

**RRS | Fundamental rules [racingrulesofsailing.org](http://racingrulesofsailing.org)**  
According to the 7. **The Courses** of the Sailing Instructions  
**Appendix A**

#### **A1. NUMBER OF RACES**

The number of races scheduled and the number required to be completed to constitute a series shall be stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions.

#### **A2. SERIES SCORES**

**A2.1** Each boat's series score shall, subject to rule **90.3(b)**, be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. However, the notice of race or sailing instructions may make a different arrangement by providing, for example, that no score will be excluded, that two or more scores will be excluded, or that a specified number of scores will be excluded if a specified number of races are completed. A race is completed if scored; see rule **90.3(a)**. If a boat has two or more equal worst scores, the score(s) for the race(s) sailed earliest in the series shall be excluded. The boat with the lowest series score wins and others shall be ranked accordingly.

**A2.2** If a boat has entered any race in a series, she shall be scored for the whole series.

#### **A3. STARTING TIMES AND FINISHING PLACES**

The time of a boat's starting signal shall be her starting time, and the order in which boats *finish* a race shall determine their finishing places. However, when a handicap or rating system is used a boat's corrected time shall determine her finishing place.

#### **A4. SCORING SYSTEM**

*This Low Point System will apply unless the sailing instructions specify another system; see rule **90.3(a)**.*

Each boat *starting* and *finishing* and not thereafter retiring, being penalized or given redress shall be scored points as follows:

#### **Finishing place**      **Points**

First	1
Second	2
Third	3
Fourth	4
Fifth	5
Sixth	6
Seventh	7

Each place thereafter Add 1 point

#### **A5. SCORES DETERMINED BY THE RACE COMMITTEE**

**A5.1** A boat that did not *start*, *sail the course* or *finish* or comply with rule **30.2**, **30.3**, **30.4** or **78.2**, or that retires or takes a penalty under rule **44.3** (a), shall be scored accordingly by the race committee without a hearing. Only the protest committee may take other scoring actions that worsen a boat's score.

**A5.2** A boat that *did not start*, *did not sail the course*, *did not finish*, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series. A boat that is penalized under rule **30.2** or that takes a penalty under rule **44.3(a)** shall be scored points as provided in rule **44.3(c)**.

**A5.3** If the notice of race or sailing instructions state that rule **A5.3** will apply, rule **A5.2** is changed so that, a boat that came to the starting area but did not *start*, did not *sail the course*, did not *finish*, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that came to the starting area, and a boat that did not come to the starting area shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series.

#### **A6. CHANGES IN PLACES AND SCORES OF OTHER BOATS**

**A6.1** If a boat is disqualified from a race or retires after *finishing*, each boat with a worse finishing place shall be moved up one place.

**A6.2** If the protest committee decides to give redress by adjusting a boat's score, the scores of other boats shall not be changed unless the protest committee decides otherwise.

**RACING RULES  
OF SAILING**

## **A7. RACE TIES**

If boats are tied at the finishing line or if a handicap or rating system is used and boats have equal corrected times, the points for the place for which the boats have tied and for the place(s) immediately below shall be added together and divided equally. Boats tied for a race prize shall share it or be given equal prizes.

## **A8. SERIES TIES**

**A8.1** If there is a series-score tie between two or more boats, each boat's race scores shall be listed in order of best to worst, and at the first point(s) where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favour of the boat(s) with the best score(s). No excluded scores shall be used.

**A8.2** If a tie remains between two or more boats, they shall be ranked in order of their scores in the last race. Any remaining ties shall be broken by using the tied boats' scores in the next-to-last race and so on until all ties are broken. These scores shall be used even if some of them are excluded scores.

## **A9. GUIDANCE ON REDRESS**

If the protest committee decides to give redress by adjusting a boat's score for a race, it is advised to consider scoring her

- a. points equal to the average, to the nearest tenth of a point (0.05 to be rounded upward), of her points in all the races in the series except the race in question;
- b. points equal to the average, to the nearest tenth of a point (0.05 to be rounded upward), of her points in all the races before the race in question; or
- c. points based on the position of the boat in the race at the time of the incident that justified redress.

## **A10. SCORING ABBREVIATIONS**

These scoring abbreviations shall be used for recording the circumstances described:

**DNC** Did not *start*, did not come to the starting area

**DNS** Did not *start* (other than DNC and OCS)

**OCS** Did not *start*; on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and failed to *start*, or broke rule **30.1**

**ZFP** 20% penalty under rule **30.2** UFD Disqualification under rule **30.3**

**BFD** Disqualification under rule **30.4**

**SCP** Took a Scoring Penalty under rule **44.3(a)**

**NSC** Did not *sail the course*

**DNF** Did not *finish*

**RET** Retired

**DSQ** Disqualification

**DNE** Disqualification (other than DGM) not excludable under rule **90.3(b)**

**DGM** Disqualification for gross misconduct not excludable under **90.3(b)**

**RDG** Redress given DPI Discretionary penalty imposed

**DPI** Discretionary penalty imposed

**According to the 9. Penalty System of the Sailing Instructions**

## **44.1 TAKING A PENALTY**

A boat may take a Two-Turns Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of **Part 2** in an incident *while racing*.



## **RACING RULES OF SAILING**

## PART 2. WHEN BOATS MEET

The rules of Part 2 apply between boats that are sailing in or near the racing area and **intend to race, are racing, or have been racing.**

She may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken rule **31**.

### 31. TOUCHING A MARK

While racing, a boat **shall not touch a starting mark before starting**, a mark that begins, bounds or ends the leg of the course on which she is sailing, or a **finishing mark after finishing**.

Alternatively, the notice of race or sailing instructions may specify the use of the Scoring Penalty or some other penalty, in which case the specified penalty shall replace the One-Turn and the Two-Turns Penalty. However,

- a. when a boat may have broken a rule of Part 2 and rule **31** in the same incident she need not take the penalty for breaking rule **31**;
- b. if the boat caused injury or serious damage or, despite taking a penalty, gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach her penalty shall be to retire.

## 26. STARTING RACES

Races shall be started by using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

Minutes before starting signal	Visual Signal	Sound Signal	Means
5*	Class flag	One	Warning signal
4	P, I, Z, Z with I, U, or black flag	One	Preparatory signal
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute signal
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

\* or as stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions

The warning signal for each succeeding class shall be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class.

### According to the 10. Protests and Requests for Redress of the Sailing Instructions

#### 61.1. INFORMING THE PROTESTEE

a. The protesting boat shall inform the other boat at the first reasonable opportunity. When her **protest** will concern an incident in the racing area she shall hail 'Protest' and conspicuously display a red flag at the first reasonable opportunity for each. She shall display the flag until she is no longer **racing**. However,

1. if the other boat is beyond hailing distance, the protesting boat need not hail but she shall inform the other boat at the first reasonable opportunity;
2. if the hull length of the protesting boat is less than 6 metres, she need not display a red flag;
3. if the incident was an error by the other boat in **sailing** the course, she need not hail or display a red



flag but she shall inform the other boat either before or at the first reasonable opportunity after the other boat **finishes**;

4. if at the time of the incident it is obvious to the protesting boat that a member of either crew is in danger, or that injury or serious damage resulted, the requirements of this rule do not apply to her, but she shall attempt to inform the other boat within the time limit of rule **61.3**.

b. If the race committee, technical committee or protest committee intends to protest a boat concerning an incident the committee observed in the racing area, it shall inform her after the race within the time limit of rule **61.3**. In other cases the committee shall inform the boat of its intention to protest as soon as reasonably possible. A notice posted on the official notice board within the appropriate time limit satisfies this requirement.

c. If the protest committee decides to protest a boat under rule **60.3(a)(2)**, it shall inform her as soon as reasonably possible, close the current hearing, proceed as required by rules **61.2** and **63**, and hear the original and the new protests together.

### **60.3. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

A protest 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 may protest a boat

1. if it learns of an incident involving her that may have resulted in injury or serious damage, or
2. if during the hearing of a valid **protest** it learns that the boat, although not a **party** to the hearing, was involved in the incident and may have broken a **rule**;

b. call a hearing to consider redress;

c. act under rule **69.2(b)**; or

d. call a hearing to consider whether a **support person** has broken a rule, based on its own observation or information received from any source, including evidence taken during a hearing.

### **61.2. PROTEST CONTENTS**

A **protest** shall be in writing and identify

- a. the protestor and protestee;
- b. the incident;
- c. where and when the incident occurred;
- d. any **rule** the protestor believes was broken; and
- e. the name of the protestor's representative.

However, if requirement (b) is met, requirement (a) may be met at any time before the hearing, and requirements (d) and (e) may be met before or during the hearing.

Requirement (c) may also be met before or during the hearing, provided the protestee is allowed reasonable time to prepare for the hearing.

### **61.3. PROTEST TIME LIMIT**

A **protest** by a boat, or by the race committee, technical committee or protest committee about an incident observed in the racing area, shall be delivered to the race office within the time limit stated in the sailing instructions. If none is stated, the time limit is two hours after the last boat in the race **finishes**. Other **protests** shall be delivered to the race office no later than two hours after the protestor receives the relevant information. The protest committee shall extend the time if there is good reason to do so.

**62.2.** A request shall be in writing and identify the reason for making it. If the request is based on an incident in the racing area, it shall be delivered to the race office within the protest time limit or two hours after the incident, whichever is later. Other requests shall be delivered as soon as reasonably possible after learning of the reasons for making the request. The protest committee shall extend the time if there is good reason to do so. No red flag is required.

# **RACING RULES OF SAILING**

a. However, on the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted.

## **66. REOPENING A HEARING**

**66.1.** The protest committee may reopen a hearing when it decides that it may have made a significant error, or when significant new evidence becomes available within a reasonable time. It shall reopen a hearing when required by the national authority under rule **71.2** or **R5. WSJM - K31**

### **71.2.**

The national authority may uphold, change or reverse a protest committee's decision including a decision on validity or a decision under rule **69**. Alternatively, the national authority may order that a hearing be reopened, or that a new hearing be held by the same or a different protest committee. When the national authority decides that there shall be a new hearing, it may appoint the protest committee.

## **R5. INADEQUATE FACTS; REOPENING**

The national authority shall accept the protest committee's finding of facts except when it decides they are inadequate. In that case it shall require the committee to provide additional facts or other information, or to reopen the hearing and report any new finding of facts, and the committee shall promptly do so.

### **66.2.**

A **party** to the hearing may request a reopening in writing no later than 24 hours after being informed of the decision.

a. However, on the last scheduled day of racing the request shall be delivered

1. within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day;

2. no later than 30 minutes after the party was informed of the decision on that day.

### **66.3.**

The protest committee shall consider all requests to reopen. When a request to reopen is being considered or the hearing is reopened,

a. when based only on new evidence, a majority of the members of the protest committee shall, if practicable, be members of the original committee;

b. when based on a significant error, the protest committee shall, if practicable, have at least one new member.

*According to the 13. Safety Regulations of the Sailing Instructions*

## **63. HEARINGS**

### **63.1. Requirement for a Hearing**

A boat or competitor shall not be penalized without a protest hearing, except as provided in rules **30.2**, **30.3**, **30.4**, **64.4(d)**, **64.5(b)**, **64.6**, **69**, **78.2 A5.1** and **P2**. A decision on redress shall not be made without a hearing. The protest committee shall hear all **protests** and requests for redress that have been delivered to the race office unless it allows a **protest** or request to be withdrawn.

### **63.2. Time and Place of the Hearing; Time for Parties to Prepare**

All **parties** to the hearing shall be notified of the time and place of the hearing, the **protest** or redress information or the allegations shall be made available to them, and they shall be allowed reasonable time to prepare for the hearing. When two or more hearings arise from the same incident, or from very closely connected incidents, they may be heard together in one hearing. However, a hearing conducted under rule **69** shall not be combined with any other type of hearing.

### **63.3. Right to Be Present**

a. A representative of each **party** to the hearing has the right to be present throughout the hearing of all the evidence. When a **protest** claims a breach of a rule of Part 2, 3 or 4, the representatives of boats shall have been on board at the time of the incident, unless

there is good reason for the protest committee to rule otherwise. Any witness, other than a member of the protest committee, shall be excluded except when giving evidence.

**b.** If a **party** to a hearing does not come to the hearing, the protest committee may nevertheless proceed with the **hearing**. If the party was unavoidably absent, the committee may reopen the hearing.

#### **63.4. Conflict of Interest**

**a.** A protest committee member shall declare any possible **conflict of interest** as soon as he is aware of it. A **party** to the hearing who believes a member of the protest committee has a **conflict of interest** shall object as soon as possible. A conflict of interest declared by a protest committee member shall be included in the written information provided under rule **65.2**.

**b.** A member of a protest committee with a **conflict of interest** shall not be a member of the committee for the hearing, unless

1. all **parties** consent, or
2. the protest committee decides that the conflict of interest is not significant.
- c.** When deciding whether a **conflict of interest** is significant, the protest committee shall consider the views of the **parties**, the level of the conflict, the level of the event, the importance to each **party**, and the overall perception of fairness.
- d.** However, for World Sailing major events, or for other events as prescribed by the national authority of the venue, rule 63.4(b) does not apply and a person who has a **conflict of interest** shall not be a member of the protest committee.

#### **63.5. Validity of the Protest or Request for Redress**

At the beginning of the hearing the **protest** committee shall take any evidence it considers necessary to decide whether all requirements for the **protest** or request for redress have been met. If they have been met, the **protest** or request is valid and the hearing shall be continued. If not, the committee shall declare the protest or request invalid and close the hearing. If the protest has been made under rule **60.3(a)(1)**, the committee shall also determine whether or not injury or serious damage resulted from the incident in question. If not, the hearing shall be closed.

#### **63.6. Taking Evidence and Finding Facts**

**a.** The protest committee shall take the evidence, including hearsay evidence, of the parties present at the hearing and of their witnesses and other evidence it considers necessary. However, the committee may exclude evidence which it considers to be irrelevant or unduly repetitive.

**b.** A member of the protest committee who saw the incident shall, while the parties are present, state that fact and may give evidence.

**c.** A party present at the hearing may question any person who gives evidence.

**d.** The committee shall then give the weight it considers appropriate to the evidence presented, find the facts and base its decision on them.

#### **63.7. Conflict Between Rules**

If there is a conflict between two or more **rules** that must be resolved before the protest committee makes a decision, the committee shall apply the **rule** that it believes will provide the fairest result for all boats affected. Rule **63.7** applies only if the conflict is between rules in the notice of race, the sailing instructions, or any of the other documents that govern the event under item (g) of the definition **Rule**.

#### **63.8. Hearings Involving Parties in Different Events**

A hearing involving **parties** in different events conducted by different organizing authorities shall be heard by a protest committee acceptable to those authorities.

**63.9. Hearings under Rule 60.3(d)-Support Persons**

If the protest committee decides to call a hearing under rule **60.3(d)**, it shall promptly follow the procedures in rules **63.2**, **63.3**, **63.4** and **63.6**, except that the information given to the **parties** shall be details of the alleged breach and a person may be appointed by the protest committee to present the allegation.

**According to the 14. Radio Communication of the Sailing Instructions**

**62.1.**

A request for redress or a protest committee's decision to consider redress shall be based on a claim or possibility that a boat's score or place in a race or series has been or may be, through no fault of her own, made significantly worse by

a. an improper action or omission of the race committee, protest committee, organizing authority, equipment inspection committee or measurement committee for the event, but not by a protest committee decision when the boat was a **party** to the hearing

**41. OUTSIDE HELP**

A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except

- a. help for a crew member who is ill, injured or in danger;
- b. after a collision, help from the crew of the other vessel to get clear;
- c. help in the form of information freely available to all boats;
- d. unsolicited information from a disinterested source, which may be another boat in the same race.

