

## **U Flag and Black Flag starts -World Sailing's new Case 140 and Appendix E 3.7 – a problem – and a solution**

The new World Sailing Case 140 discusses several issues where the Race Committee has posted an RRS 30.3 (U Flag), or 30.4 (Black Flag) for the start. The problem as discussed in Case 140 is shown in this scenario where the RC has invoked either R30.3 or R30.4.

Boats are lined up below the start, with sails luffing. Boat X is next to the right end pin, with boats to leeward. With (say) 3 seconds to go, boat Y comes in from astern and hits the transom of X, pushing her over the line before the start signal. Boat X protests boat Y and returns to restart and sails the course and finishes. As she was identified as being in the forward triangle, the RC scored X as BFD/UFD.

Boat X was forced to break a rule by the actions of a boat breaking a rule of Part 2, in this example. R 12, so X protests Y. Y takes a penalty. Boat X files her protest.

Under Case 140, in big boats, a PC upon hearing the protest, may exonerate X and penalise Y for breach of R 12 – either by DSQ, or confirm she took an appropriate penalty. With the finding, the PC can require the RC to rescore X in her finish position and adjust the scores of other boats in the race.

### **The Appendix E 3.7 issue for Radio Sailing**

There is a problem applying Case 140 under Appendix E 3.7 which alters 30.3 (U flag) and 30.4 (black flag) starts.

#### **E3.7 U Flag and Black Flag Rules**

When the race committee informs a boat that she has broken rule 30.3 or 30.4, the boat shall immediately leave the course area.

Appendix E 3.7, as well as notifying the boat, adds the phrase 'shall leave the course area immediately'. This prevents a radio sailing boat from taking advantage of Case 140.

I was advised by the IRSA Racing Rules Committee that the problem under the Appendix E version is that as the boat X failed to leave the course as required by E3.7 this prevents the PC from a finding to match that of 'big' boats under Case 140 as she failed to leave the course area.

### **The 'interim' solution**

The IRSA Racing Rules Committee plans to submit a request to World Sailing to change the wording of E 3.7, however even if adopted, the change would not appear until the next RRS cycle in 2028.

Until this is resolved, my suggested solution to this problem is to use our regatta NOR/SI Rules Section to delete the wording of E 3.7 and replace it with 'When a boat breaks R 30.3 or R 30.4, the Race Committee shall inform the boat'.

R 86.1 (b) allows changes to RRS Part 3 via the NOR/SI. By changing E 3.7, we may apply the precedent in Case 140 and have the same recourse as 'big boats'.