



This notice does not contain “rules” or change the rules of the competition.

1. Submitting a Protest (Electronic Form)

Competitors may submit a protest form electronically through RacingRulesofSailing.org, and such a submission will be accepted as a writing for the purposes of RRS 61.2. A form submitted electronically is considered delivered to the race office at the moment the competitor submits it for purposes of RRS 61.3.

2. Protests by the Jury for Incidents on the Water

The jury will not usually protest for a breach of a rule of Part 2 unless they observe an apparent breach of good sportsmanship (rule 2). Examples of breaches where the jury will consider protesting include:

- deliberately or knowingly breaking a rule without justification for exoneration and not taking the appropriate penalty;
- intimidating other boats, often evidenced by unnecessary shouting or foul language;
- team tactics, sailing to benefit another boat to the detriment of your own position;
- reckless sailing that results in, or is likely to result in, damage or injury.

They may also give evidence in protests; however, jury evidence may not always be available.

3. Outside Help

RRS 41 applies from a boat’s preparatory signal (see RRS 41 and the definition Racing). A boat that receives instructions or exchanges sailing gear with a coach or support boat after the preparatory signal breaks RRS 41.

When coach and other support boats are prohibited from entering the racing area, a boat not racing that needs to receive help must sail to the coach or support boat outside the racing area.

4. Requests for Redress Claiming RC Error in Scoring a Boat OCS, UFD, or BFD

Boats sometimes want to challenge the race committee’s decision to score them OCS, UFD, or BFD by requesting redress under rule 62.1(a).

The jury advises competitors to consult the race officer prior to a hearing to learn the race committee’s evidence that the boat was OCS, UFD, or BFD. For a boat to be given redress, the competitor must provide conclusive evidence that the race committee has made an error in identifying the boat. Even video evidence is rarely conclusive. In the absence of conclusive evidence to the contrary, the jury will uphold the race committee’s decision.

Evidence of the relative positions of two boats that are scored differently is not conclusive evidence that either boat started correctly.

5. Video, Photographic, Audio, and Tracking Evidence

A party wishing to bring video, photographic, audio, or tracking evidence to a hearing is responsible for providing the equipment required to view and hear the evidence. Internet connection will not be generally available during a hearing. It should be possible for all *parties* and the panel to view and hear the evidence at the same time. Smartphone and video recorder screens are too small to fulfill this requirement.

Tracking system information, if available, may be presented, but it is of limited accuracy. The images produced are enhanced from the actual data as an aid to the viewer. The system may be used to get an indicative position of the boats for visualization, but it is not sufficiently precise to be used for race management purposes or for jury decisions that require exact positioning information.

6. Requests for Redress or Requests for Reopening

The jury intends to hear requests for redress or requests for reopening as soon as possible, especially on the last scheduled day of a series. Competitors involved in such requests should be prepared to proceed immediately upon presenting their request.

7. Observers at Hearings

Each party may bring one person to observe at a hearing, unless the jury panel decides in a particular case that it is inappropriate. Observers must sign and comply with the requirements in the document titled Information for Observers.

8. Misconduct (RRS 69)

Any form of cheating—including not telling the truth in a hearing—is a breach of sportsmanship and may result in a hearing under RRS 69 and a very heavy penalty.

9. Questions on Jury Procedure and Policy

Competitors, team leaders and coaches are welcome to discuss procedure and policy with the jury chairman. He will usually be available by the jury room during protest time, or you may contact him through the jury office.

10. Jury Communication

The jury intends to post information electronically. That includes protest decisions (including facts found, conclusions and decisions) from most hearings. The intent is to help educate all competitors on the jury's thinking and rule applications. Sharing that information with the press or competitors is a privilege, not a right. That right to require that information only belongs to the parties to a hearing (RRS 65.2). When the jury believes a particular hearing should remain private because disclosing sensitive hearing information would not be in the best interest of fairness to all competitors, then the jury will act in strict compliance with rule 65.2, and not post the hearing results.

Kevin Hawkins
Protest Committee Chairman
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