Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 44.1

A submission from US SAILING

Proposal

44.1 Taking a Penalty  A boat may take a Two-Turns Penalty when she may have broken a rule or rules of Part 2 in an incident while racing or. She may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken rule 31. Sailing instructions may specify the use of the Scoring Penalty or some other penalty, in which case the specified penalty shall be used in place of the Two-Turns Penalty. [no further changes]

Current Position

As above.

Reason

It is common practice in our sport that, when a boat breaks more than one rule of Part 2 in an incident, she will not be disqualified if she has taken just one Two-Turns Penalty. However, there is no basis in the current rules, and in particular in rule 44.1, for that practice. Indeed, it can logically be argued that current rule 44.1 implies that, to avoid disqualification, such a boat must take a Two-Turns Penalty for each Part 2 rule that she breaks. The new words in the first sentence of rule 44.1 are proposed so that the rule makes it clear that a boat that may have broken more than one Part 2 rule in an incident need take only one Two-Turns Penalty.

The first sentence is broken into two sentences for clarity.

If the sailing instructions state, as suggested in Appendix L, Instruction 14.1, “The Scoring Penalty, rule 44.3 will apply,” then under the current wording of rule 44.1 it is not clear whether the Scoring Penalty is to be used in place of the Two-Turns Penalty or whether a boat then has a choice of taking either the Scoring Penalty or the Two-Turns Penalty. The rules are simpler and it is easier to write unambiguous sailing instructions if a clear default is included in rule 44.1. The proposed addition of “in which case . . . Two-Turns Penalty” provides a default. That default was chosen for the proposal because most events that use the Scoring Penalty intend it to be used in place of the Two-Turns Penalty.

This submission is part of a ‘package’ of related submissions from US SAILING involving penalties, exoneration and rules compliance. The submissions in this ‘package’ are those involving Sportsmanship and the Rules, Rule 14, Rule 44.1, Rules 44 and 64.1(c), a new definition Exonerate and two submissions involving Rule 44.1(b).