

Haitong International 2023 Hong Kong Open Windsurfing Championships

INFORMATION TO COMPETITORS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL JURY

This document does not in any way modify or replace the rules of the competition.

Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions

Please see the documents posted on the class website and the online notice board for information on the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.

WhatsApp group

Information on the event's WhatsApp group is complementary. While race officials will make every effort to communicate information and notifications on the group, it is the responsibility of the competitors to monitor the online notice board.

Outside Help and Support Boat Regulations

RRS 41 applies from a board's preparatory signal until she has finished and cleared the finishing line. (See RRS 41 and the definition Racing). After her preparatory signal, a board that receives instructions or help to change equipment outside the launching area or help from a support person or rescue boat while racing, except when being in danger, breaks RRS 41.

Race committee errors in scoring a board UFD or BFD

Competitors sometimes want to challenge the race committee's decision to score them UFD or BFD. To do so, competitors are advised to lodge a scoring inquiry available online (NoR/SI 24.5). A request for redress may be lodged as soon as reasonable possible after learning of the result of the scoring inquiry. For a board to be given redress, the jury will weigh the evidence, considering that the RC may be sighting the line from a better position, to decide whether the RC has made an error in identifying the board. Even video evidence is rarely conclusive. Evidence of the relative positions of two boards that are scored differently is not conclusive evidence that either board started properly.

Informing the protestee

One of the protest validity requirements is to inform the other party at the first reasonable opportunity by hailing. When the protest involves an incident on the water and the protestee is too far to hear, the protesting board shall inform the protestee at the first reasonable opportunity. (RRS 61.1(a)1) When there is injury or serious damage, the protesting board shall attempt to inform the protestee within the protest time limit (RRS 61.1(a)4).

Protests by the protest committee for incidents while racing

Protest committee members will not normally be on the water but, when possible, will follow the racing from ashore or through drone and camera footage. The protest committee 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 protest committee will consider protesting, include:

- deliberately or knowingly breaking a rule without justification for exoneration and not taking the appropriate penalty;
- intimidating other boards, often evidenced by unnecessary shouting or foul language;
- team tactics, sailing to benefit another board to the detriment of your own position;
- reckless sailing that results in, or is likely to result in, damage or injury.

On the water penalties

When a board breaks a rule, she shall take the appropriate penalty.

- For breaches of rules of Part 2, the appropriate penalty is the 360°-turn penalty (RRS B4.44.1 and 44.2).
- When the board, by her breach, gained a significant advantage, caused injury or serious damage, her penalty shall be to retire. (RRS B4. 44.1)

Recognized principles of sportsmanship

In foiling, contact, other than minor incidents, is likely to cause injury or damage on the equipment. Actions with a high risk of breaking a rule, may be considered violations of the recognized principles of sportsmanship and such breaches are likely to be penalized under RRS 2.

Redress

For a board to be entitled to redress when damage, injury or capsize occur, it needs to be established that what made the board's score significantly worse through no fault of her own was the damage or the injury. If the injury or damage makes her score significantly worse also in subsequent race(s), redress may be considered also for those races.

As Slalom Races are sailed in heats and scored differently than Course Racing / Marathon Racing, calculating average points in different formats does not provide a fair score to all the boards racing. Therefore, if the Jury decides to give redress based on average points, the following policy will apply:

Subject to the condition that the performance of the board which is asking redress was not affected in later races and in accordance with WS Case 116, considering the races in the same discipline, redress is given as average of the day. Otherwise:

Course Races / Marathon:

Average points based on Course Races of that series, without considering Slalom Races, calculated as per RRS A9, subject to WS Case 116 and not worse than the finishing position.

Slalom Races:

Average points based on the Slalom Races of that series, without considering Course / Marathon Races, calculated as per RRS A9, subject to WS Case 116 and not worse than the finishing position.

In any case the Jury may find other arrangements considered to be fairer.

Video and Tracking Evidence

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

Tracking system information, if available, may be presented, but is of 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 of the board for visualization, but it is not sufficiently precise to be used for race management purposes or protest committee decisions that require exact positioning information.

Observers at Hearings

Each party may bring one person to observe at a hearing, unless the protest committee 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".

Medal series

Medal series hearings will be conducted orally on the water, as soon as possible after the end of the protest time. Race officials who have witnessed the incident may give testimony. It is the responsibility of the relevant boards to attend hearings in which they are parties or have been named as witnesses.

Additional to the other validity requirements, to request a hearing in races of the medal series, competitors shall notify the race committee on the finish line while flag B is displayed, except that a board that does not finish shall notify any official boat before the protest time limit.

RRS 69 – Gross Misconduct

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 and a very heavy penalty.

Questions on protest committee procedure and policy

Competitors, team leaders and coaches are welcome to discuss procedures and policies with the protest committee chairperson. The protest committee will usually be available in the jury room or can be contacted through the race office.