

## Racing Rules of Sailing

### Definition Party

A submission from the Chairman of the Race Officials Committee and the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

### Proposal

**Party** A *party* to a hearing: a protestor; a protestee; a boat requesting redress or for which redress is requested by the race committee or considered by the protest committee under rule 60.3(b); a race committee acting under rule 60.2(b); a boat or competitor that may be penalized under rule 69.1; a race committee, protest committee or ~~an~~ organizing authority in a hearing under rule 62.1(a).

### Current Position

As above.

### Reason

The current definition is incomplete in three respects.

- A boat that requests redress for herself under rule 60.1(b) has the right to be present throughout the hearing of her request, to question witnesses and to give evidence. However, a boat for which redress is requested by the race committee under rule 60.2(b) or considered by the race committee under rule 60.3(b) is not granted those rights.
- Under the current definition, a race committee that requests redress for a boat under rule 60.2(b) is not a party and is not granted those rights, but they should be.
- When a redress request alleges an improper action or omission of a protest committee and the same protest committee hears the request, that committee obviously will be present throughout the hearing, may question witnesses and, under rule 63.6, give evidence. However, when such a redress is made and a different protest committee hears the request, the original protest committee does not have those rights.

The new language added in the proposed definition corrects these omissions.

The Race Officials Committee (ROC) currently recommends that boats that might be affected by a redress decision be permitted to participate in the hearing at which redress is being considered. This is often accomplished by the protest committee acting under rule 60.3(b) or the race committee requesting redress for potentially affected boats under rule 60.2(b). The proposal will grant such boats all the rights of a party to a hearing.

The proposed change is necessary to accommodate the practice recommended by the ROC. This practice has gained wide-spread support and has been very effective.