

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 60.3(b) – Urgent Change

A submission from the German Sailing Federation

Purpose or Objective

To correct a possibly unintended consequence

Proposal 1:

60.3 Delivering a Protest

- (b) A *protest* shall be delivered to the race office (or by such other method as stated in the sailing instructions) within the protest time limit unless the protest committee decides there is good reason to extend the time. The protest time limit is
- (1) for *protests* about an incident observed in the racing area, **either the time limit stated in the sailing instructions or - if none is stated -** two hours after the last boat in the race *finishes*, or
 - (2) for other *protests*, two hours after the relevant information is available to the protestor.

~~However, if the sailing instructions state a different protest time limit, then that time limit applies instead.~~

Proposal 2:

60.3 Delivering a Protest

- (b) A *protest* shall be delivered to the race office (or by such other method as stated in the sailing instructions) within the protest time limit unless the protest committee decides there is good reason to extend the time. The protest time limit is
- (1) for *protests* about an incident observed in the racing area, two hours after the last boat in the race *finishes*, or
 - (2) for other *protests*, two hours after the relevant information is available to the protestor.

However, if the sailing instructions state a different protest time limit **for incidents observed in the racing area**, then that time limit applies instead.

Current Position:

As above.

Proposal 3:

If approved, Proposal 1 or 2 shall take effect as an urgent rule change on 1 January 2025.

Current Position 3:

Any rule change will normally take effect on 1 January 2029.

Reason

1. The new rule 60.3(b), includes both types of protests ('about incidents observed in the racing area' and 'other protests' in the protest time limit stated in the sailing instructions if this does not specifically refer to either of them. This might lead to undesired outcomes because it is usually not appropriate to link 'other protests' like breaches of class rules noticed during equipment inspections to a protest time limit that is related to the finishing time of boats.
 2. This seems unintended as the sailing instructions currently usually only refer to a protest time limit for protests about an incident observed in the racing area (see current rule 61.3, first and second sentence) and not change of rule 61.3 to include 'other protests' (last sentence of the current rule 61.3) in the protest time limit stated in the sailing instructions.
 3. Therefore, this new specialty of rule 60.3(b) does not only make sailing instructions more complicated because an additional reference has to be added to the description of the protest time limit, but it is also to be expected that this detail will be missed by most organizers at a level which is below Olympic sailing.
 4. Proposals 1 and 2 try to solve this problem. Please note that the two proposals mutually exclude each other.
 5. If Proposal 1 or 2 is approved, it is proposed that the Racing Rules Committee should approve this as an urgent rule change from 1 January 2025 by a 75% majority (and the Board will be requested to consent as well as per the Regulations).
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