

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Case 78

A submission from the Irish Sailing Association

Purpose or Objective

To enable Case 78 to better reflect the recognised principles of sportsmanship and fair play.

Proposal

New Case 78

In a fleet race Boat A complying with the Racing Rules hinders Boat B's progress. In which of the following circumstances could this be considered unsportsmanlike and a breach of Rule 2.

(a) to benefit her series result?

(b) to gain selection for another event?

(c) to gain her national team selection?

(d) colluding with Boat C to effect the outcome of the race?

(e) to effect Boat B result for reasons unconnected with sport?

In situations (a), (b) and (c) Boat A would be in compliance with the recognised principles of sportsmanship and fair play as there is a sporting reason for her actions.

In situation (d) Boat A and Boat C would be deliberately breaking Rule 41 and such a breach would break Rule 2.

In situation (e) Boat A would break rule 2, because with no good sporting reason her actions would fall outside the recognised principles of sportsmanship and fair play

Current Position

Current Case 78.

Reasons

Most MNAs use overseas events for their selection trials . It is universally accepted that it is sporting to hinder the progress of another boat to enhance your selection prospects.

The current Case 78 only allows actions to hinder another boats progress if it is to benefit her series result and fails to acknowledge how sailors have been playing the game for the last 40 years.

To be in breach of Rule 2 it must be clearly established that a boat broke the recognised principles of sportsmanship and fair play. This new Case 78 gives better guidance to sailors and protest committees on how to judge this. If a boat can demonstrate that her own actions were both independent and sporting she cannot breach Rule 2.