



2025 Formula Wing Worlds

Question for Officials

Date: 2025-09-26

Question No: 05

Question For: Protest Committee

Question:

Duplicate of Julien Rattoti's protest - same illegal equipment use

In the last few months and year, wingfoiling gear has seen an unprecedented acceleration of equipment size, technology and price. To combat this, you (Wingfoil racing committee) created formula wing events with the EXPRESS PURPOSE of prohibiting non-accessible prototype equipment. Between Wings and Foils, this set of protests we are writing here anonymously expresses the broader community sentiment that those individuals, for whom we will all be launching protests against, are eroding the rules and setting a weak precedent for these events.

Luca Franchi, despite not performing very well, has throughout this event has been using a Zyro Zaoli wing, for which it is registered under the formula wing rules. Yet, the wing remains unavailable to the broader community as it is still under development in racing (such as at this event). Hence, through his sponsorship with Zaoli, he has obtained a wing that is inaccessible for new of riders at this event and more broadly, the international community.

By allowing him to race with this prototype wing, this committee has created an event that explicitly violates class standards and subsequently demonstrates to us the racing community that the committee undermines its own authority and credibility. It suggests a willingness to bend under pressure—whether from athletes, sponsors, or manufacturers—rather than protect the long-term integrity of the sport. Rules in racing are not just guidelines; they are commitments between competitors and organisers that the competition will be fair, transparent, and consistent.

When those rules are bent for convenience, the entire competitive structure is weakened. This sets a dangerous precedent: if the committee is willing to compromise once, what else will they compromise on in the future. We ask that this is looked into with and Julien, Luca and individuals who we see are using prototype or unavailable wings AT THIS CURRENT MOMENT should be penalised with greater force. It degrades the integrity of

the sport and of myself and the other riders who are using our production wings, in reasonable sizes and that are available for consumers to purchase themselves.

For a class that is looking to potentially go olympic, this is frankly a disgrace and should not be tolerated, especially at the very first "formula wing world cup"

We look forward to hearing your response to the broader community

Answer:

Sailing is a self policing sport.

Competitors are governed by a body of rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. If you believe that a fellow competitor has broken a rule, you should protest. The protest procedure, which includes that a protest cannot be anonymous, is described in the rules.

*Response By Marina Psychogyiou Printed at 2025-11-04
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