

Protest Committee

Information to Competitors 2023

1 Protests by the Protest Committee for Incidents on the Water

1.1 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).

1.2 Examples of breaches where the Protest Committee will consider protesting, include but are not limited to:

- (a) deliberately or knowingly breaking a rule without being exonerated 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 vessels 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:

<https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/racing-rules-of-sailing/>

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 or by using the [racingrulesofsailing.org](https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/racing-rules-of-sailing/) app within time limit of RRS 62.2.

4.2 The RC may arrange to share their evidence with the competitor before responding to the enquiry.

4.3 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.

4.4 In the event that the scoring inquiry system 'fails', competitors may deliver a request for redress within the protest time limit or as soon as reasonably possible after the results have been published.

4.5 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. Requests for redress in respect of OCS, UFD, BFD

5.1 The onus is on the competitor to demonstrate that there was an improper action or omission by the Race Committee.

6. Protests for breaches of SI 12.3 [NP][DP]

6.1 In the event of a protest, the onus is on the competitor to demonstrate that there was an improper action or omission by the Race Committee.

7 Video and Tracking Evidence

7.1 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.

7.2 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 visualisation, but it is not sufficiently precise to be used for race management purposes or for jury decisions that require exact positioning information.

8 Observers at Hearings

8.1 Observers are encouraged at hearings, however a witness that may be called by a party cannot be an observer.

9 Use of Electronic Devices During Hearings

9.1 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 there may be a check that all these devices are in flight mode and with the WiFi and Bluetooth turned off.

10 RRS 69

10.1 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.

11 Questions on Protest Committee Procedure and Policy

11.1 Competitors, team leaders and support persons may submit questions in writing via the racingrulesofsailing.org app or discuss procedure and policy with the Protest Committee Chairman. He or his representative will usually be available during protest time or can be contacted through the Race Office.