



PHRF BC

PROTESTING A COMPETITOR FOR A MEASUREMENT VIOLATION

PHRF competitors are the driving force in refining the accuracy of the PHRF rating system. Protesting a competitor for infringement of, or lack of compliance with, the Rules of PHRF BC and/or the Racing Rules of Sailing is one way the PHRF system's fairness and objectivity are improved. Competitor protests of infringements at the event level ensure a fair race for all entrants.

The following guide outlines how to protest a competitor for racing with any measurements different than those shown on their current PHRF BC certificate or racing without a current PHRF BC certificate as specified in the event's NOR/SI.

Who can protest:

Any boat racing in the event whether in the protestee's class or not. However, sportsmanship would tend to dictate that a same class competitor is the stakeholder and should therefore be the one to protest.

A Protestee cannot exonerate themselves on the race course with penalty turns for breaking a measurement rule.

How and when to protest:

1) Measurement differences known prior to the start of the event:

Once the preparatory signal has sounded the Protestee is considered to be racing and is subject to all the rules outlined in the NOR/SI's for the event. The Protester must hail the Protestee and fly a protest flag at the earliest opportunity after the *preparatory* flag has been set (usually 4 minutes prior to start - but this may be changed by the SI's) - read RRS 61.1(a). The Protester should also note witnesses to their hail. Further, the Protester should make every effort to inform the Protestee of the Protest *again* as soon as possible after the finish to ensure the Protestee is aware of the Protest (on the water or on the dock).

In recap:

1. Preparatory flag is set
2. Hail the vessel to be protested:
 "Protest (yacht name, sail #). Invalid PHRF BC certificate."
3. Make a note of witnesses to your hailing attempt.
4. As soon as you can after the finish of the race find the protested yacht and owner/boat representative and reconfirm that you are protesting them.

Get a contact phone # or email if you can.

3. Fill out a protest form immediately after the race and submit it to the Race Officer within the time limit specified in the Sailing Instructions.

2) Measurement differences observed after the start of the event:

The Protester must hail the Protestee and fly a protest flag at the earliest opportunity after the Protester has observed the Protestee flying a sail or using equipment that is not recorded on the Protestee's PHRF BC certificate. The Protester should also note witnesses to their hail. As above, the Protester should make every effort to inform the Protestee of the Protest *again* as soon as possible after the finish to ensure the Protestee is aware of the Protest (on the water or on the dock).

In summary:

1. Violation is observed (use of undeclared sails/equipment).
2. Hail the vessel to be protested:
"Protest (yacht name, sail #). Invalid PHRF BC certificate."
3. Make a note of witnesses to your hailing attempt.
4. As soon as you can after the finish of the race find the protested yacht and owner/boat representative and reconfirm that you are protesting them.
Get a contact phone # or email if you can.
3. Fill out a protest form immediately after the race and submit it to the Race Officer within the time limit specified in the Sailing Instructions.

Filling out the Protest Form when protesting a boat with an *invalid* but *current* certificate:

Items 1-4: Obtain a standard CYA protest form and fill out items 1 to 4.
In item 2 tickoff "Protest by boat against boat".

Item 5: Incident

Time and place of incident

Example 1 = starting area, blahblah series race #1, just after the preparatory signal (approx. ___ am), date

Example 2 = leg ____, blahblah series race #1, after rounding mark 3 (approx ___ am), date

Rules alleged to have been broken = *PHRF BC Rule 2.2, RRS 78.1*

Witnesses = list other competitors who heard/saw you hail "protest"

Item 6: Informing Protestee - tick off relevant items

By hailing __ When?

Example 1 = after preparatory signal ...as stated in item 5

OR *Example 2 = leg ____, after rounding ...as stated in item 5*

Word(s) used = *"Protest (yacht name, sail #). Invalid PHRF BC certificate."*

By displaying a red flag ____ When?

At the same time as the protest hail

By informing her in some other way ____

(Boat name) and owner/ boat representative were also informed immediately after the race (at the finish line/ on the dock/ on the way in from the race)

Item 7: Description of incident (no diagram necessary):

(Boat name, sail #) is racing with an invalid PHRF BC certificate (PHRF BC Rule 2.2) in contravention of RRS 78.1 and as outlined in the NOR for this event. Specifically we believe the following measurement(s) differ from those reported on the yacht's current PHRF BC Certificate: _____.

Filling out the Protest Form when protesting a boat with *no current certificate*:

If a boat does not have a current PHRF BC certificate:

Items 1-4: Fill out Protest Form as outlined above

Item 5: Rules alleged to have been broken: RRS78.1

Item 6: Word(s) used:

"Protest (yacht name, sail #). No PHRF BC certificate."

Item 7: Description of incident:

(Boat name, sail #) does not have a current PHRF BC certificate in contravention of RRS 78.1 and as outlined in the NOR for this event.

Although Race Committees make every effort to check the status of all event entrants not all entrants provide current information as specified. Competitor awareness and protests help to ensure a fair race for all entrants.