



INFORMATION TO COMPETITORS FROM THE PROTEST COMMITTEE (INCLUDING REDRESS POLICIES)

This document does not in any way modify or replace the rules of the competition.

Version May 2025

Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions

Please see the documents posted on the class website and the online notice board for information on the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions used at this event.

Telegram group

Information on the event's Telegram group is complementary. While race officials will make every effort to communicate information and notifications on the group, it is the responsibility of the competitors to monitor the official notice board.

Outside Help and Support Boat Regulations

RRS 41 applies from a kiteboard's preparatory signal until she has cleared the finishing line after finishing (see RRS 41 and the definition Racing). A kiteboard that receives instructions or help to change equipment outside the launching area after her preparatory signal breaks RRS 41. A kiteboard that receives any help while racing, including to untangle or to recover, breaks RRS 41.

Race committee errors in scoring a kiteboard UFD or BFD

Competitors sometimes want to challenge the race committee's decision to score them UFD or BFD. Before requesting redress, competitors are encouraged to consult with the race committee.

For a kiteboard to be given redress, the competitor must provide conclusive evidence that the race committee has made an error in identifying the kiteboard.

Tracking evidence is not conclusive with the GPS devices commonly used (even in relationship to another tracking device).

Video evidence is rarely conclusive due to perspective relationships.

In the absence of conclusive evidence to the contrary, the protest committee will uphold the race committee's decision.

Evidence of the relative positions of two kiteboards that are scored differently is not conclusive evidence that either kiteboard started properly.

Informing the protestee

One of the protest validity requirements is to inform the protestee at the first reasonable opportunity.

When the protest involves an incident on the water and the protestee is too far to hear, the protesting kiteboard shall inform the protestee at the first reasonable opportunity. (RRS 60.2)

When there is a tangle, the protesting kiteboard shall attempt to inform the protestee within the protest time limit. (RRS 61.1(a)4)

Protests by the protest committee for incidents while racing

Protest committee members will not normally be on the water but, when possible, will follow the racing from ashore or through drone and camera footage.

The protest committee will not usually protest for a breach of a rule of Part 2 unless they observe an apparent breach of good sportsmanship (RRS 2). Examples of breaches, where the protest committee will consider protesting, include:

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

On the water penalties

When a kiteboard breaks a rule, she shall take the appropriate penalty.

- For breaches of rules of Part 2 or RRS 31, the appropriate penalty is the one-turn-penalty without the requirement for a tack or a gybe with her foil in the water. (RRS F4.44.1 and F4.44.2)
- When the kiteboard, by her breach, gained a significant advantage or caused injury, serious damage or significant disadvantage to the other kiteboard, her penalty shall be to retire. (RRS F4.44.1)

Penalties in hearings

If the protest committee decides that a kiteboard has broken a rule and is not exonerated and, as a result, caused a tangle for the second or subsequent time during the event, her penalty shall be a disqualification that is not excludable.

Recognized principles of sportsmanship

In kiteboarding, contact, other than minor incidents, is likely to cause injury, damage on the equipment or a tangle. Actions with a high risk of breaking a rule, may be considered violations of the recognized principles of sportsmanship and such breaches are likely to be penalized under RRS 2. Examples of such breaches is starting on port or tacking to port in the zone.

Permission to withdraw a hearing request

A competitor may request that the protest committee allow withdrawal of a protest or request for redress that this competitor has delivered. Such approval is a protest committee decision.

The protest committee may appoint a member or members to make the decision. If the member is in doubt, the decision may be referred to a full panel. If the panel is in doubt, consult the Jury Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

It is a competitor's decision to protest or request redress, or to request that it be withdrawn. The protest committee should determine why it is being withdrawn. If damage or injury is suspected, or the protest committee thinks the protestor has realized she may have broken a rule and is attempting to avoid a penalty, permission should not be given. In both cases the protestor may be in breach of rule 2 Fair Sailing.

Redress

From 2021, RRS 61.4 is not changed in Appendix F, therefore tangle is not anymore a possible reason for giving redress.

For a kiteboard to be entitled to redress when both a tangle and damage or injury occur, it needs to be established that what made the kiteboard's score significantly worse through no fault of her own was the damage or the injury and not the tangle.

For instance, if a kiteboard does not finish a race because she was involved in an incident and was tangled with another kite and rescued, any injury or damage caused in that incident are not the reason she did not finish in the race as the tangle had prevented her from continuing in the race already. Therefore, the kiteboard is not entitled to redress.

If a kiteboard that was involved in an incident, tangled with another kiteboard and eventually untangled is then unable to continue in the race because of damage or injury, redress may be considered for the places she lost after being untangled. However, if when she got untangled, she was already at the back of the fleet, any further loss of places may not fulfil the condition of her score being made significantly worse.

If the injury or damage makes her score significantly worse in the following race(s), redress may be considered for those races.

If a kiteboard's score has been made significantly worse through no fault of her own, by an action of another kiteboard that resulted in a penalty under RRS 2, the protest committee may consider giving redress to that kiteboard under RRS 62.1(d).

A kiteboard given redress should be scored in a finishing position when there is a high likelihood that the kiteboard would have finished in that position. This is most likely to occur when the incident occurs late in the race or after the kiteboard has finished. In other cases, average points would be appropriate.

Redress will usually be given as the average of the scores of the day on which the incident occurred, if the number of races completed on that day seems sufficient. Otherwise redress will be based on average points as outlined in World Sailing policies.

In any redress case, a kiteboard should only be granted redress within the following limit from World Sailing Case 116, Answer 2: "When giving redress, the protest committee should ensure that fewer than half of a boat's race scores included in her series score, after any exclusion(s), are based on average points."

Video and Tracking Evidence

A party wishing to bring video or tracking evidence to a hearing is responsible for providing the equipment required to view the evidence. Internet connection may not be available during a hearing. It should be possible for all parties and the panel to view the evidence at the same time.

Tracking system information, if available, may be presented, but is of limited accuracy. The images produced are enhanced from the actual data as an aid to the viewer. The system may be used to get an indicative position of the kiteboard for visualization, but it is not sufficiently precise to be used for race management purposes or protest committee decisions that require exact positioning information.

Observers at Hearings

In general, the policy is to allow observers in hearings. However, the size and seating arrangement may limit the number of observers invited. In this case, seats will be filled in this order:

- one observer nominated by each party;

- one media pool representative;
- any other competitors or their representatives (one per competitor), unless there is insufficient space to accommodate all requesting a seat, in which case, none will be allowed;
- event technical officials wishing to observe, as space allows; and
- additional media representatives, as space allows.

Observers must sign and comply with the requirements in “Information for Observers.” The Panel Chairman should remind observers of these requirements and expectations of behavior for observers.

Use of electronic devices in Hearings

The use of electronic devices (e.g. tablets, smartphones, similar devices, etc.) by parties, observers and witnesses to take notes, check rules, cases, etc. is allowed during the hearings, provided the device is not used to record or communicate with other persons. Before the start of a hearing a Jury member may check that all these devices are in flight mode with the cellular, WiFi, and Bluetooth radios turned off.

Medal series

In Medal series races that are not umpired or refereed, hearings will be conducted orally at the protest committee station, as soon as possible after the end of the protest time. Protest committee members who have witnessed the incident may give testimony remotely. It is the responsibility of the relevant kiteboards to attend hearings in which they are parties or have been named as witnesses.

Additional to the other validity requirements, to request a hearing in races of the medal series, competitors shall notify the race committee on the finish line while flag B is displayed, except that a kiteboard that does not finish shall notify any race committee boat before the protest time limit.

Please note that, while the protest committee may consider redress for a kiteboard (kiteboards cannot request redress by themselves), redress is only available for very rare instances of giving help in danger.

RRS 69 – Misconduct

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.

Questions on protest committee procedure and policy

Competitors, team leaders and coaches are welcome to discuss procedure and policy with the protest committee chair. The protest committee will usually be available by the jury rooms during protest time or can be contacted through the race office.