Racing Rules of Sailing
Propulsion

A submission from the Royal Spanish Sailing Federation

PROPOSAL:
1. To make “pumping” legal for the Olympic classes.
2. Alternatively to make “pumping” legal with a wind speed above 10 Knots.

CURRENT POSITION AS AT NOVEMBER 2002:

42.2 Prohibited Actions
Without limiting the application of rule 42.1, these actions are prohibited:
(a) pumping: repeated fanning of any sail either by trimming and releasing the sail or by vertical or athwartships body movement;
(b) rocking: repeated rolling of the boat, induced either by body movement or adjustment of the sails or centreboard, that does not facilitate steering;
(c) ooching: sudden forward body movement, stopped abruptly;
(d) sculling: repeated movement of the helm not necessary for steering;
(e) repeated tacks or gybes unrelated to changes in the wind or to tactical considerations.

REASON:
The practical impossibility of controlling Rule 42 makes its enforcement in the water a true and random injustice.
The actions of competitors in the same leg and sailing under the same conditions depend on the proximity of a judge.
The lack of united criteria in the enforcement of the rule increases the existing chaos.
Modern sports put a premium on speed and the existing rules go against this trend.
Modern sports are conceived as an athletic activity and present rules are against this conception.
Races should be won or lost on the water and not by a decision of judges.
The Race Committee always has the capability to cancel a race when the wind has substantially dropped down. Rule 32.1 (c) & (e).