The Racing Rules Committee met between 09:30 – 18:00 hrs on Wednesday 8 November 2017 at the Sheraton Buganvilias Resort & Convention Centre Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

1. Opening of the Meeting

(a) Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed the Committee to Puerto Vallarta, and the Committee welcomed the return of Bernard Bonneau. The Chairman congratulated Marianne Middelthon on being awarded a World Sailing Gold Medal in recognition of her outstanding contribution to World Sailing.

(b) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Natalia Chubenko and Lijia Xu. The Chairman noted that the Athletes’ Commission had appointed Yann Rocherleux as a replacement for Lijia for this meeting.

(c) Declaration of Conflicts of Interests

The Chairman invited attendees to declare any conflicts of interests. None were declared.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2016 (circulated and approved after the meeting) were noted.
(b) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on this agenda.

3. Other Submissions

The Committee considered the following submissions for which the Racing Rules Committee is an Other Committee and gave an opinion to Council:

(a) Submission 035-17 – World Sailing Regulations – Regulation 35.1.5
   \textit{Opinion: Reject (0 in favour, 14 against, 0 abstain)}

(b) Submission 123-17 – World Sailing Race Officials – Umpired Fleet Racing – Regulations 6.10 and 6.11
   \textit{Opinion: Approve Proposal 1 (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain).}
   Proposal 2 is outside the Committee’s terms of reference and no opinion was given.

(c) Submission 036-17 – Anti-Discrimination Code (added to agenda)
   \textit{Opinion: No opinion}

   The Committee noted that the Constitution Committee will recommend to Council that this matter be deferred to the Ethics Commission. On that basis, the Committee agreed that the submission be removed from the agenda on the basis that the Committee has no opinion on the matter.

4. Racing Rules of Sailing Submissions

The Committee considered the following submissions for which the Racing Rules Committee is the Reporting Committee and made a recommendation to Council:

(a) Submission 133-17 - World Sailing Committees - Racing Rules Committee - Regulations 6.11 & 28
   \textit{Recommendation to Council: Approve with the following amendment (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)}

   Amend Proposal 3 as follows:

   \textit{28.3.7 The Racing Rules Committee shall review proposed rapid response calls from any World Sailing International Umpire or a Racing Rules Committee working party. The chief umpire or protest committee chairman at an event shall report new event calls published made during the event to World Sailing.}

(b) Submission 134-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Sportsmanship and the Rules
   \textit{Recommendation to Council: Approve (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)}

(c) Submission 135-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Definition Start
   \textit{Recommendation to Council: Approve with the following amendment (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)}

   Proposal 1

   Change the definition Start as follows:

   \textit{Start} A boat \textit{starts} when, having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull, crew or equipment crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side in the direction of the first mark.
Proposal 2

In Appendix F, change the definition Start as follows:

**Start** A kiteboard *starts* when, her hull and the competitor having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull, or the competitor crosses the starting line *from the pre-start side to the course side* in the direction of the first mark.

(d) Submission 136-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Race Signals – N

**Recommendation to Council:** *Reject* (0 in favour, 14 against, 0 abstain)

The current words are necessary to permit a race to be abandoned before the start. In some circumstances, the submission would require the race committee to display both AP and N, particularly when over H. See also RRS 27.3.

(e) Submission 137-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule 14

**Recommendation to Council:** *Approve* (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

(f) Submission 138-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing - Rule 18.3 - Urgent Rule Change

**Recommendation to Council:** *Reject* (6 in favour, 7 against, 1 abstain)

The Committee is not convinced there is a problem in practice. The Committee does not approve urgent rule implementation under Regulation 28.1.2.

(g) Submission 139-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule 21

**Recommendation to Council:** *Reject* (0 in favour, 13 against, 1 abstain)

The Committee agrees there is a problem and will consider a new submission in 2018.

(h) Submission 140-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule 21 & 64.1(a)

**Recommendation to Council:** *Reject* (2 in favour, 12 against, 0 abstain)

Further consideration is to be given to the location and organization of the exoneration rules.

(i) Submission 141-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule 50.1

**Recommendation to Council:** *Reject* (0 in favour, 14 against, 0 abstain)

Deletion may create a game change for some classes and may cause confusion amongst sailors. The submission is being referred to Equipment, Oceanic & Offshore and World Sailing Classes Committees, and the RRS/ERS Working Party, for their view.

(j) Submission 142-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Definition Party, Rules 63.1, 64.4, New Rule 63.8 & Urgent Rule Change

**Recommendation to Council:** *Approve with the following amendment* (10 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

Proposal 1

**Party** A party to a hearing is

[...]

(c) a support *person* subject to a hearing under rule 60.3(d) or 69; and any competitor or boat supported by that person supports; a person appointed to present an allegation under rule 60.3(d).
However, the protest committee is never a party.

Proposal 3

64.4 Decisions Concerning Support Persons

(a) When, after a hearing, the protest committee decides that a support person who is a party to a hearing under rule 60.3(d) or 69 has broken a rule, it may……

(b) The protest committee may also penalize a competitor boat that is a party to a hearing under rule 60.3(d) or 69 after a hearing for the breach of a rule by a support person by changing the boat’s score in a single race, up to and including DSQ, when the protest committee decides that

(1) the competitor boat may have gained a competitive advantage as the result of the breach by the support person, or

(2) the support person committed a further breach after the competitor has been warned by the protest committee warned the boat in writing, following a previous hearing, that a penalty may be imposed.

Proposal 4

63.9 Hearings under rule 60.3(d) – Support Persons

If the protest committee decides to call a hearing under rule 60.3(d), it shall promptly inform the person in writing of the alleged breach and of the time and place of the hearing and follow the procedures in rules 63.2, 63.3, 63.4 and 63.6, except that the information given to the parties shall be details of the alleged breach and a person may be appointed by the protest committee to present the allegation.

The Committee approved urgent rule implementation on 1 January 2018 pursuant to Regulation 28.1.2 (10 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

(k) Submission 143-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rules 63.1, 63.2, 63.3, 63.4, 63.5, 63.6, 64.4, 66 and 69.2(e) and the Protest Form

Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 9 against, 2 abstain)

The Committee prefers Submission 142-17 as amended.

(l) Submission 144-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rules 64.4, 41 and 60.3(a)

Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 13 against, 1 abstain)

The Committee prefers Submission 142-17 as amended.

(m) Submission 145-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule 69.2(e)

Recommendation to Council: Approve (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

(n) Submission 146-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule 69.2(f)

Recommendation to Council: Approve with the following amendment (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

(f) If the person

(1) provides good reason why he is unable to cannot come to the hearing at the scheduled time, the protest committee shall reschedule it; or

(o) Submission 147-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule 86.1(a)
Racing Rules Committee Minutes (cont.)

Recommendation to Council: Approve (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

(p) Submission 148-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rules 89.2(c) & 90.3(c)
Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 14 against, 0 abstain)
No change needed.

(q) Submission 149-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule A11
Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 14 against, 0 abstain)
Unnecessary and added complication.

(r) Submission 150-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule D2.5
Recommendation to Council: Approve (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

(s) Submission 151-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule D2.6
Recommendation to Council: Approve (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

(t) Submission 152-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule G1.2(a)
Recommendation to Council: Reject (1 in favour, 13 against, 0 abstain)
Support the ERS Working Party and Equipment Rules Sub-committee recommendations to reject.

(u) Submission 153-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule G1.2(d)
Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 14 against, 0 abstain)
Support the ERS Working Party and Equipment Rules Sub-committee recommendations to reject.

(v) Submission 154-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule G1.2(e)
Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 14 against, 0 abstain)
Support the ERS Working Party and Equipment Rules Sub-committee recommendations to reject.

(w) Support the ERS Working Party and Equipment Rules Sub-committee recommendations to reject. Submission 155-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Rule N1
Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 7 against, 7 abstain)
The Committee recommends that Council follow the opinion of the Race Officials Committee.

(x) Submission 156-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Appendix CBS
Recommendation to Council: Approve (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

5. The Case Book

The Committee considered the following case submissions for which the Racing Rules Committee is the Reporting Committee and made a recommendation to Council:

(a) Submission 157-17 - New Case
Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 10 against, 3 abstain)
Prefer Submission 158-17.

(b) Submission 158-17 - New Case
Recommendation to Council: Approve with the following amendment (6 in favour, 4 against, 3 abstain)

When a boat knowingly barges at a starting mark where she is not entitled to mark-room with no reasonable possibility of avoiding breaking a rule she breaks a basic right-of-way rule for
which she cannot be exonerated, and she breaks rule 2 and should be penalized with a disqualification that shall not be excluded from her series score.

During the hearing, Z is asked if she knew that she would break a rule if she went in between X and the committee vessel. She confirms that.

In the hearing, Z confirmed that she knew that by barging in at the committee vessel she would break a rule. A boat that knowingly barges at a starting mark with no reasonable possibility of avoiding breaking a rule breaks a rule violates the fundamental principle of sportsmanship stated in Sportsmanship and the Rules. For that reasons, Z broke rule 2, and the protest committee should penalize her with a disqualification that shall not be excluded from Z’s series score. This penalty should be applied regardless of any number of places that X and Y may have lost because of the actions of Z.

If the damage to X or Y caused by the actions of Z made their finishing positions in the race significantly worse, through no fault of their own, they would be entitled to redress under rule 62.1(d). Furthermore, the protest committee might consider whether it would be appropriate to act against Z under rule 69.2(b).

To be edited by the Case Book Working Party with the final text to be approved by the Committee prior to publication.

(c) Submission 159-17 - New Case

Recommendation to Council: Approve with the following amendment (10 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstain)

Answer
No. The term “serious” is not defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). The Terminology section of the Introduction to the RRS states that “other words and terms are used in the sense ordinarily understood in nautical or general use.” As understood in general use, one authoritative English dictionary suggests that, when “serious” is used in the phrase “serious damage,” the term means: important because of possible danger or risk; having potentially undesired consequences; giving cause for concern; of significant degree or amount.

This suggests that when a protest committee has concluded from the facts found that damage occurred in an incident, it must then consider whether any of the four criteria implied by the definition above apply, and if so it should conclude that the damage is “serious.”

Questions to consider may include:
(1) Did the damage reduce the safety of the crew at risk?
(2) Did the damage include a hole in the boat which compromised the integrity of the hull?
(2) Did the damage adversely impact the boat’s sailing performance in a significant way?
(3) Will the cost of repairing the damage be a significant amount relative to the market value of the boat?
(4) Will the value of the boat after repairing the damage be significantly diminished?

(d) Submission 160-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – New Case

Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 14 against, 0 abstain)

The Committee does not support the interpretation that the scenario comprises two incidents.

(e) Submission 161-17 - New Case

Recommendation to Council: Approve option 2 with the following amendment (13 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)
Rule 62.1(b), Redress

When a boat is requesting redress because of injury or physical damage caused by the action of a boat that was breaking a rule of Part 2, she need not protest the boat that caused the damage or injury, but her request will not succeed unless evidence is provided during the redress hearing that leads the protest committee to conclude that the other boat broke a rule of Part 2.

Facts:
Boat X requests redress under RRS 62.1(b) claiming that her score in a race has been, through no fault of her own, made significantly worse by injury or physical damage caused by the action of boat Y that was breaking a rule of Part 2.

Question:
Does boat X need to protest boat Y to support her request for redress?

Answer

No. While a protest is the best way to establish that a boat broke a rule of Part 2, X is not required to protest Y. However, if X does protest Y after the incident that led to injury or physical damage and if the protest committee finds that Y did break a rule of Part 2, then clearly X can point to the outcome of the protest to establish that Y broke a rule of Part 2.

The Basic Principle, Sportsmanship and the Rules, states that all competitors, including X's crew, are expected to enforce the rules, but there is no racing rule that requires that X protest Y in order to be eligible for redress under rule 62.1(b).

If X does not protest Y, her request for redress can succeed if testimony is presented during the redress hearing that leads the protest committee to conclude that Y broke a rule of Part 2. Examples of testimony that would lead the protest committee to that conclusion include:

- A member of Y's crew, called as a witness, reports that Y took a penalty in acknowledgement of breaking a rule of Part 2 in the incident with X.
- A race official testifies that a representative of Y signed an acknowledgement of infringement or reported to a race official that Y took the appropriate penalty or retired from the race because she broke a rule of Part 2 in the incident with X.
- Any other testimony that leads the protest committee to conclude that Y broke a rule of Part 2 in the incident with X.

Answer (option 1):
Yes. In order to grant redress, a protest committee has to establish whether the requirements of RRS 62.1(b) are met. To do so, there must be a hearing where the protest committee shall take the evidence of the parties present and of their witnesses, and other evidence it considers necessary, then find the facts and base its decision on them. Once that decision is made, the protest committee will decide if boat X is entitled to redress.

Answer (option 2):
No. Boat X when requesting redress only needs to provide evidence that another boat was breaking a rule of Part 2. This evidence may be an acknowledgement of infringement from boat Y, e.g. by bringing boat Y to the redress hearing as witness or by having boat Y acknowledging the infringement by other means, such as signing an acknowledgement of infringement form.

To be edited by the Case Book Working Party with the final text to be approved by the Committee prior to publication.

(f) Submission 162-17 - New Case
Racing Rules Committee Minutes (cont.)

Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 13 against, 1 abstain)
Rule 63.7 and possibly Rule 70.1 may need clarification.

(g) Submission 163-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – New Case
Recommendation to Council: Reject (0 in favour, 14 against, 0 abstain)
Blue is required to keep clear by rule 10 and then rule 11. Blue could easily have gybed earlier and nothing compelled her to break these rules.

(h) Submission 164-17 - New Case
Recommendation to Council: Approve with the following amendment (9 in favour, 4 against, 1 abstain)

Decision
Rule 89.1 defines those bodies authorized to organize racing under the Racing Rules of Sailing. Since the club that organized the race was not a member of the national authority, it was not affiliated with World Sailing. It therefore was not a valid organizing authority under Rule 89.1. Consequently, no national authority exists that is compliant with RRS 70.3 and so decisions made by the event’s protest committee were not eligible to be appealed to the any national authority under RRS 70.
When Boat A entered in the race organized by the unaffiliated club, she, perhaps unwittingly, participated in what was, in effect, an event that was not authorized under the Racing Rules of Sailing. Her expectation that the procedures of Rule 70 were available to her were misplaced because neither the organizing authority nor the race itself satisfied the requirements of Rule 89.1.

The Appeals Committee must, therefore decline to hear the appeal because the race was not conducted as required by rule 89.1.

Subject to editing by the Case Book Working Party and approval of the final text of the Case by the Committee prior to publication.

The Committee agreed that the recommendation to Council should be accompanied by the following note: This Case raises other issues of application and interpretation of World Sailing Regulations that are beyond the scope of a Case (which is limited to interpretations of the RRS). Organizers, competitors, and race officials should be aware of World Sailing Regulations and their interpretations before organizing, entering or agreeing serve at an event that does not comply with rule 89.1.

(i) Submission 165-17 – Case 78
Recommendation to Council: Proposal 1: Approve (11 in favour, 2 against, 0 abstain); Proposal 2: Reject (2 in favour, 11 against, 0 abstain); and Proposals 3 – 5: Reject (0 in favour, 13 against, 0 abstain).

6. The Call Books
The Committee considered the following call submissions for which the Racing Rules Committee is the Reporting Committee and made a recommendation to Council:

(a) Submission 166-17 – Racing rules of Sailing – New MR Call E11
Recommendation to Council: approve with the following amendment (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain).

Answer 2
Penalize Blue.
Yellow was entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(a)(1) and, from the moment she began luffing to round the mark, she was sailing her proper course to round the mark. Therefore, she is exonerated under rule 21 for her breach of rule 11. Blue failed to give Yellow mark-room as required by rule 18.2(a)(1).

Yellow broke rule 18.3(b) before she passed head to wind, but is not penalized for that breach (see Answer 1).

(b) Submission 167-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – New TR Call H5

Recommendation to Council: Approve with the following amendment (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

Question

Y on port tack is clear ahead of B on starboard tack when Y enters the zone of a port hand leeward mark. At the zone of a port hand leeward mark, Y is on port tack, and clear ahead of B on starboard tack. Y sails to leeward of the mark and turns onto her course to the next mark before position 3. B holds her course until, just before position 4, she luffs to avoid Y. B protests. What should the call be?

The Committee agreed that in future this Call should be turned into a Case.

(c) Submission 168-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – New TR Call J9

Recommendation to Council: Approve with the following amendment (13 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

i) Amend second paragraph of Answer 1 as follows:

Although Y breaks rule 11 she is exonerated as she is sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled from A. Y hits the mark but she cannot be exonerated for breaking rule 31 as she could have passed the wrong side of the mark in a seamanlike way and was not compelled to hit it. Y also breaks rule 18.2(b) as she failed to give mark-room to X.

(d) Submission 169-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – TR Call G4

Recommendation to Council: Approve (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

(e) Submission 170-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – TR Call L2

Recommendation to Council: Approve (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

(f) Submission 171-17 – Racing Rules of Sailing – TR Call M7

Recommendation to Council: Approve (14 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain)

7. Reports

(a) Racing Rules Committee Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party. The Working Party met at the World Sailing Executive Office for 3 days in September, which facilitated the categorisation of submissions into Category 1 and Category 4 submissions for approval and rejection (respectively) as blocks.

The Chairman noted that the process was useful in making the Committee more efficient and thanked the Working Party for their work.

(b) Case Book Working Party
The Chairman of the Working Party noted that the Working Party had completed an updated Case Book after the meeting in November 2016.

(c) Q&A Panel

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Q&A Panel and discussed the following Q&As to give guidance to the Panel:

i) Q&A 2016-AH: Hailing for Room to Tack

It was initially thought that the Q&A could contradict Case 54. However, it has now been agreed that the Q&A complements Case 54 and a revised answer be republished.

ii) Q&A 2016-AJ: Application of RRS 18.3

The Committee agreed that a better diagram is required. The Panel will continue to draft the answer.

iii) Q&A 2017-AB and 2017-AI: Damage other than to racing boats

The Committee agreed that ‘damage’ does not refer only to damage to boats if the term is used in a general sense.

iv) Limitations on Q&A to be answered

The Committee agreed that the Q&As should include an expiry date and the website should include a statement concerning the appropriateness of Q&As, in particular in relation to questions for protest committees etc (i.e. the Q&A Panel is not an appeal service).

(d) Team Racing Rules Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

i) Correcting an umpire decision

The Committee noted the report of the Chairman concerning this issue.

(e) Match Racing Rules Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(f) High Speed Rules Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(g) Boards Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(h) Appendices JKLS Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(i) RRS – ERS Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(j) Special Rules Panel

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(k) Fleet Race Umpiring Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party and discussed three issues on which the Working Party sought the Committee’s guidance.

The Committee agreed there should be no change to rule 90.3(c) in Addendum Q.
The Committee agreed that technical committee protests should be limited in a similar manner to race committee protests under Addendum Q.

The Committee discussed the application of rule 2 in Addendum Q to penalty turns.

**Decision**

The Committee recommends to Council that Addendum Q (the rules for Olympic medal races) be amended to allow a boat to delay taking a penalty turn until signalled to do so by an umpire

*(8 in favour, 4 against, 1 abstain)*

*Post-meeting note: Council did not approve this recommendation.*

(l) Rule 69 & Judicial Matters Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(m) Radio Sailing Rules Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(n) Appendix CBS Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(o) WS Video Review Panel

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(p) Missing Marks Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

The Committee requested the Working Party consider whether it can be merged with another Working Party.

(q) Definition Finish & Rule 28 Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(r) Case 78 Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(s) Ad Code Discrimination Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

The Committee noted that this is an issue. The Committee agreed that the provisions dealing with misconduct were the most appropriate, but that the Constitution Committee will consider the matter further.

The Committee noted also that a new working party has been established in relation to the development of the Virtual Racing Rules of Sailing.

8. Reports from Representatives on Other Committees

(a) Race Officials Committee

The Committee agreed that all relevant matters had already been discussed.

(b) Equipment Committee

The Committee agreed that all relevant matters had already been discussed.

(c) Equipment Rules Sub-committee

The Committee agreed that all relevant matters had already been discussed.
9. Other Matters
   (a) Appendices – Owners and Designations for 2021 – 2024
       The Committee noted the paper from the Chairman.
   (b) Proliferation of Racing Rules Documents
       The Committee discussed the increase in racing rules documents and agreed more
       documents needed to be placed on the website.
   (c) Introductory Racing Rules
       The Committee noted that Richard Thompson was reviewing the current version of
       these rules.
   (d) Redress
       The Chairman informed the Committee that he would appoint a working party to review
       the principles and scope of redress.
   (e) Rule 42 Interpretations
       The Committee received a paper concerning the definition of “repeated” in the rule 42
       interpretations.

       **Decision**
       There should be no change to the current interpretation.
       **(13 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstain)**

10. Recommendations Not Based on Submission
    The Committee agreed there were no other recommendations to make to Council.

11. Annual Report
    The Committee noted the Chairman’s report to Council.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.