

## ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



### **Q&A 2010-006**

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#### Situation:

In a coastal race, the race committee gave finishing positions to two boats that had finished within the time limit, and scored all the other boats DNF. The sailing instructions changed the protest time limit in rule 61.3 from two hours to 60 minutes:

One of the DNF boats requested redress.

#### Question:

What was the time limit for lodging a request for redress? Was it:

- (a) within two hours after the expiry of the time limit, assuming that this was an 'incident' for the purposes of rule 62.2?
- (b) within sixty minutes after the finishing time of the second boat, if in fact the end of the time limit could not be said to be a relevant 'incident'?

#### Answer:

The Situation does not state the reasons for asking for redress, but the Question implies that the boat wishes to contest being scored DNF.

If so, the time limit was neither of the two suggested options. The incident was when the boat learned that she had been scored DNF. The time limit was, at the earliest, two hours after that moment. It is quite possible in coastal races that a boat will not receive event scores for some time after the race, or that the results are radioed ashore and posted while the boats are still afloat. A protest committee would have good reason to extend the two-hour time limit when a request for redress was lodged within a reasonable time.

It should also be noted that a request for redress based solely on being scored DNF for finishing outside a time limit will not succeed if a sailing instruction changes rule 35 under rule 86.1(b) and restricts finishing places to boats finishing within that given time limit. See L15.2 as an example.

If however, the request for redress is based on a claim that a particular issue has caused the boat to finish outside the time limit, then being scored DNF will not be the incident. For example, a boat may claim to have been delayed by a misleading sailing instruction (rule 62.1(a)): or by physical damage caused by another boat (rule 62.1(b)); or by time taken to give help (rule 62.1(c)). In these situations, the rule 62.2 time limit for delivering a request for redress will be the later of 60 minutes after the last boat in the race finishes and two hours after the incident. The time limit may also be extended when there is a good reason to do so. The question does not state whether any of the boats scored DNF finished, albeit out of time. If one or more did, that will identify the last boat in the race to finish.

For a request for redress of this sort, once found valid, to succeed, the protest committee would need to be satisfied not only that the boat was delayed, but also that she would have finished within the time limit had she not been delayed.