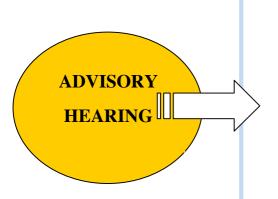
RULES DISPUTES – WHAT TO DO

The best way of dealing with incidents (rules disputes) on the water, if no boat takes a penalty at the time, is to offer a choice of:

(i) an ADVISORY HEARING, (ii)) a PROTEST HEARING



USE THIS IF YOU JUST WANT TO LEARN WHETHER YOU WERE IN THE RIGHT OR WRONG AND IF YOU WANT THE DISPUTE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND SIMPLY.

- An incident has occurred and parties prefer not to protest, but instead want to learn for the future from what happened
- No protest form is required at this stage. All parties meet with an Adviser
- The parties describe what happened
- The Adviser explains what rules may have been broken and whether anyone was in the wrong
- No one is disqualified or penalised, although a boat in the wrong may accept an exoneration penalty (specified in the SIs and commonly a 30% scoring penalty) or retire
- If the exoneration penalty is not accepted, the protest may go to a formal protest hearing
- There are very occasional scenarios when it is not possible or correct to resolve a dispute at an Advisory Hearing and instead it has to be taken to a formal protest hearing



USE THIS IF THE DISPUTE IS COMPLEX, OR IF THERE HAS BEEN INJURY OR SERIOUS DAMAGE, OR IF YOU FEEL AN EXONERATION PENALTY WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE

- An incident has occurred and a valid protest is lodged within the normal time limit
- A traditional formal hearing of the parties with a Protest Committee (usually of 3 people) will be arranged
- Any boat that has broken a rule will be disqualified

The aim is to encourage everyone to follow *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

This is only a guideline. More detailed information can be found on the ChiFed website for the CHF modification www.chifed.org or, for the original, on the RYA website under "Rules Disputes Best Practice" - www.rya.org.uk/general/rulesdisputes

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