Racing Rules of Sailing

New MR Call N10

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To create a new Match Racing Call based on an existing Rapid Response Call as required by World Sailing Regulations.

Proposal

MR CALL N 10

Rule 28 Sailing the Course
Rule 90.3(a) Scoring
Rule C6.6 Protest Committee Decisions

Question

As Yellow and Blue approach the leeward mark, the race committee signals a change of position of the windward mark. Both boats round the leeward mark and sail to the original windward mark, round it and finish. Neither boat rounded the new windward mark.

The race committee protests both boats for breaking rule 28.

The protest committee finds that both boats broke rule 28 as neither sailed the course correctly. How should the match be scored?

Answer

Unless there is evidence to the contrary, the protest committee should find that the breach of the rule has had no significant effect on the outcome of the match and decide that the boats should be scored in their finishing positions. See rule C6.6(b)(3).

Note: The race committee should normally only protest when there is either a breach of a sailing instruction or technical rule that cannot be protested by the competitors. See World Sailing Race Management Policies for Match Racing. The race committee should simply score the boats in their finishing positions.

Current Position

Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2016.001
Reason

To provide a consistent answer to a relatively common situation in match racing. For years there have been discussions about whether to disqualify both boats or let the result stand. World Sailing Race Management Guidelines are clear that when both boats round the same incorrect mark and sail the same course, the match shall not be abandoned. The same principle applies to protest committee decisions with respect to sailing the course. Without any protest, the result stands. With a protest, there are provisions in Appendix C to let the result stand.