



## INFORMATION FROM THE PROTEST COMMITTEE TO COMPETITORS

*This notice does not modify or replace the rules of the competition or the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*

### 1. On the Water

Sailing is essentially a self-policing sport. The Protest Committee (PC) expects that boats will take a penalty promptly when appropriate. The primary responsibility for protesting breaches of the rules is with the competitors, not the PC. However, the PC may lodge protests in under RRS 60.3. The PC will be on the water in boats clearly identified with "Jury" flags.

The PC will protest breaches of a rule of Part 2 where the breach is difficult for other competitors to protest or where the PC observes an apparent breach of good sportsmanship (RRS 2). Examples of such breaches are;

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

### 2. Observers at hearings

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

### 3. Arbitration

Arbitration, as detailed in Appendix T of the *Racing Rules of Sailing*, is available for appropriate protests under a rule of Part 2 (when boats meet). This is a quicker and less contentious means of resolving rules disputes. Arbitration carries a maximum penalty of a 30% scoring penalty. All protests not resolved by arbitration will go to a full PC hearing, where the potential penalty is disqualification.

### 4. Requirements to Protest

Competitors are reminded of the requirements for protest validity in rule 61. In order to comply with rule 61.1(a) it is essential that the protestee is informed of the intention to protest. If it is not possible to inform the protested boat by hailing on the water, this must be done as soon as reasonably possible, which may be upon arriving ashore. Where multiple boats are to be protested for the same incident, it is required that each is informed of the intention to protest.

Protests must be lodged as soon as possible after the incident. This also applies to protests regarding breaches of sailing instructions, class rules, etc. For example, if it is discovered that a boat has broken a class rule on the first day of the regatta, a protest lodged on the last day will likely be invalid.

## 5. Requests for Redress, Claiming RC Error in Scoring a Boat OCS, ZFP, UFD or BFD

Boats sometimes want to challenge the race committee's decision to score them OCS, UFD or BFD by requesting redress under RRS 62.1(a).

Competitors are advised to consult the Race Officer prior to a hearing, to learn the race committee's evidence that the boat was OCS, UFD or BFD. Evidence beyond a video or the relative positions of two boats that are scored differently is usually needed for the PC to find that the race committee made an error in scoring the boat OCS, UFD or BFD and to award redress.

## 6. Misconduct (RRS 69)

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. Other examples of behaviour that would justify action under RRS 69 include:

- Bullying, intimidation or discriminatory behaviour.
- Fighting and assaults.
- Theft, or damage or abuse of property.
- Abuse of any participant or official.
- Using foul or abusive language offending, or inappropriate to the occasion/location.
- Intentional refusal to comply with OA, RC or PC requirements or requests.

## 7. Video Evidence

If a party to a hearing wish to bring video evidence, it is their responsibility to provide adequate equipment to view the video.

## 8. Failure to attend a hearing

Competitors should be aware that the PC may proceed with a hearing [under RRS 63.3(b)] in the absence of one of the parties. This will not be grounds for reopening unless the PC is satisfied that the competitor had made every reasonable effort to find out the time of the hearing and to attend.

It is the responsibility of the competitors to monitor the official notice board until all hearings are concluded for the day.

## 9. Protest Committee Members

The members of the protest committee are:

|           |                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Chairman  | Emmet Dalton (NJ-IRL)          |
| PC Member | Cxema Pico (IJ- IRL)           |
| PC Member | Derek Moynan (NJ- IRL)         |
| PC Member | Ulli Scheu (NJ-SUI)            |
| PC Member | Sarah-Louise Rossiter (LJ-IRL) |

Competitors may discuss procedure and policy with the PC Chairman. The Chairman may be contacted through the via the Race Officer and will be available each day before and after sailing.

Emmet Dalton  
Protest Committee Chairman