

INFORMATION TO COMPETITORS FROM THE PROTEST COMMITTEE

(THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT IN ANY WAY MODIFY OR
REPLACE THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION)

1 On the Water

Sailing is essentially a self-policing sport. The protest committee expect that boats will take a penalty promptly when appropriate. The primary responsibility for protesting breaches of the rules is with the competitors, not the protest committee. However the protest committee may lodge protests in accordance with RRS 60.3.

The protest committee will not usually protest for a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 unless they observe an apparent breach of good sportsmanship (RRS 2). Examples of such breaches are:

- x Deliberately breaking a rule without taking the appropriate penalty. x Failing to take a penalty after knowingly touching a mark, with no justification for exoneration.
- x Intimidating other boats – often evidenced by unnecessary shouting or foul language.
- x Team tactics – sailing to benefit another boat to the detriment of your own position.
- x Reckless sailing – sailing that results in, or is likely to result in, damage or injury.

2 Arbitration

RRS Appendix T is in force for all protests. The Arbitrator will read the hearing request form and, if he thinks Arbitration is suitable, will contact the parties involved, probably via the skipper's WhatsApp, to arrange a 15-minute meeting to discuss validity and if possible give his opinion on whether any boat or boats have broken any rule(s) and what the post-race penalty would be. Boats may request to withdraw their hearing request or agree to accept the recommended post-race penalty. If the protest is not withdrawn or a post-race penalty accepted, a hearing will be called.

3 Outside Help – RRS 41

The act of recovering a crew member from the water by another boat (racing or not) is allowed under rule 41. However, when a boat may have gained a significant advantage as a result of help received, the race or protest committee may protest her under Rule 2. Any penalty is at the discretion of the protest committee. The protest committee will not penalise actions based solely on safety considerations.

4 Requests for Redress, Claiming Race Committee Error in Scoring a Boat OCS.

Boats sometimes want to challenge the race committee's decision to score them OCS by requesting redress under rule 62.1(a). For a boat to be given redress, the competitor must provide conclusive evidence that the race committee has made an error in identifying the boat as OCS. Video evidence is rarely conclusive. In the absence of conclusive evidence to the contrary, the protest committee will uphold the race

committee's decision. Evidence of the relative positions of two boats that are scored differently is not conclusive evidence that either boat started properly.

5 Recording Equipment in Hearings

Recording equipment may not be used in a hearing without the permission of the panel chairman.

6 Video and Tracking Evidence

A party wishing to bring video or tracking evidence to a hearing is responsible for providing the equipment required to view the evidence. It should be possible for all parties and the protest committee to view the evidence at the same time.

Tracking system information available from the event website may be presented where available, but is of limited accuracy. The system can be used to get an indicative position of boats for visualization, but most of the time it is not sufficiently precise to be used for race management purposes or protest committee decisions that require exact positioning information. The tracking information will, therefore, not be considered as conclusive evidence in a hearing of a request for redress on a race committee decision about a boat being scored OCS.

7 Requests for Reopening

It is the intention of the protest committee to hear requests for reopening as soon as possible, especially on the last day of a qualifying or opening series.

8 Observers at Hearings

Each party may bring observers to a hearing, unless the protest committee decides in a particular case that it is inappropriate. Observers sit further back from the parties and unless authorised by the panel chairman, observers are not permitted to speak, communicate with the parties, use cellular phones, or use photographic or recording equipment. Observers leave with the parties while the protest committee is deliberating.

9 Rule 69

Any form of cheating, including not telling the truth in a hearing is considered to be a breach of sportsmanship which may result in a hearing under rule 69 and a very heavy penalty.

10 Questions on Procedure and Policy

The best time to raise questions is at the skippers meeting, but competitors may discuss procedure and policy with the chairman of the protest committee at a suitable time to all parties.

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