

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



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Situation

In a race all boats sailed the wrong course. Rather than sailing a trapezoid inner course as signalled by the race committee, all boats sailed an outer course. After the finish, the race committee protested the entire fleet. The protest committee found that none of the boats had sailed the course and disqualified all of the boats under rule 28.1.

Question

Should the race have been scored with all boats receiving a DSQ or should it have been abandoned?

Answer

There was a valid protest and the protest committee found as a fact that none of the boats had sailed the course in compliance with rule 28.1. Rule 90.3(a) allows a race to be scored only "... if one boat sails the course in compliance with rule 28.1 and *finishes* within the time limit...".

As rule 90.3(a) prohibits the race from being scored the protest committee must abandon the race instead of disqualifying the boats.