Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 60.3

A submission from the Deutscher Segler-Verband

Purpose or Objective

Amend RRS 60.3 (a).

Proposal

60.3 A protest committee may

(a) protest a boat, but not as a result of information arising from a request for redress or an invalid protest, or from a report from an interested party other than the representative of the boat herself. However, it may protest a boat

(1) if it learns of an incident involving her that may have resulted in injury or serious damage,

(2) if during the hearing of a valid protest it learns that the boat, although not a party to the hearing, was involved in the incident and may have broken a rule;

(b) call a hearing to consider redress; or

(c) act under rule 69.1(a).

However, when the protest committee learns of an incident involving a boat that has resulted in injury or serious damage, it shall protest the boat.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

A protest committee shall take action if someone has been injured on board a boat after an incident. One would certainly argue that Protest Committee would do so, according to the “may” rule in its present form, if they realize someone has been injured. But the reality shows that this is actually not always the case, leading to quite bad situations, where sailors are left to discuss rules and breaches without a “Jury” collecting the facts and producing a clear statement on rules and behavior.

e.g.: If someone has been injured in an incident, and the skipper/helmsman of his boat has lodged a protest against a third ship – due to irritating sail-numbering or wrongly taken up sailnumbers, the Jury figures out during the hearing, that he “should have” protested someone else – so the protest
in its present form is found invalid and the chance to lodge a protest against the correct boat is
gone, as the protest time is usually finished. In such a case a Jury shall protest the “correct” boat.
Anyway the subdivision of 60.3 is reduced and the structure of this rule is likely to 60.2