

Objections and Protests

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2016 recertification seminar

Objections at the Finish line

- A crew raises a hand ...
- The principal Umpire attends, consults and considers the objection ...
 - If the Umpire agrees that the race was not in order, raise the RED flag. Go to the Finish Line Judge (and CU) and explain the decision and explanation.
 - If the Umpire does not agree with the objection, determine if the crew will raise a protest. If that is their intention, advise the crew of the procedure and again, ask if they will raise a protest. If they reaffirm the protest, raise the RED flag, advise the Finish Judge and CU of the impending protest. If the crew indicates they will not protest, raise the WHITE flag. Get more information. Consult with the secondary Umpire and (perhaps) other officials and WRITE IT DOWN (eg. time, race number, crew names, course information, conflicting crew(s), etc.).

Protests ...

- Protest must be made in writing within one hour of race finish to the CU, and be accompanied by \$100 CAD check or cash.
- Protests may come from ...
 - the crew that raised an objection on the water;
 - a crew whose objection was rejected by the principal Umpire;
 - crews affected by the acceptance of the objection;
 - a crew disputing the published results.
- The Board of the Jury shall consider if the protest is justified.
- The deposit shall be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- Possible penalties: reprimand, yellow card, exclusion, disqualification, re-row, or dismissal of the protest.

Appeals

- If a crew/team/club decide to appeal, it must be made to the RCA Board of Directors no later than 72 hours after the decision of the Board of the Jury. Check or cash for \$500. Refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- RCA appoint an Appeal Committee of three independent persons to hear the appeal and render a decision.
- The decision of the Appeal Committee is final.

10.13 Finish of the Race

A crew has finished the race when the bow of its boat has crossed the finish line. The race shall be valid even if the crew is incomplete, but not excluding coxswains. A crew of a coxed boat crossing the finish line without its coxswain shall not be placed. A race is over when the last crew has crossed the finish line. (Unless a crew has stopped racing for a specific reason and will not be crossing the finish line). The Umpire and safety boats are not to cross the finish line until all competing boats have crossed unless a rescue is required.

The race was in order:

A race is over only when the last crew has crossed the finish line. Even if the principal Umpire is satisfied that the race was in order, the principal Umpire must always check to be sure that no crew is making an objection (under Rule 10.14) before indicating to a Judge at the Finish, by raising his or her white flag, that the race was in order. Before leaving the finish area, he/she shall make sure that a Judge at the Finish has acknowledged this signal.

The race was not in order:

If the principal Umpire deems the race unfair, the principal Umpire of the race shall raise the red flag. If an objection has been raised "by a crew(s)", the Umpire shall speak to the affected crew(s) in order to understand the reasons for the objection. The principal Umpire shall then inform the crews and the Judges at the Finish of the outcome of the objection. The Judges at the Finish, in such cases, must not announce the "official" result of the race.

For Adaptive events (for visually impaired):

When raising the white flag the principal umpire will add the words "White Flag". When raising the red flag the principal umpire will add the words "Red Flag".

10.14 Objections at the finish

If a crew considers that the race was not in order, a member of the crew must raise his or her arm to indicate that it is making an objection. In this case the principal Umpire shall not raise any flag but he/she shall consult with the objecting crew and consider its objection.

The principal Umpire may then decide upon one of a number of alternative actions:

1. To acknowledge the crew's objection and raise a red flag to signify that he/she has decided that the race was not in order. In this case the principal Umpire must go to the Judges at the Finish to give them his/her decision and any necessary explanations.
2. If the umpire disagrees with the crew's objection, the principal Umpire shall, prior to raising the flag, ascertain if the objecting crew intends to protest the decision. If the crew indicates that it will, the principal Umpire advises the crew of the protest protocol (time limit, written and fee), and then determines if the crew still intends to protest. If the crew reaffirms its intent, the principal Umpire will raise the red flag and notify the Chief Judge of the Finish and the Chief Umpire of an impending protest. If the crew indicates that it will not protest, the principal Umpire raises the white flag.
3. Seek further information regarding the objection. In this case the principal Umpire will raise a red flag and then take any necessary steps to resolve the issues relating to the objection (e.g. consult with other officials, consult with other persons, consult with the Chief Umpire, etc.). In such cases when the principal Umpire has raised the red flag, the Judges at the Finish must not announce the official result of the race until a final decision is made.

PROTESTS, OUTCOME OF PROTESTS, APPEALS

10.16 Protests

A protest must be made in writing to the Chief Umpire not later than one hour after the Umpire has communicated his/her ruling regarding the objection or, in the case of disputing the published results, one hour after the results have been published.

The following may lodge a protest:

1. A crew that has raised an objection at the end of the race (on the water)
2. A crew whose objection has been rejected
3. Crews affected by the acceptance of the objection
4. Crews disputing the published results. The protest shall be accompanied by deposit of \$100.00 Canadian. Deposits can be received by cash, certified cheque, bank draft, money order or credit card where available. The deposit shall be refunded if the protest or appeal is allowed.

The Board of the Jury shall decide if the protest was justified. It will make its decision before the next round of races in the event concerned, and, in any case, no later than two hours after the last race of the day. As a general rule, in the case of a protest concerning the final of an event, the victory ceremony of that event will be postponed until after the Board of the Jury has made its decision.

10.17 The Outcome of the Protest

The Board of the Jury shall decide on the protest and on the penalties resulting from its decision including:

1. Reprimand
2. Yellow Card
3. Exclusion
4. Disqualification
5. Re-row
6. Dismissal of the protest

After application of the appropriate measure, if any, the Board of the Jury shall take any other appropriate measure to restore the chances of a crew that has suffered a disadvantage.

10.18 Penalties

The Jury shall impose appropriate penalties in any case of breach of the rules. The penalties available to the Jury are:

1. Reprimand

A member of the Jury may reprimand a rower, a crew or a coach, when something minor to the rule of racing has occurred. It is up to the member of the Jury to decide, depending on the situation and circumstances (e.g., in the very first race of a regatta, a crew goes out or comes back to/from the wrong dock, or does not have a proper uniform or uniform colour of blades), if a crew receives a reprimand, and to decide if corrective action needs to be taken promptly. A reprimand could also be for coaching. Depending on the situation, a coach may receive a reprimand and be told to not do it again. Or, a reprimand could be for, but not limited to, disorderly conduct or unfair play.

2. Yellow Card

A Yellow Card (warning) is given to a rower or crew by any member of the Jury when a rule infraction has occurred. The rower or the crew or the coach will be informed of the nature of the infraction and then be assessed verbally a "Yellow Card".

A Yellow Card is communicated to the crew by: "name of crew, offense, yellow card".

A Yellow Card assessed to a rower or to a crew after the end of a race will apply to the next round in which the rower or the crew competes. For example, a traffic pattern violation, after the end of the race, carries over to their next race. A crew receiving two yellow cards that apply to the same race will be automatically excluded from the race as per Rule 10.18.3.

A Yellow Card may be issued to a coach by any member of the Jury for a rules infraction. A Yellow Card is valid for the duration of the regatta at which it is issued. A second yellow card will result in immediate removal of the coach from the Field of Play.

3. Exclusion – From all the rounds of the event in question.

Causes for exclusion by a member of the Jury include, but are not limited to, an infraction of the Rules of Racing e.g., interference with another crew, refusing a re-row or exhibiting disorderly conduct or unfair play. An excluded crew may not participate further in that event. An excluded crew or rower is not ranked and all the crews finishing after it gain a rank. Crews that do not conform to the requirements of the RCA Rules of Racing for the events they enter e.g., age, weight, etc. will be excluded from those events.

4. Disqualification - From all events in the regatta.

Causes of disqualification include, but are not limited to, serious or repeated infractions of the Rules of Racing or serious safety violations, intentional cheating, cases of severe disorderly conduct or unfair play, doping violations, etc. Disqualified athletes, crews, coaches or clubs may not participate in any event at the regatta after the disqualification is announced. The Chief Umpire or the Board of the Jury may at their discretion, retroactively exclude results of athletes, crews or clubs that received a disqualification. The penalized crews are not ranked and all the crews finishing after them gain a rank.

10.19 Suspensions

Suspensions are decided by the Executive Committee of RCA. This penalty involves removal of participation privileges of a rower, coxswain, coach, umpire or club from any RCA sanctioned event. It may also involve the suspension of voting privileges at meetings of Members. If the breach of the rule is serious enough, termination of Membership is possible.

Cause for suspension includes, but is not limited to:

1. Serious breach of anti-doping policies and rules;
2. Gross and persistent disrespect for Umpires, regatta organizers, other competitors or RCA;
3. Serious and intentional disregard for safety;
4. Intentional cheating to gain unfair advantage;
5. Entering, holding or conducting regattas covered by these rules that do not have RCA sanction;
6. Continuing to run or participate in a regatta that has been suspended by RCA Umpires.

Recommendations for suspensions must be presented in writing to the RCA Executive with necessary supporting evidence. (See Article XXI of RCA Constitution).

10.20 Appeals

An appeal against the decision of the Board of the Jury may be made, in writing, to the RCA Board of Directors not later than 72 hours after the Board of the Jury has communicated its decision to the club. The appeal must also be accompanied by the sum of \$500.00 Canadian (cash, certified cheque, bank draft, or credit card). This sum shall be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

The appeal should set out the grounds, whether the Board of the Jury:

- Did not follow the procedures as set out in the Rules of Racing
- Did not consider important and objective information in coming to its decision
- Was biased

The RCA Board of Directors shall appoint an Appeal Committee of three persons, knowledgeable in the Rules of Racing and independent of the parties involved in the dispute, to hear the appeal and render a decision. The Appeals Committee shall give the concerned parties notice of the time and date at which the appeal is to be heard, no later than 21 days before the date of the hearing. All umpires who initially considered the matter under appeal shall be excluded from the hearing during the appeal and may not participate in the Appeal Committee's deliberations regarding the disposition of the appeal, other than to answer questions put to them by the Appeal Committee.

The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final.