Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 2

A submission from the Chairmen of Constitution Committee, Racing Rules Committee and Race Officials Committee

Purpose or Objective

To create some flexibility for penalties under rule 2.

Proposal

Amend rule 2 as follows:

2 FAIR SAILING

A boat and her owner shall compete in compliance with recognized principles of sportsmanship and fair play. A boat may be penalized under this rule only if it is clearly established that these principles have been violated. A disqualification under this rule shall not be excluded from the boat’s series score. The penalty may be disqualification that is not excludable, disqualification or less than disqualification, or she may be warned.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Breaches of Fair Sailing, even when a clear violation of the principles of sportsmanship and fair play vary considerably. It is appropriate that a protest committee is able to impose a penalty to match the breach. Examination of the Case Book that gives a number of examples of breaches of rule 2 demonstrates this variation.

2. The current single option of DNE can inhibit a protest committee from upholding an allegation as that penalty is too severe.

3. It is quite common that some behaviour is less than that expected in our sport. However, this can often be managed by upholding a protest and then issuing a warning. This is especially true of young competitors or those new to our sport. We want to change the behaviour and quite often a severe penalty does not achieve that.