Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule P2.1

A submission from the International Laser Class Association

Purpose or Objective

Not stated.

Proposal

Amend rule P2.1 as follows:

P2.1 First Penalty

When a boat is first penalized under rule P1 her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty under rule 44.2, or when the penalty is signalled after the boat has finished, a 10% scoring penalty. If she fails to take the Two-Turns Penalty prior to finishing, she shall be disqualified without a hearing.

Current Position

When a first breach of rule 42 is observed as a boat approaches the finish line and the penalty is signalled after finishing the penalty is a Two-Turns Penalty under rule 44.2. In a large fleet it can be difficult for a judge boat to be in a good position to observe infringements and at the same time to signal the penalty quickly. The judge boat then has to observe that the turn penalty has been taken when other boats are still finishing and possibly breaching rule 42.

Reasons

1. The scoring penalty eliminates a safety problem caused by a boat sailing back completely to the course side to comply with rule 44.2.
2. The scoring penalty is more consistent with the impact of the penalty in the boats finishing when taken prior to finishing.
3. The judge boat is able to immediately continue judging rule 42 instead of observing a boat taking a penalty.
4. The scoring penalty eliminates a safety problem caused by a boat sailing back completely to the course side to comply with rule 44.2.
5. The finish boat does not have a first and second finish for the boat penalised.