

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Rule 64.4

A submission from the Chairmen of Constitution Committee, Racing Rules Committee and Race Officials Committee

Purpose

To ensure that the sanctions and penalties available to the protest committee will discourage support persons from breaking rules.

Proposal

Add new rule 64.4 as follows:

64.4 Decisions on Protests Concerning Support Persons

- (a) When the protest committee decides that a support person who is a party to a hearing has broken a rule, it may**
 - (1) issue a warning, or**
 - (2) remove any privileges or benefits, or**
 - (3) take other action within its jurisdiction as provided by the rules.**
- (b) A competitor may be penalized for a breach of a rule by a support person by changing the boat's score in a single race up to and including DSQ if**
 - (1) the competitor may have gained a competitive advantage as the result of the breach by the support person,**
 - (2) the support person commits a further breach after the competitor has been warned by the protest committee that a penalty may be imposed, or**
 - (3) the protest committee decides that such a penalty is necessary to prevent future breaches by the support person.**

Current Position

The proposed rule is new.

Reasons

1. There have been many examples of support persons (which includes parents and guardians) behaving in a manner that is detrimental to the sport. While many of these behaviours constitute misconduct and, should other submissions be approved, will be liable to action under rule 69, this is often perceived as a last resort. If support persons know that
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competitors may be penalised as a result of their breaches, they are much less likely to do so.

2. Many people in the sport, not just officials, believe that this is the only effective way to resolve this problem.