



Protest Hearing Procedures

(Consult Appendix M and the US Sailing Judges' Manual for more detailed guidance.)

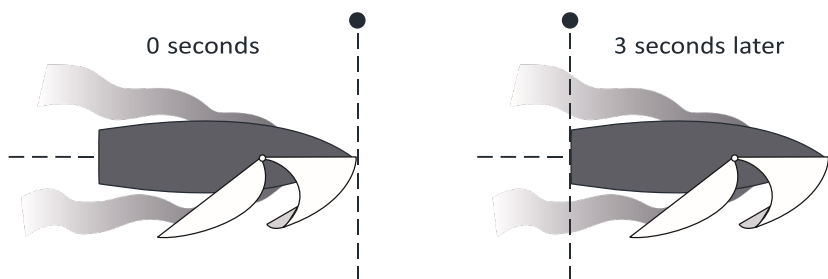
1. Protest hearing scheduled and posted? (63.1(a)(1))
2. Judge saw incident? (63.4(d))
3. Judge with *conflict of interest*? Assess conflict. (63.3)
4. Could redress affect other boats? Add as a party? (61.4(c) 63.1+USRx)
5. Only one person from each boat is present? (63.1(a)(4))
6. Introduce PC and parties. Be sure protestee has a copy of the protest and reasonable time to prepare. (63.1)
7. Party object to member of PC based *conflict of interest*? (63.3(b))
8. Was protest timely? Is there good reason to extend? (60.3(b))
9. Did protestor notify RC at finish (if required by SI)? (App B, E or SI)
10. Are protestor, protestee and incident identified in protest? (60.3(a))
11. "Protest" hailed (within hailing distance?) or notified at first reasonable opportunity? (60.2)
12. Flag flown (if >6 m) at the first reasonable opportunity? (60.2(a)(1))
13. Decide if protest is valid (deliberate if necessary). (60.4, 63.4(a))
14. If valid, take evidence from parties:
 - a. ask the protestor to tell their story
 - b. ask the protestee to tell their story
 - c. protestee questions protestor
 - d. protestor questions protestee
 - e. PC questions protestor, then protestee
15. Take evidence from witnesses (protestor's first):
 - a. set the stage and ask, "Tell us what you saw."
 - b. protestee questions protestor's witness first (and vice versa)
 - c. PC questions witness
16. Invite each party to give a brief summation.
17. Excuse parties and deliberate: (63.5)
 - a. find facts and write them down
 - b. decide what rules apply to whom
 - c. decide which boat (if any) broke a rule
 - d. decide the relevant penalty (DSQ or other)
18. Recall parties, announce decision. (63.6(a))
19. Written copies of decision to parties, if requested. (63.6(b))

Speed, Distance & Time Table

(based on the formula: distance = rate x time)

(1 knot = 6076 feet per hour)

Boat speed	Feet per second	Meters per second
1 knot	1.7	0.5
2 knots	3.4	1.0
3 knots	5.1	1.5
4 knots	6.8	2.1
5 knots	8.4	2.6
6 knots	10.1	3.1
7 knots	11.8	3.6
8 knots	13.5	4.1
9 knots	15.2	4.6
10 knots	16.9	5.1



In other words, if your boat is going 4 knots, you will travel 6.8 feet per second. One way to determine your boat's speed is to sail by a buoy or other fixed object and count how many seconds it takes for the buoy to go from your bow to your stern. If in a 24-foot boat it takes 3 seconds to go by the buoy, you are going 8 feet per second, or just under 5 knots.

It's very useful to know your boat's approximate speed on all points of sail in all wind and wave conditions, particularly in a protest hearing. For instance, in the above example you know that a *zone* that is three lengths wide is about 9 seconds worth of sailing before the *mark*. You also know that if you tack in front of another boat and she claims to have hit you only 3 seconds after you became close-hauled, you can point out that, by her own testimony, she held her course for a full boat-length after you were close-hauled.

Adapted from Dave Perry's *Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing*.

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