responsibilities

Key Duties:

- Maintain precise timing for all signals
- Display flags clearly and promptly
- Sound the marine horn consistently per signal
- Communicate clearly with race committee team

AP UP + 2 horns = Postpone all races

AP DOWN + 1 horn = Race starting soon (wait 1 min)

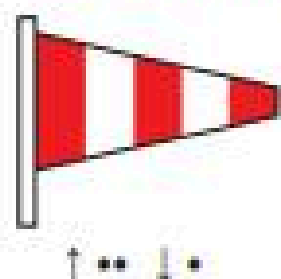
Division 1 & 2 sequences: 5:00 → 4:00 → 1:00 → 0:00



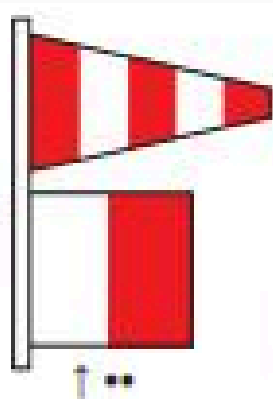
SYLVAN LAKE
– SAILING CLUB –

Race Signals

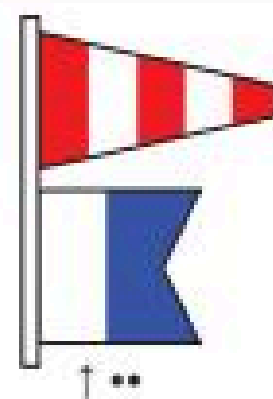
Postponement Signals



AP Races not started are postponed. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is postponed again or abandoned.

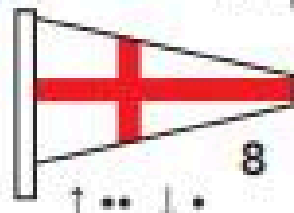
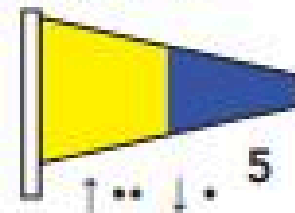
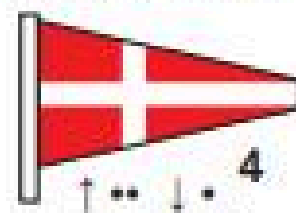
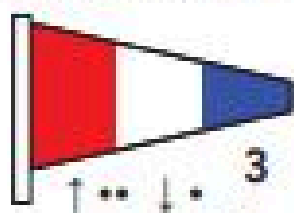
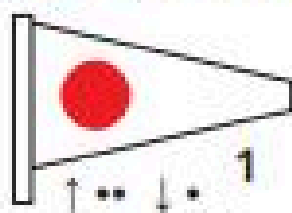


AP over H
Races not started are postponed. Further signals ashore.

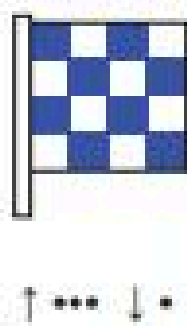


AP over A
Races not started are postponed. No more racing today.

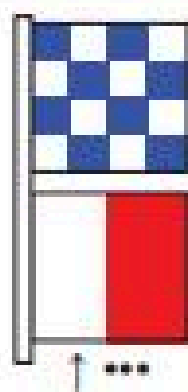
AP over a numeral pennant 1–9 Postponement of 1–9 hours from the scheduled starting time.



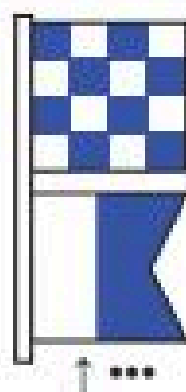
Abandonment Signals



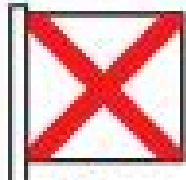
N All races that have started are abandoned. Return to the starting area. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is abandoned again or postponed.



N over H
All races are abandoned. Further signals ashore.

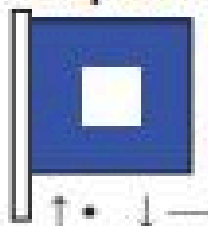


N over A
All races are abandoned. No more racing today.

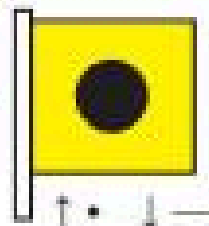


Safety
V Monitor communication channel for safety instructions. (see rule 37)

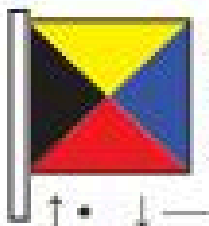
Preparatory Signals



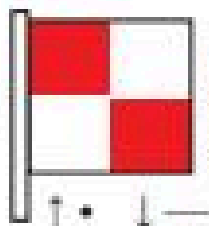
P Preparatory signal.



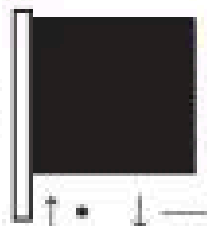
I Rule 30.1 is in effect.



Z Rule 30.2 is in effect.

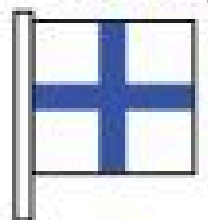


U Rule 30.3 is in effect.



Black flag. Rule 30.4 is in effect.

Recall Signals



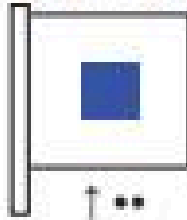
X Individual recall.



First Substitute

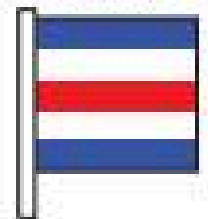
General recall. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal.

Shortened Course

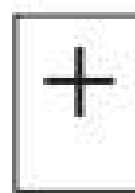
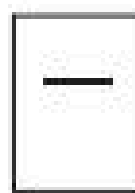
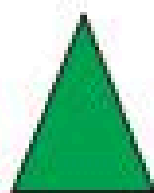


S The course has been shortened. Rule 32.2 is in effect.

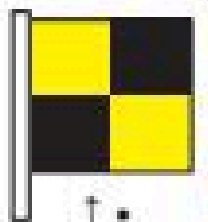
Course Change Signals



C The position of the next mark has been changed:

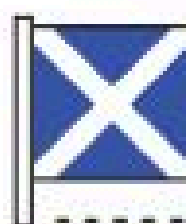


Other Signals

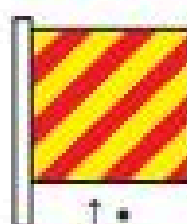


L Ashore: A notice to competitors has been posted.

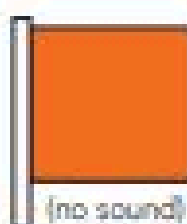
Afloat: Come within hail or follow this vessel.



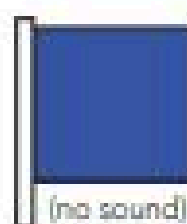
M The object displaying this signal replaces a missing mark.



Y Wear a personal flotation device. (see rule 40).



Orange flag. The staff displaying this flag is one end of the starting line.



Blue flag. The staff displaying this flag is one end of the finishing line.

The meanings of visual and sound signals for 2021-2024 are stated above. An arrow pointing up or down (↑ ↓) means that a visual signal is displayed or removed. A dot (•) means a sound; five short dashes (-----) mean repetitive sounds; a long dash (—) means a long sound. When a visual signal is displayed over a class flag, fleet flag, event flag or race area flag, the signal applies only to that class, fleet, event or race area. © 2021 US Sailing

N FLAG – RACE ABANDONMENT



N FLAG
(NOVEMBER)

MEANING: **RACE ABANDONED**

When the N flag is displayed with **three sound signals**, the race in progress is abandoned.

WHAT IT MEANS:

- The race has been stopped before any boat has finished.
- No boat will be scored (unless a race has been completed and another race will follow).
- Further signals may be displayed ashore.
- Return to the starting area or shore as directed by the Race Committee.

