

**RULE 3 — DECISION TO RACE**

**The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.**

There have been attempted lawsuits brought unsuccessfully against race committees by sailors who have had accidents during races in strong winds. Their contentions have been, in part, that the race committee has jeopardized their safety by holding races in severe conditions. The decision to start, postpone or abandon a race is within the jurisdiction of the race committee (see rule 90.1, Race Committee; Sailing Instructions; Scoring). Rule 62 (Redress) should not be interpreted to restrict or interfere with its authority and responsibilities in matters of race management. Under rule 3, each boat has the sole responsibility to decide whether or not to race. And if a boat decides not to race, she cannot claim her score was made worse through no fault of her own. (See Appeal 39.)

Notice that it is the **boat's** responsibility to decide. Every sailor on a boat has the responsibility to voice his or her opinion as to whether or not to *start* or to continue to *race*. Nothing in this rule protects an owner, skipper or helmsman from a liability suit by their crew.