

## Racing Rules of Sailing

### Rule P2

A submission from US Sailing

#### Purpose

1. To simplify the wording of rules P2.2 and 2.3.
2. To clarify and simplify the process for penalizing a boat that breaks rule 42 so close to the finishing line that it is not reasonably possible for her to retire before she finishes.

#### Proposal 1

##### **P2.2 Second Penalty**

When a boat is penalized a second time during the regatta, **she shall** ~~her penalty shall be to promptly retire from the race.~~ If she fails to **do so** ~~take it~~ she shall be disqualified without a hearing and her score shall not be excluded.

##### **P2.3 Third and Subsequent Penalties**

When a boat is penalized a third or subsequent time during the regatta, she shall promptly retire ~~from the race~~. If she does so her penalty shall be disqualification without a hearing and her score shall not be excluded. If she fails to do so her penalty shall be disqualification without a hearing from all races in the regatta, with no score excluded, and the protest committee shall consider calling a hearing under rule 69.2(a).

#### Current Position

As above.

#### Reason for Proposal 1

The penalty described in the first sentence of current rule P2.2 is identical to the penalty described in the first sentence of current rule P2.3, but the wording in P2.2 differs from that in P2.3. The proposal makes the wording of those two sentences identical.

The change to the beginning of the second sentence of rule P2.2 makes its wording identical with the wording in rule P2.3.

In both rule P2.2 and rule P2.3, the phrase 'from the race' is unnecessary.

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Proposal 2

Add new rule P2.4:

**P2.4 Penalties Near the Finishing Line**

**If a boat is penalized under rule P2.2 or P2.3 and it was not reasonably possible for her to retire before *finishing*, she shall be scored as if she had retired promptly.**

Current Position

None. The proposed rule is new.

Reason for Proposal 2

Under the current rules of Appendix P, if a boat is penalized under rule P2.2 or P2.3 and it was not reasonably possible for her to retire before finishing, her penalty is to 'promptly retire'. If she fails to do so, she will receive a much worse score. There are several different ways in which judges and race officers interpret 'promptly retire' when the penalty is signalled near the finishing line or after the boat finishes. Some expect the boat to immediately announce her retirement to the race committee at the finishing line. Others allow the boat to sail to the race committee starting vessel and announce her retirement there. Some judges will accept an announcement of retirement from the crew and report it to the race committee. Other judges will not accept such an announcement and, instead, will send the boat to the race committee to announce her retirement. Some judges will consider an announcement of retirement after the crew has returned to shore to be 'prompt'; others will not.

Proposed new rule P2.4 provides a uniform and simple way to handle this matter. It removes any obligation on a boat in this situation to report her retirement and, instead, simply treats her as if she had retired promptly.

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