

ISAF RAPID RESPONSE TEAM RACING CALL 2008/003

Rule D2.2(d)(3) Penalties Initiated by Umpires—Breach of Sportsmanship

Question 1

After the umpires signal their decision in response to a boat's protest, a competitor on one of the boats make it clear that he is unhappy with the decision. Should the umpires impose a penalty under rule D2.2(d)(3) for a 'breach of sportsmanship'?

Answer 1

This depends on the words, the manner in which they are spoken, and any other related actions of the crew of the boat. If they merely express unhappiness or disappointment, or that in the competitor's opinion the decision was wrong, then a penalty is not appropriate. However, if the total effect is to convey that the umpires or other race officials are incompetent, or are prejudiced against the penalized boat, a penalty may be justified, whether the meaning is directed only at the umpires or also to others nearby. If the meaning is clearly insulting to the umpires, race officials or other competitors, a penalty should be imposed. The penalty imposed by the umpires may be one or more turns. The umpires may also report the incident to the protest committee, signalled by displaying a black flag.

Question 2

An incident occurs between team A and X, immediately after which a competitor in team A starts to shout loudly and forcibly that the boat from team X should take a penalty. The shouting continues for a time, after which the boat from team X sails clear and completes a penalty. The umpires have observed the incident and are in no doubt that the boat from team A had broken a rule and the boat from team X had taken a penalty only as a result of the intimidating actions from the boat of team A. Should the umpires impose a penalty under rule D2.2(d)(3) for a 'breach of sportsmanship'?

Answer 2

If the effect is one of intimidation and bullying by team A, a penalty should be imposed under rule D2.2(d)(3). The penalty imposed by the umpires may be of one or more turns. The umpires may also report the incident to the protest committee, signalled by displaying a black flag.