Racing Rules of Sailing

Basic Principle, Sportmanship and the Rules

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose or Objective

To correct misleading wording.

Proposal

SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE RULES

Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportmanship is that when a boat breaks a rule and is not exonerated she will promptly take an appropriate penalty, which may be to retire.

Current Position

The wording of Sportmanship and the Rules for the 2021-2024 RRS, based on changes approved as a result of Submission 146-18, is:

SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE RULES

Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportmanship is that when a boat breaks a rule and is not exonerated she will promptly take a penalty, which may be to retire.

Reasons

The current wording for the 2021-2024 RRS is misleading. The principle states that a boat will take ‘a penalty’, implying that any penalty will do. The last phrase states that the penalty ‘may be to retire’, but that is always true regardless of the breach. The added words make it clear that only a penalty appropriate to the infraction satisfies the principle stated here.