Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule E1.3

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Proposal

E1.3 Definitions

(a) Add to the definition Interested Party: ‘but not a competitor when acting as an observer’.

(b) In the definition Zone the distance is changed to four hull lengths.

(c) In the definition Racing the following is inserted after racing 'during a heat in which she is sailing'.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

1. Several Appendix E rules refer to racing. As the word Racing is a defined word (as opposed to race) it needs to be redefined for Radio Sailing. In the context of more than one heat it is necessary to discriminate between racing and non-racing boats.

2. In particular as boats commence racing at the preparatory of the first heat they are in and do not finish the race until they finish either in the top heat, or fail to get promoted. The current definition of racing is not sufficiently explicit that they are not racing between finishing in a lower heat and the preparatory signal of the next heat into which they have been promoted. As a result situations such as the following can occur.

3. Between heats B and A the skippers of boats A, A1 and B are standing together talking. A1 is a proponent of the above interpretation. A mentions that he has noticed that the wind varies consistently at a certain point and both A1 and B comment they haven’t noticed and thanks for the info. Now, A and A1 are both starting the A heat but B has been promoted from B heat. A1 then protests A & B for giving and receiving tactical advice. It would probably be thrown out but has wasted time.