

RYA Race Official's Conference

Wyboston, Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February 2015

Measurement and Rating Protests

Mike Urwin. mikeurwin@rorcrating.com.

Rules

- **Various of the RRS apply.**
 - RRS 60 – 67.
 - RRS 78.
 - RRS 86.1.
 - Appendix G.
- **ISAF Cases 57, 80 and 130 may also be relevant.**
- **Other Rules.**
 - Class Rules. Which may in turn refer on to such as ERS.
 - Safety Rules.
 - Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.
 - ISAF Regulation 20, Advertising Code and ISAF Regulation 22, ISAF Sailor Classification Code, both of which may be invoked by Class Rules.
- Measurement and/or Rating Protests are dealt with using the usual protest system and may be brought under any of the above.

Rules – RRS 60 – 67

- **The usual protest rules and procedures.**
 - But see specifically RRS 64.3, Decisions on Protests Concerning Class Rules.

Rules – RRS 78

- 78.1 Responsibility lies with an owner to ensure compliance with a boat's certificate.
- 78.2 Failure to produce a certificate results in removal of scores. ie the event is re-scored as if the boat had not taken part at all.
- 78.3 'an equipment inspector or measurer for an event'. Who is this?
ERS defines an 'Equipment Inspector' as 'A person appointed by a race committee to carry out equipment inspection.'
So, the 'equipment inspector or measurer for an event' must be defined in the event N of R and/or SIs. It is NOT just any old class measurer!
- 78.3 An equipment inspector or measurer SHALL report non compliance to the Race Committee.

Rules – RRS 86.1

- 86.1 (c) Class rules may change only racing rules 42, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 and 54.
So, any changes to RRS other than the above are invalid class rules.
However, on occasion Classes get around this by making changes to RRS within SIs.

Rules – Appendix G

Tells you all about Identification on Sails, ie, sail numbers.

ISAF Cases

- Case 57 Addresses when a race committee is required to protest a boat and also withdrawal of a boat's certificate after an event has ended.
- Case 80 Limits the protest to the issue described on the protest form.
Other, unrelated, issues may not be introduced during the hearing.
- Case 130 Addresses whether an equipment inspector is a member of the race committee.
Personally, I have some difficulty with this case.

Rules – Class Rules

- **Class rules may include limitations/restrictions on many things including:**
 - Numbers of spinnakers.
 - Changes to sails generally.
 - Furling headsails.
 - Replacement of damaged sails.
 - Sail Numbers.
 - Advertising.
 - Restrictions on the number or weight of crew.
 - Restrictions on crew changes.
 - Safety rules. These are sometimes found in the Class Rules and sometimes by reference to another document such as ISAF Offshore Special Regulations.
 - Advertising.
 - Restrictions on the classification (ie professional/amateur) of helmsman and/or crew.
 - Some classes (Farr 30, Farr 40, Swan 45) are 'owner driver'.
- **Infringements of any of the above fall under the general heading of 'measurement protests'.**

Rules – NoR and SIs

May include alternative penalties.

Validity

- **A measurement or rating protest is just another protest.**

So, it must satisfy all the usual validity requirements, flag, hail, etc.
- **RRS 61.1(b) Applies to Race Committee protests.**

- **Other requirements of RRS 61.1 apply equally to measurement protests.**

The 'incident' (RRS 61.2 (b)) will be a description of the alleged measurement rule infringed.

- **If the protest is invalid, close the hearing.**
- **If the protest is valid, continue the hearing in the usual way.**

Process

- **Procedurally, a measurement protest is just another protest.**

Schedule a hearing and inform the parties.

- **If it is possible that any interpretation of class rules might be required, contact the 'authority responsible'.**

This will usually be the Class Association or Rating Authority.

- **If any measurement may be required, contact a measurer.**

For major events, this will be the event equipment inspector. For other events, usually a class measurer.

- **Review the relevant Class Rules.**

RYA Guidance

- **The RYA have published comprehensive racing rules guidance which includes guidance on measurement protests. This can be found at:**

<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/raceofficials/resourcecentre/bestpractice/Pages/BestPracticeandGuidance.aspx>

The guidance is available as either a .PDF or as an E book.