Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 62.1(a) and Definition Party

A late submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To align the rule 62.1(a) with its intended meaning, and to make a consequential housekeeping change in the definition Party.

Proposal

62.1 A request for redress or a protest committee’s decision to consider redress shall be based on a claim or possibility that a boat’s score in a race or series has, through no fault of her own, been made significantly worse by

(a) an improper action or omission of the race committee, protest committee, or organizing authority or an equipment inspector or measurer for an event, but not by a protest committee decision when the boat was a party to the hearing;

Party A party to a hearing: a protestor; a protestee; a boat requesting redress or for which redress is requested by the race committee or considered by the protest committee under rule 60.3(b); a race committee acting under rule 60.2(b); a boat or a competitor that may be penalized under rule 69.1; a race committee, or organizing authority or equipment inspector or measurer for an event in a hearing under rule 62.1(a).

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

The intent of rule 62.1(a) is to allow a boat to request redress based on a claim or possibility that her score in a race or series has, through no fault of her own, been made significantly worse by an improper action or omission of any race official whose actions could affect her score. A question sent recently to the Q&A Panel pointed out that, because an equipment inspector or measurer for an event is not necessarily associated with the organizing authority, the race committee or the protest committee, there are circumstances in which equipment inspector or measurer might act improperly or fail to act and the boat or boats affected would be unable to obtain redress.

The proposed change in rule 62.1(a) would eliminate this unintended effect of current rule 62.1(a).

The proposed change in the definition Party is a housekeeping change that is necessary if the change in rule 62.1(a) is approved.
In the interests of fair competition, especially in the Olympic regatta, it is proposed (1) that this submission be considered a matter of urgency (see Regulation 15.7) and (2) that these two changes be considered of “pressing importance”, and that they take effect on 1/1/2012 (see Regulation 28.1.1).
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