

RRS 42 - GUIDE - Star

March 2022

INTRODUCTION

This document ranks as a guide for judges and competitors. Official interpretations of RRS 42 are published in World Sailing RRS 42 Interpretations and these are referred to in this guide.

PRINCIPLE

The judges will give competitors the benefit of the doubt, however, when they are sure a competitor is breaking RRS 42 they will act to protect the competitors that are complying with the rule.

STAR CLASS RULES AFFECTING RRS 42

None

Class Specific Techniques and Breaches:

Irregular construction of the hull and lack of centreboard makes the Star fall easily into background rolling. Despite its weight, the Star is a very sensitive boat so even gentle movements of the body have an immediate effect on its behaviour, especially in light wind and on downwind courses. Very often the crew stands next to the mast and as a result moves the centre of gravity up which increases the amplitude of rolling. This in turn makes it difficult for a judge to know when the rolling of the boat is a result of background rolling and when the competitors initiate it.

STARTS and UPWIND

Hardly any issues. Nevertheless, understanding the behaviour of the boat on the beat can be helpful to distinguish prohibited actions from legal movements:

Light air:

Extra attention should be paid to boats who tacked below the starboard layline as body pumping by the crew can occur at the top mark when trying to fetch the mark;

Sculling is very rarely an issue but may be the case at the start when a boat is trapped at one of the starting line ends or at the top mark when the boat is below the layline and in the presence of the current.

Tacking technique:

Sailing a Star on the beat requires the crew to be hiking out on the toes. As the crew is normally heavier than the helm, coming back to the cockpit from hiking position in order to tack and getting back to the hiking position after the tack, involves an extra effort to move a muscle mass. If this action results in the flick on the leech, it should be considered as the part of the normal manoeuvre of tacking.

DOWNWIND

Pumping

Permitted actions:

- Trimming a sail to trim the boat in the prevailing conditions – PUMP 2
- Pumping a sail once per wave or gust of wind to initiate surfing or planing but to qualify as surfing the boat must rapidly accelerate down the front of the wave – 42.3(c)

Prohibited actions:

- Trimming a sail to fan it – PUMP 1
- Pumping a sail when already surfing or planing – PUMP 12

Gathering evidence:

- Are there surfing or planing conditions?
- Does one pump per wave or gust of wind initiate surfing or planing?
- Is the boat pumping while already surfing or planing?
- Could the trim and release be a response to wind shifts, gusts or waves?
- Is the repeated trim and release fanning the sail?

Rocking

Helmsmen sometimes combine pumping and rolling by leaning their body backwards while making a legal pump. One movement is enough to induce repeated rolling. The exception in RRS 42.3(c) refers to one pump per wave or gust of wind and at no time includes one roll per wave or gust of wind.

Permitted actions:

- Adopting static crew position when the boat's stability is reduced – ROCK 4
- Heeling the boat to leeward to facilitate heading up and heeling the boat to windward to facilitate bearing away if it is done in phase with the waves.

Prohibited actions:

- Single body movement followed by repeated rolling especially after inducing a roll to windward and before the roll is completed moving the body inward to counteract against it – ROCK 5
- After adopting the static crew position, inducing rolling the boat by the crew's knees' movement or other subtle movements
- Leaning the body backwards and inducing rocking while making a legal pump

Gathering evidence:

- Is the competitor causing the boat to roll?
- Is the rolling repeated?
- Does a single body movement result in repeated rolling of the boat?

Ooching

In conditions with waves, the crew position themselves as far forward as possible and set the rig as far forward as possible to lift the stern out of the water and initiate planing. When the Star is surfing, it quickly overtakes waves and then it is necessary for the crew to move backwards fast to avoid diving the bow. The best position to judge ooching is from the side as it is then easier to identify whether the body is stopped forward abruptly or is it linked to the waves.

Permitted actions:

- In conditions with waves, sliding forwards and backwards in phase with the waves – OOOCH 1

Prohibited actions:

- Sliding forward on a deck and stopping the body abruptly – 42.2(c)

Gathering evidence:

- Is the movement of the body in phase with the waves?
- Is the movement of the body forward stopped abruptly?

Roll gybing

Prohibited action:

- After a gybe is completed, delaying righting the boat and then forcefully flattening it and clearly propelling the boat – BASIC 4
- Repeated gybes that are not related to changes in the wind or to tactical considerations – 42.2(e)

Gathering evidence:

- Does the crew delay righting the boat after the gybe is completed?
- Does the crew righten the boat by using forceful body movement?
- Does the manoeuvre clearly propel the boat?

TIPS FOR COMPETITORS

Ask questions.

If you are not sure about a technique, ask in writing for a clarification so that other competitors can also benefit from the answer.

If you get a yellow flag penalty, ask the judges for an explanation of what you can and can't do.

Remember, the more important the event, the higher the ratio of judges to competitors, so your sailing technique will be under scrutiny when it really matters.