

The Dos and Don'ts of Filing an Appeal

By Dave Perry

Dave Perry, Chairman of the US Sailing Appeals Committee, presented the dos and don'ts of filing an appeal at the 2014 Sailing Leadership Forum in San Diego. Perry is the author of Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing and Dave Perry's 100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes. He is also a US Sailing National Judge.

When filing your appeal do...

- Read Appendix R, rules R1, R2 and R3 carefully.
- Read the [Appeals FAQ on the US Sailing Appeals](#) page.
- Send your appeal within the 15 day time limit (see rule R2.1(a)).
- Include everything asked for in rule R2.2, including the names and email address of all the parties, and the chairman of the protest committee, and appeals committee if applicable.
- Be sure all documents are dated.
- Keep your grounds (the reason you are appealing) as brief and concise as possible.
- Organize your supporting documents so they are clearly marked, and consolidate any email threads into one well-marked file as much as possible.
- Be patient. The average time from receipt of an appeal to sending the decision is three months, and it can be much longer depending on the complexity of the case and/or the number of times the appeals committee must ask the protest committee for additional facts and information.

When filing your appeal don't...

- Send your appeal after the 15 day time limit has expired (see rule R2.1(a)).
- Send individual copies of many emails; or a lot of documents with no clear marking as to what they are.
- Copy your appeal to people who are not representatives of the parties or committees directly involved in the appeal.
- Send in an incomplete appeal (see rules R 2.1(a) and R2.2).

To learn more about this process you can view [Dave Perry's presentation](#) from the 2014 Sailing Leadership Forum.