

Umpired fleet racing: Medal Race using addendum Q

Information to athletes

The following information does not contain 'rules'. It is information intended to help athletes understand Addendum Q to the sailing instructions.

The Medal Race will be sailed under the normal Racing Rules of Sailing, modified by Addendum Q. Addendum Q contains the following changes to the 'normal' racing rules:

Protest procedures while racing

While you are racing, you can only protest another boat for the following:

- A boat-to-boat incident you are involved in yourself;
- Another boat breaks rule 31 or 42.

You protest by hailing 'Protest' and displaying a red flag. Make sure the umpires and the boat you are protesting hear the hail and see the flag. Remove the flag after the protested boat takes her penalty or after the umpires signal a decision. (A board is not required to display a flag, but raising an arm in addition to hailing 'Protest' will help the umpires become aware of the protest.)

Penalties while racing

If you may have broken a rule, whether or not you are protested by another boat, you may take a penalty voluntarily immediately after the incident as follows:

- One-Turn Penalty: Promptly make one turn, including one tack and one gybe. (However, boards take a penalty by making one 360° turn with no requirement for a tack or a gybe.)

If you decide to take a penalty but need to get clear of other boats, it is a good idea to look at the umpires, raise your hand and say 'I will take a penalty'.

If the protested boat does not take a penalty voluntarily as soon after the incident as possible, the umpires will signal their decision by making one of these signals:

- Display a green-and-white flag and blow a whistle, which means 'No penalty'.
- Display a red flag, blow a whistle and hail to identify one or more boats.

If the umpires identify you, you must promptly take a One-Turn Penalty (see above).

While you are taking the penalty or you are sailing clear to take it, the manoeuvres you make are not considered as sailing your proper course.

If you know you have broken a rule, the Basic Principle, Sportsmanship and the Rules requires you to take a penalty voluntarily as soon as possible. Waiting for a signal, when you know you have broken a rule, is deliberately breaking a rule, and may be seen as a breach of sportsmanship, in which case the umpires can give you an additional penalty (see next paragraph). So if you do not take a penalty voluntarily when you know you have broken a rule, there is a considerable risk that you will get two or more imposed penalties.

The umpires may penalise you (signalling with a red flag) without a protest from another boat if you do not take a penalty after breaking rule 31 or 42, gain an advantage after taking a penalty, deliberately break a rule, fail to take a penalty correctly, or commit a breach of sportsmanship. If you fail to take a penalty when it has been signalled or you take a penalty but not correctly, the umpires will signal that the penalty remains outstanding.

If these breaches are severe or repeated or if you pass a mark on the wrong side and fail to correct that error before you round the next mark or finish, the umpires may use the black flag to disqualify you. If you are disqualified you must promptly leave the racing area.

You must complete all penalties before finishing. If you are taking a penalty when you are finishing or after you have crossed the finishing line, you must take the penalty and then finish correctly.

Protests or requests for redress after racing

The intent is that all situations are decided on the water. However, you may protest or request redress immediately after finishing for certain breaches or circumstances that you cannot protest while racing. Such protests and requests for redress need not be in writing; you just inform the race committee before or while flag B is displayed from the race committee boat at the end of the race.

The possibilities for requesting redress are very limited. You cannot request redress because of actions or non-actions by the umpires, the race committee, the Organising Committee or the protest committee. The only possibility of giving redress is for having given help to somebody in danger.

You cannot appeal a decision made by the umpires or the protest committee. You cannot ask for a hearing to be reopened.

Other Rules

The penalty system in Appendix P does not apply. Any rule 42 penalties imposed will be signalled by the umpires with a red flag. The penalty for a breach of rule 42 is a One-Turn Penalty, irrespective of the number of penalties a boat has been given in the event.

Room to tack at an obstruction: When rule 20.1 applies and you hail, you are required to make an arm signal in addition to your hail. (Does not apply to boards.)

As soon as you have finished, check your finishing place on the board on the race committee finishing boat. If you think your finishing place is wrong, inform the race committee immediately. You cannot request redress for this, but if the race committee realise they have made an error, they can correct it. If you don't inform the race committee immediately, but wait until after they have lowered flag B, it is much less likely that there will be time to check and correct a possible error. Even if you believe there is an error, you cannot request redress for this, whether on the water or ashore.