

Protest Nos. 11 & 12 (heard in conjunction)

Couta Boat Series Race No. 3.

Protests were received within time limit.

Protestor represented by N. Williams.

Protestee represented by N. Abbott.

Witnesses:- C. Miles and J. Mighell.

No conflict of interest was declared and there were no objections to the protest committee.

Written protest identified the incident.

As there was serious damage obvious to the boat intending to protest, the requirements of RRS 61.1 do not apply to her. (RRS 61.1 (a) (4)).

Protest declared valid and the hearing continued.

Facts Found.

1. The boats were running towards the port-hand gate mark in approximately 9 to 15 knots of breeze with an across-course current running from port to starboard. C86 was clear astern of C2003.
2. C2003 on port tack was carried below the rhumbline and altered course up towards the mark. At this time she was overlapped to leeward by C97 who remained overlapped all the way to the mark.
3. C86 also on port tack continuously maintained a higher course more directly to the mark.
4. Approaching the zone C2003 hailed C86 "No Room" and made arm signals to that affect.
5. When C2003 was at the mark contact occurred between the bowsprit and bow of C86 and the port topsides of C2003 at 8 feet from her bow causing a hole.
6. Neither boat took a penalty and both boats completed the race.

Conclusion.

1. The protest committee is not satisfied that C86, astern established an inside overlap before C2003 ahead reached the zone. Refer RRS 18.2 (e).
2. C86, clear astern at the time C2003 reached the zone, failed to give C2003 mark-room as required by RRS 18.2 (b).
3. C86 also broke RRS 14.
4. From the time it became clear to C2003 that C86 was not keeping clear and having C97 overlapped to leeward it was not reasonably possible for C2003 to avoid contact.

Decision.

C86 is disqualified in race 3.

Protest Committee:- G.S. Searle (Ch), F. Allen and P. Hannah.

7/12/2019 15:00hrs.

