



Queensland Radio Yachting Association Inc.

Special Report

Sportsmanship at RC Yachting Events

September 2018

Background

Sailing is a self-policing sport as defined by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). Through those rules, the promotion of fair play and sportsmanship is the responsibility of all persons involved.

This document is focused on Sportsmanship and has been produced by the QRYA Management Committee to be distributed to all members to assist them to improve the enjoyment of our sport by raising the level of awareness of the RRS.

[Racing Rules of Sailing \(RRS\)](#).

Fundamental Rules:

Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a rule they will promptly take a penalty, which may be to retire.

When a boat is protested

When a boat is protested on the race course, there are only two valid responses by the offender,

1. “*Protest acknowledged, I will do a penalty*” or words to that effect. Even if they may not agree they may do the penalty to avoid a protest.
2. “*Protest acknowledged, I will see you at the protest hearing*”

If the offender denies a foul occurred and sails on, that will have the same result as Option 2.

Applicable Rules

Below are the [Racing Rules of Sailing](#) most relevant here, look them up;

Rule 2. Fair Sailing

Rule 31. Touching a Mark

Rule 44.1 Taking a Penalty

Rule 44.2 One-turn and Two-turn Penalties

Discussion

There is no requirement in the RRS for an offence to be “called” by other competitors. The offender is obliged to do a penalty regardless and if they do not, others may then protest them.

As an example: If you touch a mark while racing, you are bound by the RRS to take a one-turn penalty, even if no one saw you. This is the test of a good sportsman and is essential if we are going to enjoy fleet racing without the need for referees or judges at every mark.

If you make contact with a mark and do not do a penalty, you can be protested by any competitor or Race Officer under Rule 31 and or Rule 2. If upheld you might get a DSQ (disqualified) (or DNE non droppable for breaking Rule 2 Fair Sailing). The same applies for boat to boat contact and other infringements.

Further, a competitor who breaches the Principles of Sportsmanship and Fair Play during a race can be asked by the Race Officer to do a two-turn penalty, if they choose not to, they may be protested by the RO under Rule 2. See 17.2 Sailing Instructions.

Recommendations

Recommendations are as follows;

1. Race Officers: Use Sailing Instructions 17.2 and RRS Rule 2. to uphold the standard of sportsmanship.
2. Competitors: Be familiar with RRS Fundamental Rules and Rule 2, and comply to increase your enjoyment of the sport.

QRYA Management Committee
15 September 2018