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RRS 68

The Latest News from the Judges' Committee



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WELCOME TO THE JUDGES' NEWSLETTER

Sarah Ashton

As the sailing season is winding down for most of us, now is the time to brush up on your rules knowledge, hearing procedures, Rule 42 enforcement, appeals and cases, and WS Q&As. Check *here* to see what educational opportunities your Judges' Committee is offering this fall and winter.

Just a reminder - judge certification renewal is NOW. Do you know what you need to renew? Drop your *RAJ* a note to double-check.

Your feedback is valuable. If you have any suggestions for RRS 68, please share them with us. We're here to listen and improve. And pictures are always appreciated! You can reach out to me at *ashtonsh@bellsouth.net.*



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Edith Collins

Happy Fall Y'all! We are FINALLY getting cool weather and good breezes here in NE Georgia. We are still in a drought, but the promise of an El Niño winter makes us hopeful the lakes and rivers will be recharged by spring.

The Judges' Committee met on October 13th. Congratulations to Bill Abbott of Area A on his upgrade to Regional Judge, and to Jan O'Malley for her Rule 42 observer endorsement! Hopefully we will have an influx of upgrades by the end of the year.

Speaking of certification, Giff Constable and his committee have done an excellent job in clarifying the certification requirements table. We are tweaking it a bit on the "out of area/180 mile" requirement for National Judges to better align it with the Race Officers' requirements. We should have the finished product ready for approval at the December meeting. This new table should make the requirements very easy to understand.

Another change we approved at the meeting is allowing judges whose certification is expiring to submit their completed renewal information to their RAJ at any time during the year. The certification expires on 12/31, but you don't need to wait until December to submit your application to your RAJ. Hopefully, this will help us avoid the end-of-year renewal rush. So, if you have met your requirements, please send the completed Judge application to your RAJ now. Thanks!!!

We are working hard to make an easier "on-ramp" for folks just starting the journey to becoming a certified judge. The Race Administration Committee approved the new Basic Judge designation. This recognizes folks who have taken the Club Judge seminar and have had at least one hearing. Many thanks to Darryl Waskow and his team for their hard work on this. This is still being implemented, so stay tuned.

The December committee meeting will be held on December 8th. This meeting is typically very busy with renewals and upgrades. Again, PLEASE send your information to your RAJ well in advance so any issues can be resolved before the meeting.

The annual in-person meeting will be on February 6th, 2027, in Atlanta. I am looking forward to showing off my hometown!

As always, thank you for your passion for the sport we all love. If there is anything you think we as a committee need to be addressing, please let me know.

Edith

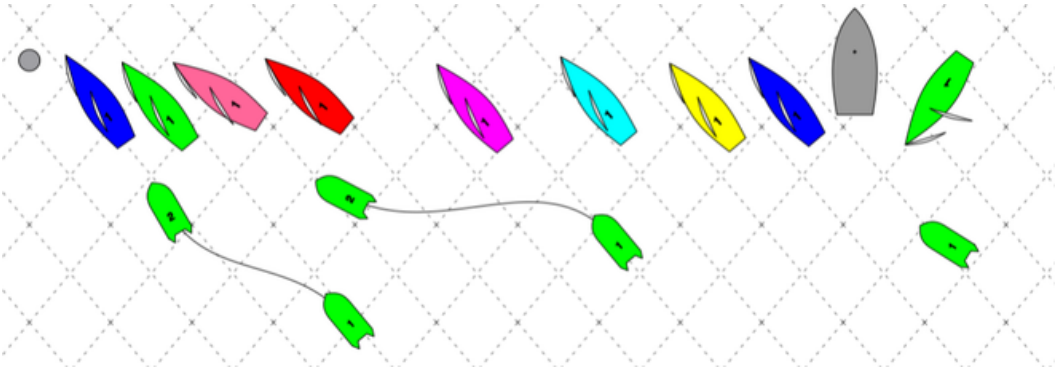


RULE 42/ APPENDIX P ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM

Jerry Thompson, RAJ Area D

We are pleased to share the latest progress and upcoming initiatives for the Rule 42 / Appendix P Endorsement program:

- **Clinic Progress**: To date, six clinics have been conducted, with 109 individuals successfully completing the coursework.
- **Official Web Presence:** The program now has a dedicated home on the *US Sailing website* (scroll down to the Rule 42 Endorsement section for full details).
- **Endorsements & Upcoming Approvals:** A total of 41 individuals have officially received the Rule 42 / Appendix P Endorsement, with additional approvals anticipated during the upcoming December meeting of the Judges' Committee.
- **Expanding Reach:** On January 20, a specialized clinic is being offered to 80 Optimist coaches. Initial interest has been exceptionally strong, and we anticipate a high turnout.
- T**he Rule 42 Observer:** Publication of *The Rule 42 Observer* newsletter will continue for all who completed the clinic.
- **Retaking Clinics:** We have received inquiries regarding whether individuals who have already completed the clinic may take it again. The answer is yes—moving forward, we plan to offer the clinic at least twice a year.



RACING RULES OF SAILING FOR JUDGES CLINICS UPDATE

Jerry Thompson, RAJ Area D

This year, three **Racing Rules of Sailing for Judges Clinics** were held in February, March, and October. This comprehensive two-session clinic specifically focuses on the rules of Part 2.

Accessing Clinic Materials: You can download the complete set of materials *here*.

- *Important technical note:* Please download the files to your computer before opening them. If you attempt to open a PowerPoint file directly from the file share viewer, Google Slides may launch and distort the slide formatting.
- The file share contains seven files, including a *"Read Me First"* document that offers helpful tips on presenting.

Hosting Club Seminars: We strongly encourage you to give rules talks, clinics, or seminars for sailors at your local clubs. You are welcome to use, rebrand, or modify the materials in the share as you see fit—no copyright or credit attribution is required.

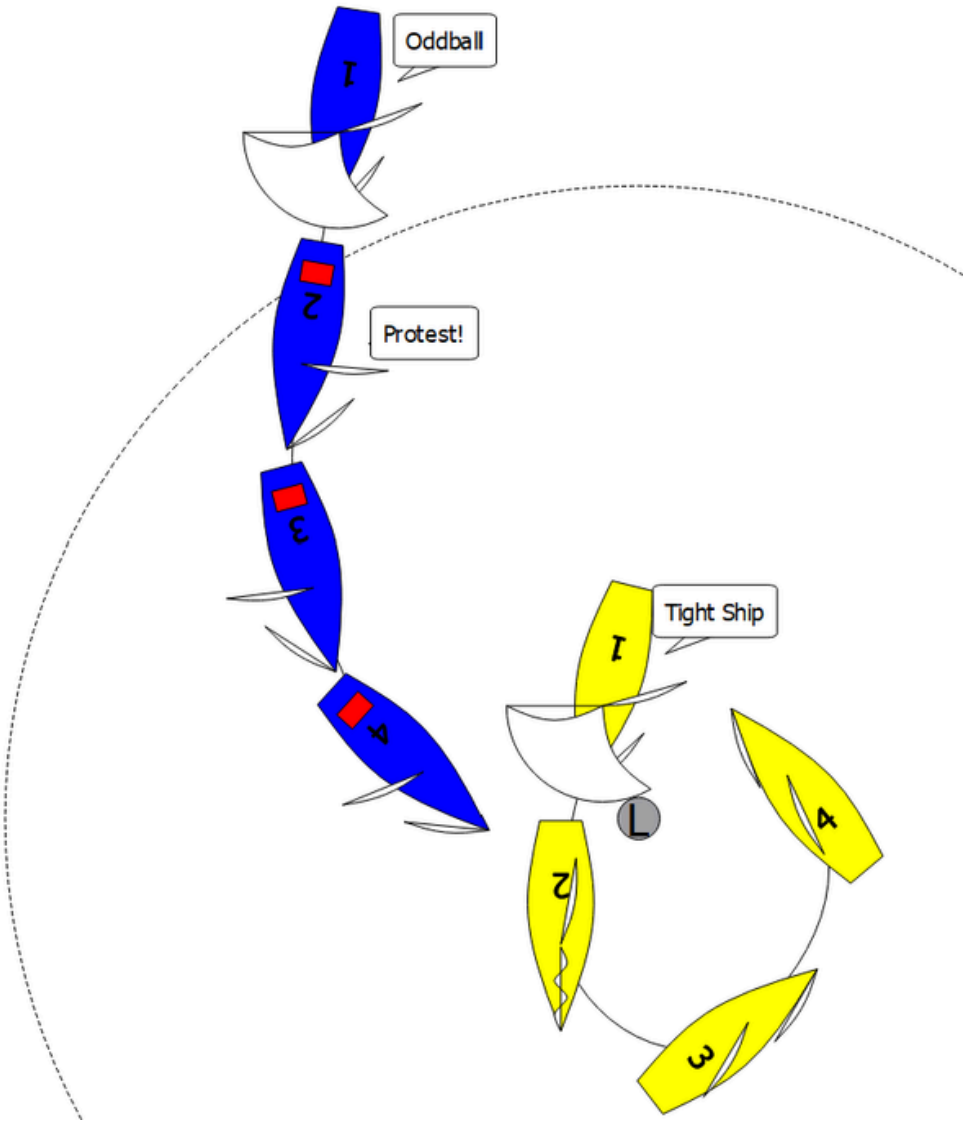
Feedback & Corrections: The only thing we ask is that if you have any suggestions or spot an error, please send a note to me at *trimsails@gmail.com*.

Mark's Racing Rules Quiz #17

TightShip(Yellow) and Oddball (Blue) were sailing downwind on starboard toward the leeward mark to be left to port. TightShip entered the zone clear ahead of Blue.

TightShip had difficulty lowering the spinnaker and might have touched the mark. Oddball saw TightShip's spinnaker touch the mark and hailed, " Protest: you touched the mark." After stowing the spinnaker, TightShip gybed, luffed to a close-hauled course, and then tacked onto port.

How should the protest committee rule? See if you can figure out the relevant facts, conclusions, and decision.



HAPPENINGS IN AREA H

Tom Pochereva, RAJ Area H

2026 is still hustling for Area H - HAWAII!!! 🌴🏄

The Hawaii Yacht Racing Association includes in it's membership clubs from Maui, Kauai, Hawaii (aka the BIG ISLAND – because it is) and Oahu. While travelling interisland by plane is a simple flight with beautiful bird eye views sailing there means crossing some of the most challenging channels in the world. Wave heights can be a delightful 3 feet but more often are in the 8-12 feet with rougher days of 12-14 ft or higher.



When skippers and crew plan a channel race like the Lahaina Return or Nawiliwili Channel Race there is double the preparation because of the round trip involved… Sometimes it is a race from Kaneohe Bay to Nawiliwili harbor on Kauai and return to Oahu or a delivery from Oahu (typically Kaneohe or Waikiki) to Lahaina, Maui with racing back from Kaanapali Maui to finish off the Ala Wai Boat Harbor on Oahu. OF COURSE sailors hope for calm wind and seas for the deliveries and strong tradewinds for the downhill races.

(Lahaina Return 1989, M1, Ross 45 - 10,500 lbs w/5,000 lbs in bulb 9'6" down, surfing at 20 plus)

To the right, the fleet starts off Kaneohe Bay for the 2024 Nawiliwili Channel Race.

Below is a packed start line with a mixed PHRF fleet for the Kaneohe Yacht Club – 2024 Summer Circuit event





Competition at regattas in Hawaii is strong. We hold multiple rules sessions for clubs at the beginning of each year. It is clear that when judges hear protests, sailors ask more questions, attend more rules sessions, and more boats take a penalty turn instead of going to the protest room, where the unexpected DSQ really gets attention.

Protest Hearings in Hawaii vary greatly from local series to international series such as Transpac and Pacific Cup Races. Juries range from local to international panels. Rules range from RRS 11 – On the same tack overlapped, 18 – Mark-Room, 69 Misconduct, or 78 Compliance with Class Rules: Certificates. Our judges invest time and effort to stay current and keep sailing fair.

ANSWER TO MARK'S RACING RULES OF SAILING QUIZ #17

REASONS FOR DECISION

Tight Ship (Yellow) thought the spinnaker might have touched the mark, and Oddball (Blue) thinks she saw the spinnaker touching the mark. Rule 63.5(a) requires the protest committee to consider the evidence and decide what weight to give it. It shall then find the facts based on the balance of probabilities. In this case, it seems more likely than not that the spinnaker touched the mark.

When a boat breaks rule 31, her penalty is a One-Turn Penalty. Unless she causes injury, serious damage, or gains a significant advantage in the race or series, in which case her penalty is to retire (see rule 44.1(b)).

After Tight Ship's spinnaker is no longer touching the mark, Tight Ship takes a One-Turn Penalty that complies with Rule 44.2 by gybing, and then tacking around the mark. Rule 44.2 does not require a boat that takes a One-Turn Penalty to complete a full 360° turn, or a turn of any particular number of degrees, and it does not prohibit taking the penalty while making another maneuver, such as rounding the mark.

RULES THAT APPLY

Rule 31, Touching a Mark
Rule 44.1(b), Penalties at the Time of an Incident: Taking a Penalty
Rule 44.2, Penalties at the Time of an Incident: One-Turn and Two-Turn Penalties
Rule 60.5(c)(2), Protest Decisions
Rule 63.5(a), Decisions
WS CASE 108

CONCLUSION

1. Tight Ship touched mark L and broke RRS 31.
2. Tight Ship took a One-Turn Penalty.

DECISION

The protest is upheld. Since Tight Ship took an applicable penalty, she is not further penalized under RRS 60.5(c)(2).

See you on the water!
Mark Townsend



USEFUL LINKS

- **US Sailing Judges' Page**
- **Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028**
- **US Sailing Appeals**
- **World Sailing Cases**
- **SOARS**
- **Safesport**
- **World Sailing**

RESOURCES

- Find a Seminar
- US Sailing Judge Certification Requirements
- 2025-2028 US Prescriptions to The Racing Rules of Sailing
- 2025-28 RRS Changes that Affect Judging
- The Judges' Manual for 2025-2028 - **Latest version 10/11/25**
- Guidelines for Online Hearings
- Continuing Education Events and CEUs Table
- Race Officials Certification Forms
- Race Officials Insurance Information
- Race Official /Organizing Authority Connection Page
- New Hearing Request Form
- A Quick Overview of the Significant Rule and Game Changes in the 2025-28 RRS

