



# How YOU Can Help the Umpires Help You!



*Our aim is to provide you with a quality of service that is hopefully better than endless hours in a protest room at the end of the day. However, in order to achieve this objective, we do need your help in various ways. If you follow the general instructions below, it is hoped that you will provide us with the information that is required for us to act in the best interests of you, the competitors.*

## **GENERAL**

- Team sailing is a self-policing sport. Sportsmanship and the Rules expect competitors who infringe a rule to take penalties themselves, without being told to do so. However, it sometimes happens that two parties have a different perception/recollection as to what exactly happened.
- The umpires are on the water as a 'portable protest committee'. Therefore, we are there in a PASSIVE role, as we would be by sitting ashore waiting for protests to come to us. We do not go looking for incidents.
- Whenever you have a protest, whether or not there are umpires or observers watching your match, the following procedures DO NOT CHANGE. If you concentrate your mind on the procedures for a normal protest, the whole scheme should fall into place much more easily.
- The more information you can give us at the time of the incident increases the chances of us giving you the correct decision. You do not come in to a protest room and present us with a blank sheet of paper and expect us to guess what is going on. So, for example tell us "the windward boat hit me"; "???" hit the mark"; etc., etc. However, remember that some calls are very difficult to prove and win, for example hitting a mark, and sailing below a proper course downwind are but two examples.

## **SO, YOU WANT TO PROTEST, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?**

- Hail "PROTEST" and display your Protest Flag. If you do this as a result of a team mate telling you to, the chances are that it will be ruled invalid because of the time delay.
- A protest flag must be displayed conspicuously and for sufficient time for the crew of the protested boat **and** the umpires to see it.
- One or other of you *may* accept an alternative penalty of a turn including one tack and one gybe.
- If, within a few seconds, neither boat commences to sail clear to take a voluntary penalty turn, an umpire may signal a penalty of two turns in the same direction including two tacks and two gybes.

## **UMPIRE INITIATED PENALTIES**

- Under some circumstances an umpire may initiate a penalty. These include touching a mark, infringing rule 42 and contact between boats of the same team when neither takes a penalty.
- Sometimes an umpire may give a boat more than one "two turns" penalty.
- A black flag displayed by an umpire means the umpire wishes to refer a matter to the protest committee for a hearing. This could be used when a right-of-way boat may have caused damage that needs to be inspected before a decision is made, or an infringing boat gained an unfair advantage for their team. The hearing could be on the water after the race.

**HELP US TO HELP YOU....**

**HAIL "PROTEST"**

**AND DISPLAY YOUR PROTEST FLAG CONSPICUOUSLY, AND IMMEDIATELY.**

**TELL US WHY YOU THINK THE OTHER BOAT HAS BROKEN A RULE.**

**THE MORE INFORMATION YOU CAN GIVE US, THE BETTER.**

**IF YOU ARE GOING TO SPIN, RAISE AN ARM AND SHOUT 'SPINNING'**