Racing Rules of Sailing

Basic Principles, Sportsmanship and the Rules

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

Revise the principle to state that it is a boat that breaks a rule and may be exonerated, not competitors.

Proposal

Amend the Basic Principle, Sportsmanship and the Rules as follows:

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 competitors break a rule and are not exonerated they will promptly take a penalty, which may be to retire.

Current Position

As above (showing the rule as changed by Submission 134-17)

Reason

The context of the second sentence of this principle is that, when a boat breaks a rule while racing, she must take the appropriate penalty unless she is exonerated. Only a boat can be exonerated under rules 21 and 64.1, not competitors.