

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Case – Q&A C001

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To make a case of the contents in Q&A 2014-015 C001

Proposal

Add a new Case:

Case XXX

Rule 30.4, Black Flag Rule

Rule 64.1(b), Penalties and Exoneration

Rule 62.1, Redress

Situations when a boat is forced over the starting line by another boat that was breaking a rule of Part 2.

Situation 1

A race is started under rule 30.4, Black Flag Rule. 25 seconds before the starting signal there is an incident between boats A and B. The race committee identifies part of A on the course side. A does not return to the pre-start side of the starting line, but continues sailing the course and finishing. The race committee scores her BFD.

A lodges a valid protest against B. The protest committee disqualifies B for breaking a rule of Part 2. The committee finds that B, as a consequence of breaking a rule, has compelled A to break rule 30.4. It also finds that there was no injury or physical damage, and that B did not break rule 2, Fair Sailing.

Question 1

May the protest committee exonerate A for her breach of rule 30.4, and score her in her finishing position, even though A has never started according to the definition Start?

Answer 1

No. A has broken rule 30.4, but she has also failed to comply with the definition Start. B's breach compelled A to break rule 30.4 however, it did not prevent A from sailing back to the pre-start side of the starting line and start correctly. The protest committee may exonerate A under rule 64.1(a) for her breach of rule 30.4, and if so, the race committee shall score her DNS under A5.

Had A returned to the pre-start side of the starting line and then started correctly, the protest committee could have exonerated her for the breach of rule 30.4 and scored A in her finishing position.

Question 2

The situation before the starting signal is the same, but this time there is a general recall. A's sail number is displayed on the race committee starting vessel. Before the restart, A informs the race committee that she intends to protest B for breaking a rule of Part 2 in the recalled start. A starts, sails the course and finishes the restarted race. The race committee scores her DNE. A lodges a protest against B for the breach in the initial start and requests redress for the DNE score.

May the protest committee consider the breach in the recalled start and give A redress under rule 64.1(a) by scoring her in her finishing position in the re-started race?

Answer 2

No. A initially broke the first sentence of rule 30.4, was identified on the course side of the starting line and her sail number was properly displayed according to rule 30.4.

If the race committee displays A's sail number after a general recall, A cannot sail in the restarted or resailed race. If she starts in the restarted race, she breaks rule 30.4 without being compelled to do so. The race committee will make no mistake when it scores her DNE.

Question 3

The situation is the same as in Question 2 but this time A does not sail in the restarted race. When she comes ashore, she protests B for the incident in the initial start. The protest committee decides B broke a rule of Part 2 (for which she cannot be penalized). May the protest committee change Boat A's BFD score?

Answer 3

If the protest committee decides that A was compelled by B to break rule 30.4's, it will exonerate A for breaking that rule and will correct her score from BFD to DNS in the restarted race. Exoneration under rule 64.1(a) may result in a finishing position being retained, but cannot be used to award a score for a finishing position to a boat that did not start.

Current Position

Q&A 2014-015 C001

Reason

To make the contents in Q&A 2014-015 C001 stay as a Case.
