



Couta Conversations Rules Disagreements



Rules breached in most races

Mostly people don't care...

...but what if you do this time?





A boat can

- Tell them they broke a rule
- Ask them to do a part turn
- Swear at them – More rules broken!
- Have a calm word with them after the race
- Moan away on the deck
- Complain that the Officials didn't do anything
- Or you can initiate a valid protest.



Step 1 – Inform the other boat

61.1 Informing the Protestee

A boat intending to protest shall **inform** the other boat **at the first reasonable opportunity**.

When her *protest* will concern an incident in the racing area that she was involved in or saw, she **shall hail 'Protest' and conspicuously display a red flag at the first reasonable opportunity for each**.

She shall display the flag until she is no longer *racing*.



Step 2 – Lodge a protest

Before the time limit expires

61.2 Protest Contents

A *protest* shall be in writing and identify

- a) the protestor and protestee;
- b) the incident, including where and when it occurred;
- c) any *rule* the protestee believes was broken; and
- d) the name of the protestor's representative.

However, if requirement (b) is met, requirement (a) may be met at any time before the hearing, and requirements (c) and (d) may be met before or during the hearing.



Step 3 – Take a deep breath

If you now have the ability to proceed with a protest, do you really want to?

Would it work if someone approached them directly?

- **Explain and hopefully shake hands**
- **They may take a scoring penalty**
- **Arbitration?**
- **Ask for a debrief – No penalties, just clarity about the rules that apply.**

Often, boats just don't want it to happen again!



Maybe you broke a rule

- Find out
- Do a part turn – First reasonable opportunity
- Post-race scoring penalty
- Retire



Arbitration

- Arbitrator and each boat representative
 - No witnesses
 - Relatively fast
 - Get back to your latte
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- Either boat can take a scoring penalty
 - Protest is then finished



Protest

- You have to be there on time
- Organise your witnesses to be called in
- Validity will be determined, if not met, hearing closed.
- Evidence is weighted
- Protest Committee has rules they will follow