



AIB OPTIMIST NATIONALS 2020

INFORMATION FROM THE PROTEST COMMITTEE (PC) TO COMPETITORS

This notice does not modify or replace the rules of the competition or the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)

1. Propulsion (RRS 42) and Appendix P (Special procedures for RRS 42)

In addition to the World Sailing RRS 42 Interpretations, the following points may help you to understand the application of RRS 42

- (a) Although there are usually two judges in each PC boat, a single judge will signal a yellow flag penalty when satisfied that a boat has broken RRS 42.
- (b) When a boat is penalised for a breach of RRS 42 in a race that is subsequently postponed, recalled or abandoned, the boat may compete in the restarted race. However, every penalty counts in the boat's penalty total.
- (c) Although judges will signal a RRS 42 penalty as soon as possible, this might be after the boat has crossed the finishing line. In the case of a boat's first penalty, she must complete the penalty, return to the course side of the finishing line and then finish.
- (d) A boat may only be granted redress when a judge's action failed to account for a race committee signal or a class rule (see RRS P4).

A competitor may ask the judges for an explanation of a penalty after the completion of the race. It can be done either on or off the water or by asking at the PC Office to arrange a meeting with the judges. See the Sailing Instructions for further details. Please respect social distancing when approaching a PC member.

2. On the Water

Sailing is essentially a self-policing sport. The PC expects that boats will take a penalty promptly when appropriate. The primary responsibility for protesting breaches of the rules is with the competitors, not the PC. However, in addition to taking action under Appendix P, the PC may lodge protests in under RRS 60.3.

The PC will protest breaches of a rule of Part 2 where the breach is difficult for other competitors to protest or they observe an apparent breach of good sportsmanship (RRS 2). Examples of such breaches are;

- Deliberately or knowingly breaking a rule without justification for exoneration and not taking the appropriate penalty.
- intimidating other boats, often evidenced by unnecessary shouting or foul language;
- team tactics, sailing to benefit another boat to the detriment of your own position;
- reckless sailing that results in, or is likely to result in, damage or injury.

The PC may blow a whistle when they see what they believe to be a breach of a rule, to encourage boats to take penalties afloat. They may also give evidence in protests; however, PC evidence may not always be available.

3. Observers at hearings

Each party may bring one person to observe at a hearing, unless the PC decides in a particular case that it is inappropriate. Observers must sign and comply with the requirements in the document titled Information for Observers which will be presented at the hearing.

4. Arbitration

Arbitration, as detailed in Appendix T of the *Racing Rules of Sailing*, is available for appropriate protests under a rule of Part 2 (when boats meet). This is a quicker and less contentious means of resolving rules disputes. Arbitration carries a maximum penalty of a 30% scoring penalty. All protests not resolved by arbitration will go to a full PC hearing, where the potential penalty is disqualification.

5. Requests for Redress, Claiming RC Error in Scoring a Boat OCS, ZFP, UFD or BFD

Boats sometimes want to challenge the race committee's decision to score them OCS, ZFP, UFD or BFD by requesting redress under RRS 62.1(a).

Competitors are advised to consult the Race Officer prior to a hearing, to learn the race committee's evidence that the boat was OCS, UFD or BFD. Evidence beyond a video or the relative positions of two boats that are scored differently is usually needed for the PC to find that the Race Committee made an error in scoring the boat OCS, UFD or BFD and to award redress.

6. Gross Misconduct (RRS 69)

Any form of cheating, including not telling the truth in a hearing, is a breach of sportsmanship and may result in a hearing under RRS 69 and a very heavy penalty. Other examples of behaviour that would justify action under RRS 69 include:

- Bullying, intimidation or discriminatory behaviour.
- Fighting and assaults.
- Theft, or damage or abuse of property.
- Abuse of any participant or official.
- Using foul or abusive language offending, or inappropriate to the occasion/location.
- Intentional refusal to comply with OA, RC or PC requirements or requests.

7. Video Evidence

If a party to a hearing wishes to bring video evidence, it is their responsibility to provide adequate equipment to view the video.

8. Failure to attend a hearing

Competitors should be aware that the PC may proceed with a hearing [under RRS 63.3(b)] in the absence of one of the parties. This will not be grounds for reopening unless the PC is satisfied that the competitor had made every reasonable effort to find out the time of the hearing and to attend.

It is the responsibility of the competitors to monitor the official notice board until all hearings are concluded for the day.

9. Protest Committee Members

The members of the protest committee are:

Name	Nation
Emmet Dalton (Chairman)	IRL
Tom Crosbie	IRL
Cian Jones	IRL
Michael McCann	IRL
Derek Moynan	IRL
Paul Tingle	IRL

Competitors, team leaders and coaches may discuss procedure and policy with the Protest Committee Chairman. The Chairman may be contacted through the Protest Committee Office, on the 1st floor of the clubhouse and will be available each day before and after sailing.

Emmet Dalton
Protest Committee Chairman