Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 44.1(b)

A submission from US SAILING

Proposal 1

44.1 Taking a Penalty

(b) if by her breach the boat caused injury or serious damage or gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach, her penalty shall be to retire.

Proposal 2

(b) if the boat caused injury or serious damage or gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach her penalty shall be to retire promptly after the incident.

If both Proposal 1 and Proposal 2 are accepted, rule 44.1 will read:

(b) if by her breach the boat caused injury or serious damage or gained a significant advantage in the race or series, her penalty shall be to retire promptly after the incident.

Current Position

As above

Reason

The wording proposed in Proposal 1 makes the rule easier to understand and makes it clear that the phrase 'by her breach' applies when the boat caused injury or serious damage, as well as when she gained a significant advantage in the race or series.

Under a fundamental principle of our sport, as described in the Basic Principle, Sportsmanship and the Rules, a boat that breaks a rule is expected to take a penalty promptly. Under Proposal 2, the requirement in rule 44.1(b) and the expectation in the Basic Principle will be in agreement with each other, just as they were under the rules in effect from 2005-2008.

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).