

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



G 008

Q&A 2010-21

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Situation:

The sailing instructions at an event stated:

‘In the case of infringements of rules 29.1 and 29.2 RRS, The Race Committee shall call as soon as possible on VHF channel 72, the sail numbers or bow numbers of those who have broken the rule. Failure / partial or poor radio signal reception / transmission, cannot be grounds for a request for redress.’

Question:

Considering that a delay in radio transmission is not listed as reason for not requesting redress, what is the meaning of ‘as soon as possible’ as used in this sailing instruction? Would 2 minutes be considered reasonable or could a 2 minutes delay be grounds for redress?

Answer:

The term "as soon as possible" is ‘used in the sense ordinarily understood in nautical or general use.’ (See ‘Terminology’ in the Introduction to the Racing Rules of Sailing). The announcement should be made as soon as practicable after the starting signal when all such boats have been identified. This time will vary from race to race.

A late recall should normally be considered as ‘failure’ and would not be grounds for a request for redress under this sailing instruction. However, in this case, the sailing instruction did not meet the requirements of rule 86.1(b) to specifically refer to the rule (rule 62.1(a)) being changed so, a protest committee would not be prevented from considering redress.

Race committees should take care to ensure that words used in sailing instructions reflect their intentions.