

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



Q&A 2008-003

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Question

A yacht believes that she had broken a rule and retired after finishing (RAF). Subsequently, she discovers that she had not in fact broken a rule and asked for her retirement to be rescinded.

May the race committee re-score the yacht in her finishing position?

Answer

The Racing Rules of Sailing are silent with regard to the right of a boat to rescind her retirement, if the race committee are compelled to act on such notification and if there is any time limit for such actions.

As the rules do not prohibit such action, a boat may notify the race committee that she rescinds her retirement. The race committee may reinstate the boat and adjust the score of all boats affected by this notification.

In the event that another boat did not lodge or withdrew an otherwise valid protest based on the original retirement of the boat, the protest committee should extend the time limit and hear the protest.

If the boat did not act in good faith, such as, attempting to avoid being protested by first retiring and then rescinding that retirement, she breaks rule 2, Fair Sailing. Her breach may even be a gross breach of sportsmanship and justify a hearing under rule 69.

If the race committee did not reinstate her finishing position and she requests redress, the protest committee should consider if the original retirement was her own fault and if her action to rescind the retirement was timely. Especially if the retirement is rescinded after the end of the protest time limit, they may conclude that the race committee have made no error and they may also find that the score of RAF was not 'through no fault of her own' and refuse the request.

If the race committee do reinstate the boat and other boats in the fleet request redress then any such request should be refused as there is no error by the race committee.