Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule F4

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

Allow the appeal authority to request clarifications from others that are not parties to the hearing.

Proposal

F4 COMMENTS AND CLARIFICATIONS

(a) The parties and protest committee may make comments on the appeal or request or on any of the documents listed in rule F2.2 by sending them in writing to the national authority. Comments on any document shall be made no later than 15 days after receiving it from the national authority.

(b) The national authority may seek clarifications from boats and organisations that are not parties to the hearing.

(c) The national authority shall send copies of the comments and clarifications received to the parties and protest committee as appropriate.

(d) Comments on any document shall be made no later than 15 days after receiving it from the national authority.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

There are many occasions when information from a boat or organisation that may not have given evidence at the hearing can be useful. Two examples from recent RYA appeals are

(1) A race committee protested a boat that interfered with a commercial ferry. Information from the ferry company or its skipper would have been valuable.

(2) In a protest concerning a boat's rating, information from the rating authority was obtained and was vital in resolving the appeal.