

Request for Redress

Protest No: 03

Received At: 2023-05-31 20:17 EDT

1. Event Name: 2023 GNS Séries Interclub Series

Protest On: 2023-05-31

Race No: S2R1

2. Hearing Type

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protest | <input type="checkbox"/> Request to Reopen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protest by RC | <input type="checkbox"/> Reopening by PC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protest by PC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for Redress |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protest by TC | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Redress by RC |

3. Protestor

Kelt 7.6 - Division 3: PHRF 2 and PHRF 3 only White Sail - 485 - L'Istorlet - Mathieu Grainger

4. Protestees

1. Race Committee

5. Incident

Time Place: Thursday, May 25th 2023

Rules: DNF issued to all boats in division start

Witnesses: Frank Ferrara, Jean-Luc Taschereau, John Mcleod + crew.

6. Informing Protestee

- Hail:**
Hail When:
Hail Comment:
- Red Flag:**
Red Flag Comment
- Other:**
Other Comment:

7. Description Of Incident

Good evening.

Via the following, I wish to request a redress of the DNF status for boats, 1477, 788, 485, 250 during race S2R1.

After questioning the race committee about the DNF status for all boats in our division start, I was given the following answer from Milan Absi:

*Hello, this is the Principal Race Officer, Milan Absi. The 5 boats that we scored DNF were for the simple reason that **a boat shall not come back by the finish line**, even after his time is scored as a finish. The **boat must go around the pin or the RC boat to go back home**. This is mostly because it could interfere with us and with other boats racing. Source in the RRRS: Rule 28.1, which states: "A boat that finishes shall not thereafter sail back through the finish line." Thank you for your understanding.*

The reason given by the Principal Race officer references RRRS Rule 28.1, however, Rule 28.1 makes no reference to "Sailing back through the finish line", nor any reference to rounding the pin or the RC boat.

RRRS Rule 28.1 simply states:

28.1.

A boat shall *start, sail the course* and then *finish*. While doing so, she may leave on either side a *mark* that does not begin, bound or end the leg she is sailing. After *finishing* she need not cross the finishing line completely.

As there is no mention of sailing back across the line, nor the need to round the pin or committee boat, I asked that the decision be reversed and that the 4 boats in the class be scored appropriately.

When I originally challenged the Principal Race Officer to this original response, I was given a second reason by email:

The Answer is:

Please review "Definition of Finish" @ <https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/definitions>

(c) continues to sail the course.

In this case, going back thru the line means you are not done sailing your course.

You can submit a protest if you are not in agreement.

Thank you for your understanding,

Milan

In response to this, I would like discuss the very basis of this final reason given and explore what constitutes "Sailing the course"

As per the RRRS Definition:

Sail the Course

A boat *sails the course* provided that a string representing her track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its prestart side to *start* until she *finishes*, when drawn taut, (a) passes each *mark* of the course for the race on the required side and in the correct order, (b) touches each *mark* designated in the sailing instructions to be a rounding *mark*, and (c) passes between the *marks* of a gate from the direction of the course from the previous *mark*.

As mentioned in my previous communications, I would disagree that when we returned across the line we were "Sailing the Course", as in fact, there was no course to sail.

As all 4 boats rounded the windward Mark, the Mark boat hailed the RC on the race channel and asked if they could remove the windward marks. The RC boat acknowledged, the Mark boat announced their intentions on the radio signalling that they would proceed to remove the Marks and the Marks were lifted from the water. As there were no Marks in the water by the time we crossed the finish line, I consider that there was in actual fact, no course to sail.

As previously stated, being a close knit group of sailors, we respectfully waited for all boats to cross the line (confirmed by 4 audible signals from the RC boat) and then regrouped to safely return to our club. Our passage through the Start/Finish line at this point in the evening was done after the end of the final race of the evening and as such, did not in my opinion, contravene any of the Racing Rules stated in the Principal Race Officers responses.

According to the RRRS, I am able to request a redress for all boats that have been affected by this decision, and as I have consulted with the 4 Skippers who fully agree with my various arguments, I officially request that boats number 1477, 788, 485, 250 be scored and awarded the appropriate points for race S2R1.

Respectfully,

Mathieu Grainger

8. Damage Or Injury

Attachments

Protest No: 03 Printed: 31 May 20:17
RacingRulesOfSailing.org