Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule E3.1

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Proposal

E3.1 Races with Observers

The race committee may appoint race observers, who may be competitors. While boats are racing, they shall remain in the control area, when one is in use, while boats are racing, and they shall hail and repeat the identity of boats that contact a mark or another boat and repeat the hail as appropriate. Such hails shall be made from the control area. Observers shall report all unresolved incidents and non-compliance with rule 28.1 to the race committee at the end of the heat.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

1. In Radio Sailing a race may consist of one or more heats. It is standard practice to use competitors not sailing in the current heat as observers.

2. The word race is redundant. Also, deleting race provides compatibility with IRSA documents IRSA Addendum Q for Radio Controlled Yachts and SYRPH (SYStem for Reducing Protest Hearings), both of which simply use the term Observers.

3. The current wording is restrictive and could allow a competitor to question the legitimacy of an observer's call if only made once or made more than twice. Often a competitor will acknowledge the infringement before the second call is made. Allowing the observer to not make the second call frees him/her to resume observing other competitors. Further, there are often circumstances where the number of calls from different observers could mask a competitor from hearing even two calls. Allowing the observer to make sufficient calls and in a manner appropriate to the circumstances reduces the likelihood of a competitor genuinely not being able to hear a call.

4. The normal role of the observer includes checking that boats have sailed the correct course. However, as this isn't really ‘an incident’ then this needs to be added to the role that observers carry out.