

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Rule 64.3(c)

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

When a protest committee has penalized a boat that has broken a class rule, permit the protest committee to also penalize her in earlier races in the same event.

Proposal

1. Add new rule 64.3(c)
(c) When a boat is penalized under a class rule and the protest committee decides that the boat also broke the same rule in earlier races in the same event, the penalty may be imposed for all such races. No further protest is necessary.
2. Renumber rules 64.3(c) and (d) as 64.3(d) and (e).

Current Position

None.

Reasons

At present a boat can only be penalized for breaking a class rule following a valid protest. If such a protest is lodged only when the breach was observed (for example) in the third race in a series, and the protest committee decides the boat gained an advantage from her breach in races one and two, it should be possible to also penalise the boat in these earlier races.

A breach of a class rule by a boat is often measurement related, and it is usually difficult for a competitor to see that the boat is breaking the rule. The breach may only become apparent during the course of an event when for example a boat demonstrates a significant speed advantage in a particular set of conditions. It is unreasonable that, as currently, a competitor has no recourse to resolve this for earlier races.

Additionally, a breach may come to light during post-race equipment inspection. As it is unrealistic for a race committee to inspect all boats after every race, a boat found to have broken a rule after a number of races may also have had an advantage in the earlier races.
