

**2021 USODA National Championship – July 25-29, 2021  
Norfolk, Virginia**

**Information to Competitors from the Protest Committee**

**1 Protests by the Jury for Incidents on the Water**

1.1 The Jury will not usually protest for a breach of a rule of Part 2 unless they observe an apparent breach of good sportsmanship (RRS 2). Examples of breaches where the Jury will consider protesting, include but are not limited to:

- (a) deliberately or knowingly breaking a rule without justification for exoneration and not taking the appropriate penalty;
- (b) intimidating other boats, often evidenced by unnecessary shouting or foul language directed to other boats;
- (c) team tactics, sailing to benefit another boat to the detriment of your own position;
- (d) sailing that results in, or is likely to result in, damage or injury or gaining a significant advantage.

**2 Outside Help**

2.1 A boat that receives instructions or transfers sailing gear with a support vessel after the preparatory signal breaks RRS 41, even if the transfer starts before the preparatory signal.

2.2 When support boats are prohibited from entering the racing area, a boat not racing that needs to receive help must sail to the support vessel outside the racing area, unless she is unable to do so.

**3 Propulsion**

3.1 The World Sailing RRS 42 Interpretations version is posted at:

<http://www.sailing.org/raceofficials/rule42/index.php>

3.2 In addition to the World Sailing RRS 42 Interpretations, the following points may help you to understand the application of RRS 42:

- (a) Although there are usually two judges in each jury boat, a single judge will signal a yellow flag penalty when satisfied that a boat has broken RRS 42.
- (b) Although judges will signal a RRS 42 penalty as soon as possible, this might be after the boat has crossed the finishing line.

3.3 A competitor may ask the judges for an explanation of a penalty after the completion of the race. It can be done either on or off the water or by asking at the Jury Office to arrange a meeting with the judges.

#### **4 Requests for Redress, Claiming RC Error in Scoring a Boat**

4.1 Competitors sometimes want to question how the race committee has scored them. In that case, they may complete and deliver a scoring enquiry to the race office within time limit of RRS 62.2. The RC may arrange to share their evidence with the competitor before responding to the enquiry. If the competitor is not satisfied with the race committee's answer to the scoring enquiry, the competitor may deliver a request for redress within the time limit of RRS 62.2.

If an event does not provide the scoring inquiry system, competitors may deliver a request for redress within the protest time limit or as soon as reasonably possible after the results have been published.

4.2 In the hearing of such a request for redress, a competitor must provide evidence that the race committee has made an error in scoring a boat. Video evidence or the relative positions of two or more boats scored differently rarely provides evidence that the race committee has made a scoring error. In finding facts, the protest committee will be governed by the weight of evidence. See World Sailing Case 136.

#### **5 Video and Tracking Evidence**

5.1 A party wishing to bring video or tracking evidence to a hearing is responsible for providing the equipment required to view the evidence. Internet connection will not be generally available during a hearing. It should be possible for all parties and the panel to view the evidence at the same time.

5.2 Tracking system information, if available, may be presented, but it usually has limited accuracy. The images produced are enhanced from the actual data as an aid to the viewer. The system may be used to get an indicative position or movements of the boats for visualization, but it is not sufficiently precise to be used for race management purposes or for jury decisions that require exact positioning information.

#### **6 Observers at Hearings**

6.1 Each party may bring one person to observe at a hearing, unless the jury panel decides in a particular case that it is inappropriate. Observers must sign and comply with the requirements in the document titled Information for Observers.

#### **7 Use of Electronic Devices During Hearings**

7.1 The use of electronic devices (e.g. tablets, smartphones, similar devices, etc.) by parties, observers and witnesses to take notes, check rules, cases, etc. is allowed during the hearings, provided the device is not used to record or communicate with other persons. Before the start of a hearing a jury member may check that all these devices are in flight mode and with the WiFi and Bluetooth turned off.

#### **8 RRS 69**

8.1 Any form of cheating, including not telling the truth in a hearing, is a breach of sportsmanship and may result in a hearing under RRS 69.

#### **9 Questions on Jury Procedure and Policy**

9.1 Competitors, team leaders and support persons may submit questions in writing or discuss procedure and policy with the Jury Chairman. He will usually be available by the Jury rooms during protest time or can be contacted through the Jury Office.