

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Case

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Proposal

Race Signals

Rule 29, Recalls

Rule 62.1(a), Redress

A race committee recall signal comprises both the flag and the related sound or sounds. When there is inconsistency between the flag that is displayed and the sound(s), a boat whose score is affected by acting on the sound signal before seeing the flag is at fault.

Question

The race committee displays flag X for the individual recall of boat A. Boat A sees the flag. In error, the race committee makes two sounds rather than one in addition to the starting sound signal. Boats B and C cannot see the flag at that moment. Boats A, B and C turn back towards the starting line, boat A to start and boats B and C because they believe that a general recall has been signalled. Boats B and C are certain they were not OCS. When boat B is able to see the committee boat, she sees flag X, and resumes her race before reaching the starting line. Boat A returns promptly to the pre-course side and the race committee has removed flag X before boat C is able to see the committee boat. When boat C realises that no recall flag is displayed, she resumes her race before reaching the starting line.

Boats B and C ask for redress, claiming that their finishing positions were worse than they would have been had they not turned back. Which of them, if either, is entitled to redress?

Answer

The race committee's additional sound was an improper action. However, neither B nor C is entitled to redress. Both were at fault in turning back when they did. They could have continued to race until they could see the committee boat. A recall signal comprises a flag and a sound or sounds. Until a boat can see which flag is (or is not) being displayed, she should not act on the assumption from hearing two sounds that a general recall has been signalled.

Current Position

None.

Reason

When a race committee signals a recall incorrectly, a boat is not entitled to redress if her score was made worse in part through her own actions.
