

RYA RULES DISPUTES – WHAT TO DO

The best way of dealing with incidents (rules disputes) on the water, if no boat takes a penalty at the time, is to offer a choice of:
(i) an ADVISORY HEARING, (ii) RYA ARBITRATION or (iii) a PROTEST HEARING

ADVISORY HEARING



USE THIS IF YOU JUST WANT TO LEARN WHETHER YOU WERE IN THE RIGHT OR WRONG

- An incident has occurred and no party wishes to protest, but instead want to learn for the future from what happened
- No protest form is required
- All parties meet informally with a Rules Adviser
- The parties describe what happened
- The Rules Adviser explains what rules may have been broken and whether anyone was in the wrong
- No one is disqualified or penalised as no formal facts are found. However, a boat that learns she has broken a rule may accept a Post-Race Penalty (specified in the SIs and commonly a 30% scoring penalty) or retire

RYA ARBITRATION



USE THIS IF YOU WANT THE DISPUTE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND SIMPLY. THIS IS NOT AS FORMAL AS A PROTEST HEARING, AND THE POTENTIAL PENALTY NOT AS DAMAGING TO A BOAT'S SCORE

- An incident has occurred and a valid protest is lodged within the normal time limit
- All parties agree to opt for RYA Arbitration and meet with a Rules Adviser
- The parties describe what happened, and the Rules Adviser will decide whether any witnesses should be called
- The Rules Adviser explains what rules may have been broken and whether anyone was in the wrong
- A boat in the wrong is invited to accept the Post-Race Penalty
- No one is disqualified
- If the Post-Race Penalty is not accepted, the protest may go to a formal protest hearing
- There are very occasional scenarios when it is not possible or correct to resolve a dispute by RYA Arbitration and instead it has to be taken to a formal protest hearing

PROTEST HEARING

USE THIS IF THE DISPUTE IS COMPLEX, OR IF THERE HAS BEEN INJURY OR SERIOUS DAMAGE, OR IF YOU FEEL A POST-RACE PENALTY WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE

- An incident has occurred and a valid protest is lodged within the normal time limit
- A traditional formal hearing of the parties with a protest committee (usually of 3 people) will be arranged
- Any boat that has broken a rule will be disqualified unless some other penalty is specified

The aim is to encourage everyone to follow *The Racing Rules of Sailing*. This is only a guideline. For more detailed information see RYA guidance on 'Rules Disputes' in the RYA Racing Rules Guidance booklet at www.rya.org.uk/go/rules