

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



K 002

Q&A 2010-36

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Situation:

In a 3 on 3 team race, all 6 boats inadvertently skip a mark, and cross the finishing line from the direction of the last mark without correcting their error. There is no race committee error. No boat gained an advantage.

Question 1

What should the race committee do in light of the last sentence of rule 90.3(a)? Should the race committee:

- 1) Re-sail the race?
- 2) Award no points to either team, and continue without re-sailing the race?
- 3) Score the boats in the order in which they crossed the finishing line?
- 4) Score the boats in the order in which they crossed the finishing line, and protest all 6 boats??

Answer 1

The race committee should score the boats in the order in which they crossed the finishing line, see rule D3.1(a).

Question 2

If a protest is heard, how should the protest committee rule?

Answer 2

If the boats were validly protested, and if the protest committee found that they broke rule 28.1, no penalty is possible as no boat or team has gained an advantage - see rule D3.1(c).

Question 3

Is there a conflict between Rules 90.3(a) and D3.1(a)?

Answer 3

Yes.

Question 4

If your answer to Question 3 is Yes, how do the rules conflict?

Answer 4

Rule 90.3(a) restricts the race committee from scoring a race where no boat has sailed the course and finished – whereas rule D3.1(a) specifically allows scoring boats who have not complied with rule 28. The Introduction to the Racing Rules of Sailing 'Appendices' makes it clear that when the rules of an appendix apply, they take precedence over any conflicting rules in Parts 1-7 and the Definitions. This is repeated in the preamble to Appendix D.