

World Sailing Regulations and Racing Rules of Sailing

Regulation 25.8.13 – RRS J1.1(7) – RRS N 1.10

A submission from the Race Officials Committee

Purpose or Objective

To regulate off-site protest committees and juries in order to offer sailors a fair and transparent procedure in case of a hearing and when judging rule 42.

These proposals are independent of each other.

Proposal 1

Add new rule J1.1(7):

J1.1(7) the number and percentage of protest committee members that will be off-site and connected remotely during the event, if any.”

Current Position

There is no such requirement at the moment.

Reasons

1. Sailors entering an event should be entitled to know the level of service they will receive, and whether the protest committee members will be physically present at the event or connected remotely.
2. By including “during the event” in this requirement, it only applies to events where the protest committee members are expected to be off-site during the racing days, while still allowing to hold online hearings that could happen before the event (e.g., regarding eligibility) or after the event without specifying anything on the Notice of Race.
3. Please note that since the text is generically referring to “protest committees”, it will also apply to international juries.

Proposal 2

Change Regulation 25.8.13 with the following text:

- 25.8.13 Under RRS N1.7, World Sailing may in limited circumstances authorise an international jury consisting of a total of only three members **or where some or all of its members are off-site during the event.** An event organizing authority may apply to World Sailing for such an authorization. World Sailing shall consider the following factors:
- (a) whether the relevant Member National Authority has given its written approval;
 - (b) the number of hearings there have been at previous events;
 - (c) the type of boat and the event requirements for on-the-water activity;
 - (d) the qualifications, experience and nationality of the proposed members of the international jury;
 - (e) whether World Sailing has given authorization previously;
 - (f) whether the event is spread over a vast geographical area or not; and**
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(g) the technical equipment that the organizing authority will provide to work with online hearings;

~~(f)~~**(h)** any other information World Sailing considers relevant.

The decision in respect of authorization shall be determined jointly by the Chairman of the Race Officials Committee, ~~the~~ **and** the Chairman of the International Judge Subcommittee ~~and the Chief Executive Officer~~. World Sailing may impose conditions on any authorization.

Current Position

As Above.

Reasons

1. Regulating the usage of off-site Juries, competitors will benefit from the physical presence of the Jury members on site, rather than discussing Part 2 cases online. Unfortunately, there have been cases where the foreign members of the Jury were all remotely connected, while only the local members were on site and afloat judging rule 42, this diminishing significantly the perceived impartiality of the Jury institution itself.
2. As in Proposal 1, by including “during the event” in this requirement, it only applies to events where the protest committee members are expected to be off-site during the racing part, while still allowing to deal online with hearings that could happen before the event (e.g., regarding eligibility) or after the event without any special permission.
3. Furthermore, by removing the requirement of the Chief Executive Officer authorization, the procedure should not impose an extra workload on World Sailing staff, while leaving the technical part of it in charge of assessing the request. As for the categorization procedure, in most of the cases the approval could be automated using an on-line questionnaire.

Proposal 3

Add new rule N1.10 with the following text:

N1.10 World Sailing may in limited circumstances (see World Sailing Regulation 25.8.13) authorize an international jury where some or all of its members are off-site during the event. The authorization shall be stated in a letter of approval to the organizing authority and in the notice of race or sailing instructions, and the letter shall be posted on the official notice board.

Current Position

There is no such requirement at the moment.

Reasons

See proposal 2.
