Carol's Umpire Briefing Notes

1 Flag system: If you wish to protest **including for rule 42**
- Hail 'Protest' at once and loudly (for the umpire, as well as your opponent)
- Show a red flag (to the umpire, as well as your opponent) and make eye-contact

2 If you intend to take a penalty
- it helps to tell the umpire loudly 'spinning'
- acknowledge by raising an arm
- **get clear** as soon as possible.
- take one turn (check which tack you started on it's a tack and a gybe)

3 If no-one takes a penalty the umpire will make a decision
- green & white — no rule broken (or could not see)
- red — two turns (check which tack you started on)
- if both boats broke a rule and only one takes a penalty or the wrong boat takes the penalty the umpire **may** penalise the rule breaker.

4 If the correct flag and hail procedure is not followed, the umpire will not respond or may just green flag.

5 Umpire initiated penalties (i.e. two turns)
- rule 31 hitting a mark (but not its flag)
- rule 42 illegal propulsion
- rule 14 contact between team-mates
- rule 44 incomplete umpire awarded penalties (check your own voluntary penalties and protest again if you need to)
- when a penalty still leaves the culprit's team advantaged (this could bring a black flag instead)
- rule 2 fair sailing e.g. for bullying, for instance constant shouting and harassment - note, too many unfounded shouts of protest can mean the umpires can't keep up with flags and hails and may miss a genuine incident.

6 After the race if there is time the umpire will explain what they saw. There may not be time. Ask on shore

7 Do not hit each other
You are unlikely to get redress for most breakdowns so keep sailing, follow the rule to claim ie show a flag and keep sailing, if it is safe to do so.

8 Please be aware of racing boats when you go to change-over.
Don't sail between the umpire and the race they are watching!

9 If you're interested in becoming an umpire, remember there are RYA bursaries to assist young people (under 35) and women of any age to become qualified; if your parents used to team race, tell them they would be welcome in umpire boats if they would like to give it a try!

10 There's usually room for others in the umpire boats —if you want to come out, ask.

NB - Tape shrouds — you've been warned - so no redress if you lose your mast.

Long hair – tie it up, it's a Safety Hazard