Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 70.1

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Proposal

70 APPEALS AND REQUESTS TO A NATIONAL AUTHORITY

70.1 (a) Provided that the right of appeal has not been denied under rule 70.5, a party to a hearing may appeal a protest committee’s decision or its procedures, but not the facts found.

(b) A boat may appeal when she is denied a hearing required by rule 63.1.

[no change to the rest of rule 70]

Current Position

As above

Reason

In recent years, the RYA has received several appeals against a decision to refuse a hearing. In some cases this decision has been made by a protest committee and has been considered within the scope of rule 70.1. In other cases the decision has been made by the organising authority or race committee refusing to appoint a protest committee to hear the protest or request for redress.

The submission clarifies that a refusal to have a hearing is within the scope of the rule. It is a serious error or omission to refuse a hearing and an appeal should be allowed even if appeals are otherwise denied under rule 70.5.

Note that this proposal does not prevent sailing instructions changing rules 60 or 63.1 to prohibit protests or requests for redress in stated circumstances.