Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 90.2(a)

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose

To help ensure that sailing instructions agree with the notice of race.

Proposal

Amend rule 90.2 as follows:

90.2 Sailing Instructions

(a) The race committee shall publish written sailing instructions that conform to rule J2, taking care to ensure that there is no conflict between a rule in the notice of race and a rule in the sailing instructions.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

In 2001, the definition Rule was changed by adding ‘(e) the notice of race;’. The notice of race (NOR) is published by the organizing authority, while the sailing instructions (SIs) are published by the race committee. The NOR is usually widely distributed months before an event; the SIs are usually distributed to boats that have entered after they arrive at the venue for the event. Since 2001, several very difficult appeals have been received in which the crucial problem was a conflict between a rule in the NOR and a rule in SIs. In each of these cases, the problem could have been easily averted if the race committee had checked for such a conflict between the NOR and SIs before publishing the final draft of the SIs. This rule, even though it is unusual, is needed because experience has shown that, particularly at local and regional events, race committees quite frequently introduce a rule in the SIs that conflicts with a rule in the NOR because they fail to compare the two documents before publishing the SIs.

When there is a rule in the NOR that turns out not to be appropriate to the event, the organizing authority can issue an amended NOR as soon as they are aware of the problem. It is not appropriate for the race committee to write a sailing instruction that conflicts with the NOR. Under the proposed rule, such an action would be improper and subject to redress if it meets the other criteria of rule 62.