

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 44.3(c)

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

To clarify the rule and to correct a possible inconsistency.

Proposal

44.3 Scoring Penalty

- (c) The race score for a boat that takes a Scoring Penalty shall be the score she would have received without that penalty, made worse by the number of places stated in the sailing instructions. ~~However, she shall not be scored worse than Did Not Finish.~~ When the sailing instructions do not state the number of places, the number shall be the whole number (rounding 0.5 upward) nearest to 20% of the number of boats ~~entered~~ **that came to the starting area**. The scores of other boats shall not be changed; therefore, two boats may receive the same score. **However, the penalty shall not cause the boat's score to be worse than the score for Did Not Finish.**

No change to any other part of rule 44.3.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

The rule states "number of boats entered" but not whether this refers to the race or series. The rule also states the boat shall not be scored worse than Did Not Finish but these words appear to relate only to the first sentence of the rule. For races scored in accordance with rule A9, the possible alternative interpretations on these points can be significant.

Using a default penalty of 20% of the boats that came to the starting area provides the same penalty relative to the size of the fleet for races scored under either rule A4.2 or rule A9.

Moving the current second sentence to the end of the paragraph ensures this limitation on the penalty to no worse than DNF applies whether or not the penalty is stated in the sailing instructions.
