

Protests by the Protest Committee for Incidents Between Boats on the Water

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 but are not limited to:

- deliberately or knowingly breaking a rule without being exonerated and not taking the appropriate penalty;
- intimidating other boats, often evidenced by unnecessary shouting or foul language directed toward other boats;
- team tactics, sailing to benefit another boat to the detriment of your own position;
- sailing that results in, or is likely to result in, damage or injury or gaining a significant advantage.

Outside Help

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.

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.

Propulsion

The current version of World Sailing Interpretations of Rule 42, Propulsion, can be found in the Online Documents section of the Racing Rules of Sailing page of the World Sailing website at: <https://www.sailing.org/racingrules/>

In addition to the World Sailing Interpretations of Rule 42, Propulsion, the following points may help you to understand the application of RRS 42.

- Although there are usually two judges in each protest committee vessel, a single judge will signal a yellow flag penalty when satisfied that a boat has broken RRS 42.
- Although judges will signal a RRS 42 penalty as soon as possible, this might be after the boat has crossed the finishing line.

A competitor may ask the judges for an explanation of a penalty after the completion of the race. It can be done either on or off the water or by asking at the protest committee office to arrange a brief meeting with the judges involved.

Requests for Redress Claiming an Error by the Race Committee When Scoring a Boat

Competitors sometimes want to question how the race committee has scored them.

The event rules may describe a method and time limit for delivering a scoring inquiry to the race committee. If so, a boat making such an inquiry may follow those rules.

INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS AND SUPPORT PERSONS

The race committee may arrange to share its evidence with the competitor before responding to the inquiry.

If the competitor is not satisfied with the race committee's answer to the scoring inquiry, the competitor may deliver a request for redress within the relevant time limit of RRS 61.2.

If the event rules do not describe a method and time limit for making a scoring inquiry, then a boat may deliver a request for redress.

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 boats scored differently rarely provides evidence that the race committee has made a scoring error. See RRS 63.5 and World Sailing Case 136 for further information.

Photo, Video, or Tracking Evidence

A party wishing to bring photo, video, or tracking evidence to a hearing is responsible for providing the equipment required to view the evidence. Internet connection may 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.

Publicly available 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 visualization, but it is usually not sufficiently precise to be used for race management purposes or for hearing panel decisions that require exact positioning information.

Observers at Hearings

Each party may bring one person to observe at a hearing, unless the hearing panel decides in a particular case that it is inappropriate (e.g., for reasons of confidentiality, etc.) or impractical (e.g., the hearing room is not large enough, etc.). Observers must sign and comply with the requirements in the document titled *Information for Observers*.

Use of Electronic Devices During Hearings

The use of electronic devices (e.g., tablets, smartphones, similar devices, etc.) by parties, observers and witnesses to take notes, check rules, cases, etc. may be allowed during the hearings, provided the device is not used to record or communicate with other persons. Before the start of a hearing a member of the hearing panel may check that all these devices are in flight mode with the cellular, WiFi, and Bluetooth radios turned off.

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.

Questions on Protest Committee Procedure and Policy

Competitors and support persons may submit questions in writing or discuss procedure and policy with the protest committee chair. The chair will usually be available near the protest committee rooms during protest time or can be contacted through the race or protest committee offices.