

Umpire Briefing Notes

Provided by Carol Haines

- 1 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** asap
 - take one turn (check which tack you started on)
- 3 If no-one takes a penalty the umpire will make a decision
 - green — 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 the umpire **may** penalise the other
- 4 If the correct flag and hail procedure is not followed, the umpire will not respond.
- 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
- 8 Please be aware of racing boats when you go to change-over. Don't sail between the umpire and the race!
- 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