

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



Q&A 2009-026

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The course is three laps windward/leeward course, with a finishing line to windward of the windward mark.

Boat X completes only two laps and then sails to the finishing line and crosses it from the direction of the leeward mark.

Question 1

Does she finish according to the definition?

Answer 1

No.

The sailing instructions describe the course with the finishing line being at the end of the last leg of the course (the end of lap 3). The finishing marks therefore only have a required side at that time and at no earlier point in time.

Rule 28.1(a) says that a boat shall pass each mark on the required side. As the finishing marks only have a required side when a boat is on the last leg of the course described in the sailing instructions, a boat does not finish according to the definition if it passes between these marks on an earlier leg of the course.

Question 2

Having crossed the finishing line, may she return to complete the last lap?

Answer 2

Yes.

Rule 28.1 allows a boat to correct any errors to comply with that rule. There is no time limit specified in that rule as to when the correction is to be completed. However, the boat would need to finish within any time limit specified in the sailing instructions.

Question 3

In terms of rule 28.1, at what point does she break the rule?

Answer 3

As indicated in Case 112, she does not break rule 28.1 until she finishes. In this situation, she has not finished until she has corrected her error in not sailing the last lap of the course.

All published answers are based upon the 2009-2012 Racing Rules of Sailing

Question 4

If she doesn't break rule 28.1 until she finishes, what meaning has the phrase 'She may correct any errors to comply with this rule'?

Answer 4

It means that she may correct any errors to comply with rule 28.1 until she finishes (see answer 2 above). Any error made at the finishing line, even after finishing, is covered by the last words of the definition Finish – 'after correcting an error made at the finishing line, under rule 28.1.'

Boat Y seeing that X was making her way to the finishing line before completing the course, was close enough to hail 'protest' but waited till X crossed the finishing line before informing her of her intention to protest.

Question 5

Does this hail satisfy the requirement of rule 61.1?

Answer 5

Yes.

See answer 3 in Case 112. However, see also the answer to question 1. Boat X would not have crossed the actual finishing line at this time and therefore would not have finished and she still had the opportunity to sail the course in accordance with rule 28.1.

Question 6

Could informing X before she crossed the finishing line constitute a breach of rule 41 by X?

Answer 6

No.

The hail of protest by boat Y was unsolicited advice for boat X. However, as the finishing line for X is still one lap away, she still has the opportunity of correcting her error as provided by rule 28.1, provided she can finish within any time limit specified in the sailing instructions.