

Racing Rules of Sailing

RRS 60.4

A submission from the Italian Sailing Federation

Purpose or Objective

To create a more transparent environment around measurement protests.

Proposal 1

Please note that Proposal 1 and Proposal 2 are mutually exclusive

Change RRS 60.4(a) as follows (new text in bold):

“A technical committee may

- (a) protest a boat, but not as a result of information arising from a request for redress or an invalid protest, or from a report from a person with a conflict of interest other than the representative of the boat herself. However, it shall protest a boat if it decides that a boat or personal equipment does not comply with the class rules or with rule 50; **if the information that led to the protest originated from a person with a conflict of interest other than the representative of the boat herself, the technical committee shall disclose its source.**”

Current Position

When an interested party reports a class breach to the technical committee and they decide that that boat does not comply with the class rules or with rule 50, they shall protest that boat and they are not required to disclose the original reporter.

Reasons

Competitors are entitled to protest each other when they think that someone is not complying with a class rule; however, by the way the rule is structured at the moment, competitors can report the information directly (or indirectly) to the technical committee and if they verify the breach they are required to protest, but not to disclose their source. In doing so, the protestee is not entitled to face the person presenting the original allegation and the entire process is hence opaque and easily abused.

By requiring the technical committee to disclose its sources, this problem will be mitigated and the entire procedure will be open and transparent to all the parties involved.

Proposal 2

Please note that Proposal 1 and Proposal 2 are mutually exclusive

Change RRS 60.4(a) as follows (new text in bold, deleted text is stroke-through):

“A technical committee may

- (a) protest a boat, but not as a result of information arising from a request for redress or an invalid protest, or from a report from a person with a conflict of interest other than the representative of the boat herself. However, it shall protest a boat if it decides that a boat or personal

equipment does not comply with the class rules or with rule 50, **provided that the information that led to the protest did not originate from a person with a conflict of interest other than the representative of the boat herself.**“

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

As above.

However, by preventing the technical committee from protesting when the information is coming from an interested party, competitors will be encouraged to protest themselves even more, thus complying with the basic principles of “Sportsmanship and the rules”.

There could be some concerns regarding the fact that some competitors might abuse this rule to purposely refer something to the technical committee for the sole reason of preventing it from protesting a breach committed by another boat. However, the judges manual could be then updated to encourage protest committees to initiate a rule 69 investigation whenever such a situation were to happen and the technical committee was to suspect that the purpose of the reporter was just to protect another competitor from a protest.