

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service

M 013

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Situation

The rulebook for an ISAF International Class includes a document called 'Rules of Conduct for Conducting National and International Championship Regattas' with a list of rules for running important regattas. This document includes a rule that says, 'A sustained wind variation of 20 degrees or more from the posted bearing during the first leg of a race **shall** result in that race to be abandoned and re-sailed, or abandoned'.

Question 1

Can this rule be considered as a Class Rule?

Answer 1

No. The Definitions in the beginning of the ISAF Regulations make it clear that Class Rules are defined in the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS). The introduction to the ERS lists Class Rules as limited to rules about equipment, namely the boat, including its equipment, and the personal equipment, and ERS rule C2.1 defines Class Rules and confirms this limitation.

Question 2

When listed under Rules in the notice of race and sailing instructions, could this document be considered as 'any other document that govern the event'? (See Definition *Rules*.)

Answer 2

Yes, provided it complies with the requirements of rule J1.1(3).

Question 3

Assuming the answers to Q1 and/or Q2 are yes, does this rule change rule 32, and is it therefore an invalid racing rule change under rule 86.1?

Answer

Rule 32 is a rule of Part 3. Rule 86.1(b) does not prohibit changes to rules of Part 3 in the sailing instructions, provided the sailing instructions refers specifically to the rule changed and states the change.

Question 4

When establishing whether not abandoning a race after a big wind shift on the first leg constituted an improper action or omission by the RC, does it make any difference whether this rule is a class rule, a 'championship rule', a sailing instruction or a published race management policy for the event?

Answer 4

If the requirement to abandon the race is not a *rule* as per the definition, the race committee may act in accordance with rule 32.1 which gives it the option to abandon or not. If the requirement is a *rule*, then ignoring that *rule* constitutes an improper action. However, in order to grant redress the protest committee shall consider whether all the other requirements in rule 62.1 are met.

Question 5

What is the best way to enforce a criterion for abandoning a race because of a wind shift or a change in wind strength?

Answer 5

By making it a *rule* as per the definition.