Racing Rules of Sailing

Appendix D – Rule D2.2(b)

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Proposal

D2.2 Umpired Races

Races to be umpired shall be identified either in the sailing instructions or by the display of flag U no later than the warning signal.

(a) When a boat protests under a rule of Part 2 or under rule 31, 42 or 44, she is not entitled to a hearing. Instead, when the protested boat fails either to acknowledge breaking a rule or to take the appropriate penalty, the protesting boat may request a decision by conspicuously displaying a yellow flag and hailing ‘Umpire’.

(b) An umpire shall signal a decision as follows:

(1) A green and white flag or a green flag means ‘No penalty’.

(2) A red flag means ‘One or more boats are penalized.’ The umpire shall hail or signal to identify each boat to be penalized.

[no change to the rest of the rule]

Current Position

As above

Reason

A green flag, particularly if mid to dark green, can easily be mistaken for a black flag in many conditions or combinations of sunlight and sky colour. Also some people are red-green colour blind and have difficulty distinguishing between plain red and plain green. The signal should be unambiguous to competitors. Therefore the ‘no penalty’ signal should always be a green and white flag.