Case 1/2026 (English translation)

”ELITESTÆVNE” FOR H-BOAT, 20-21 JUNE, STRUER SAILING CLUB

Report according to RRS 69.2(j)

After the event, the Danish Sailing Association received a report from the protest committee about a hearing and penalty according to RRS 69.

Summary:

On the evening of Saturday, June 20, the chairman of the protest committee was informed by a representative of the organizing authority that there had been a confrontation between a participant and a representative of Struer Municipality. The incident took place during a ”pier beer” event after the day’s races. After the incident, the participant was expelled from the club area.

The protest committee decided to act in accordance with rule 69 and call a hearing. For practical reasons, the hearing was held online after the event (June 30).

The protest committee found as a fact that Mike Rasmussen, skipper of DEN 565, had shown inappropriate behavior in a confrontation with a representative of Struer Municipality, who was present as a guest of Struer Sailing Club. It is stated in the facts that Mike Rasmussen's body language and expression were clearly confrontational and threatening, and he appeared aggressive.

The confrontation unfolded over a longer period of time, starting on the clubhouse terrace, continuing at the race office and ending in the parking lot with the municipality representative and his wife leaving the club. During the confrontation, Mike Rasmussen followed the guest and physically blocked access to the office by standing close to the guest. Other people present tried to stand between the parties, as they feared physical contact.

Action and decision by the protest committee:

The protest committee decided that Mike Rasmussen should be excluded from the event and that DEN 565 should have the scoring DNE in all races of the event.

Mike Rasmussen was informed of the possibility of appeal, and that the decision would be reported to the Danish Sailing Association with a view to considering further sanctions according to rule 69.3.

Remarks of the Appeals Committee:

Initially, the committee notes that Mike Rasmussen was expelled without a prior hearing and decision. The organizing authority cannot expel a participant without a decision from the protest committee. However, the protest committee subsequently acted correctly by calling a hearing in writing under rule 69. Mike Rasmussen has had the opportunity to express his views at the hearing prior to the protest committee’s decision, and he has not appealed against the decision.

Mike Rasmussen has stressed during the hearing and subsequently that the subject of the confrontation was in no way related to the event and that the incident is therefore not covered

by rule 69. However, the rule on misconduct, regardless of the reason, applies to all competitors throughout the event, afloat and ashore. This is also stated in the Misconduct Guidance document published by World Sailing.

It is therefore irrelevant what the subject of the confrontation was. The key point is that a guest invited by the organizing authority to an event during the regatta was confronted in an intrusive and insistent manner and with body language that could be perceived as threatening.

The Misconduct Guidance document by World Sailing mentions several circumstances that are aggravating in the assessment of misconduct. Among these are:

- Violence or aggression (whether actual or perceived by the victim).
- The competitor shows no remorse or perception that the misconduct was wrong.
- Repeat offences.
- The misconduct is witnessed by a large number of people.
- The sport/event has been brought into disrepute with the local community/wider public.

The Committee considers the above circumstances to apply to the current case and considers it appropriate that Mike Rasmussen be suspended from racing for a period of time.

Decision by the Appeals Committee:

Mike Rasmussen is hereby suspended from competition eligibility for any event held within the jurisdiction of the Danish Sailing Association for a period of 9 months, effective from 9 September 2026 to 9 June 2027, in accordance with rule 69.3 and the World Sailing Code of Ethics.

The Danish Sailing Union shall report the sanction to the World Sailing Disciplinary Tribunal in accordance with the World Sailing Code of Ethics, Annex B 2.3. World Sailing will subsequently act as required by the World Sailing Code of Ethics, which may include an international exclusion.

DANISH SAILING ASSOCIATION

Appeals Committee

9 September 2026