

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service

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Situation

The sailing instructions has a Mark 1 time limit and also states 'If no boat has passed Mark 1 within the Mark 1 time limit, the race will be abandoned.' Even though no boat passed Mark 1 within the time limit, the race committee did not abandon the race. Some boats requested redress under rule 62.1(a).

Question 1

When deciding the request for redress in this situation, may the protest committee reach the conclusion that the finishing positions of one or more boats have, or may have, been made significantly worse?

Answer 1

If a boat stopped racing when the time limit expired, either permanently or temporarily, losing out to boats that continued to race, she has a claim that her score was made significantly worse because of the omission of the race committee. If a boat continued racing, and finished, but scored badly, it will not have been the race committee's failure to abandon that caused her poor score in the race. However, she may have a claim that it affected her series score, if she can show that her series score would have been better if the race had been abandoned.

Question 2

Considering that all boats have a finishing position, may the protest committee conclude that the 'through no fault of her own' requirement was not met?

Answer 2

It is unlikely that a boat would be at fault. It would not be a fault to continue to race in the absence of an abandonment signal. Equally, it would not be a fault to stop racing when it is clear that no boat had reached the windward mark when the time limit expired.

Question 3

May the protest committee decide that the fairest arrangement possible for all boats is to let the result stand?

Answer 3

If the boats continued racing, and there were no claims based on series scores, then the result should stand. This is because there would be no ground for redress, because no boat has had her score made worse by the omission of the race committee. If on the other hand any boat lost significant places as a result of stopping racing when the time limit expired, then it is unlikely that letting the result stand would be the fairest arrangement for all boats.

Question 4

Assuming pumping was permitted and a boat requesting redress had briefly stopped pumping when the time limit expired, expecting the race to be abandoned, and then resumed pumping when he realized the race was not abandoned. Assuming the boat rounded Mark 1 in 4th place and finished in 2nd place; would the boat be entitled to redress?

Answer 4

No. The boat's score was not worsened as a result of her deciding to stop pumping, unless (which is unlikely) she could show that she would have come first if she had continued to pump.

Question 5

The situation is the same as in Question 4. Another boat had briefly stopped pumping, and boats that did not stop pumping gained distance on this boat. The boat's position in the race at Mark 1 was the same as the boat's finishing position; would the boat be entitled to redress?

Answer 5

No. Her score was not worsened as a result of her deciding to stop pumping, unless (which is unlikely) she could show that she would have had a significantly better score if she had continued to pump.