Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 61.1(b)

A submission from US SAILING

Purpose or Objective

To make it clear that when a race or protest committee observes an incident in the racing area and intends to protest a boat, it can not inform her at the time of the incident, which might be “as soon as reasonably possible”, but instead it is required to wait until after the race to inform her.

Proposal

61.1   Informing the Protestee

(b) A race committee or protest committee intending to protest a boat shall inform her as soon as reasonably possible unless the protest arises from an incident the committee observes in the racing area, in which case it shall inform her the boat after the race within the time limit of rule 61.3.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

Current rule 61.1(b) has been interpreted in an unintended way. Some officials have read the rule to mean that, whenever a race committee or protest committee intends to protest a boat, it must notify the boat as soon as reasonably possible and that, in addition, it must inform the boat of its intention after the race within the limit of rule 61.3. The proposal would make it clear that when a committee observes an incident in the racing area, it is required to wait until after the race and only then inform the boat of its intention within the time limit of rule 61.3.