Racing Rules of Sailing

Appendix D – Rule D2.3(a)

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Proposal

D2.3 Alternative Umpiring Rules

Each of these rules applies only if the sailing instructions so state.

(a) SINGLE-FLAG PROTEST PROCEDURE

Rule D2.2(a) is replaced by

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, a boat involved in the incident may promptly acknowledge breaking a rule and take the appropriate penalty. If the protested boat takes a penalty, the incident is closed. If not, an umpire shall decide whether any boat has broken a rule, and shall signal the decision in compliance with rule D2.2(b).

Current Position

As above

Reason

There are often incidents when both boats may have broken a rule and both boats protest. If only one boat takes a penalty, the existing rule does not allow the umpire to penalise the other boat. Also if the protesting boat takes a ‘protective penalty’, the umpire cannot penalise the protested boat. The option to take a ‘protective penalty’ has always been built into the rules and should be retained. If both boats break a rule but one was compelled to do so by the other (eg: inside boat hits mark because outside boat failed to give her room) the revised words correctly allow the umpires to exonerate the inside boat.

This change may affect team racing calls L5, M6 and M7.