World Sailing Racing Rules Question and Answer Service

Q&A 2020.003
2 March 2020

Situation
During the hearing of a valid protest, boat A, who might have been involved in the incident, is neither the protestor nor a protestee. The protest committee concluded that boat A broke a rule but was exonerated under another rule.

Question 1
Did the protest committee act properly?

Answer 1
Yes. It is at the protest committee’s discretion to protest a boat that may have broken a rule. As the protest committee concluded that boat A would be exonerated, it was not necessary to protest her.

Question 2
Is boat A a party to the hearing?

Answer 2
No. Boat A is neither the protestor nor a protestee. See the definition Party.

Question 3
Would the answer to question 1 be different if the protest committee penalized boat A?

Answer 3
Yes. If the protest committee believed that boat A broke a rule and would not be exonerated, the protest committee would be required to follow the procedure in rule 61.1(c) before it would have been possible to penalize her.

Question 4
Would the answer to question 2 be different if the protest committee orally informed boat A of its intention to protest her during the hearing, but did not file a protest nor followed the procedure described in rule 61.1(c)?

Answer 4
No. See answer 3.

Question 5
What are the options available to boat A if the protest committee penalizes her without a hearing?

Answer 5
Boat A may request redress. Penalizing a boat that was not a party to the hearing is an improper action of the protest committee; rule 64.1 allows only a party to a protest hearing to be penalized.