

RULE 60.2

A race committee may

- (a) protest a boat, but not as a result of information arising from a request for redress or an invalid *protest*, or from a report from a person with a *conflict of interest* other than the representative of the boat herself;**
- (b) request redress for a boat; or**
- (c) report to the protest committee requesting action under rule 60.3(d) or 69.2(b).**

If the race committee thinks a boat may have broken a *rule*, it may also protest (again, the word “may” is permissive meaning the race committee is under no obligation to protest). Note that it can’t protest if it learned of the possible breach from someone who has a close personal interest in the outcome of the protest, may reasonably appear to have a personal or financial interest which could affect his ability to be impartial, or who stands to benefit from the protest committee’s decision (see the definition *Conflict of Interest*). And it can’t protest based on information it learned either in a *protest* that is found to be invalid or in any request for redress.

If the race committee feels a boat may be entitled to redress, it can request redress on behalf of that boat. And if it feels the actions of a boat or competitor or *support person* should be reviewed under rule 60.3(d) (for *support persons*) or rule 69 (Misconduct), it can report that to the protest committee.

“*Can the race committee score me DSQ if it thinks it saw me foul a boat or hit a mark?*”



No. A boat cannot be penalized without a protest hearing, with a couple of limited exceptions (rule 63.1, Requirement for a Hearing). If the race committee thinks a boat has broken a *rule*, and it thinks the boat should have a hearing to consider being penalized, all it can do is protest the boat. The protest committee will then call a hearing, find the facts, decide if the boat broke a rule, and penal-ize her if she did.



“Can the race committee penalize me without a hearing if it thinks I did not sail the course correctly?”

Yes! If a boat fails to *start*, *sail the course*, or *finish* correctly, the race committee can score her DNS (Did not *start*), OCS (on the course side), DNF (Did not *finish*) or NSC (Did not *sail the course*) without a hearing (rule A5.1, Scores Determined by the Race Committee). Similarly, the race committee can also score a boat worse than her actual finish position when the Z Flag Rule (rule 30.2), U Flag Rule (rule 30.3) or Black Flag Rule (rule 30.4) apply, or when the boat takes a Scoring Penalty (rule 44.3). If a boat feels the race committee has scored her incorrectly, the boat can speak directly with the race committee and/or request redress under rule 62.1(a) (Redress). Rule 90.3(c) says, *“When the race committee determines from its own records or observations that it has scored a boat incorrectly, it shall correct the error and make the corrected scores available to competitors.”*