



Protest Hearing Procedures

(Consult Appendix M and the US Sailing Judges Manual for more guidance.)

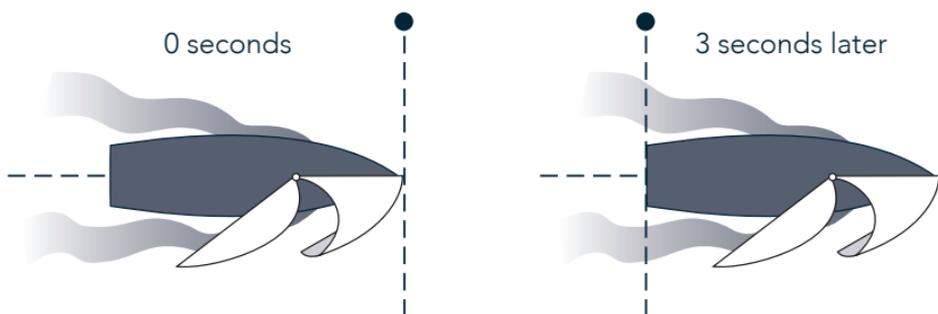
1. Make sure that only one person from each boat is present.
2. Introduce PC and parties. Be sure protestee has a copy of the protest and reasonable time to prepare.
3. Does any party object to any member of PC?
4. Was protest timely? Is there good reason to extend?
5. Did protestor notify RC at finish (if required by SI)?
6. Is incident, including where and when it occurred, identified in protest?
7. "Protest" hailed (within hailing distance?) or notified at first reasonable opportunity?
8. Flag flown (if ≥ 6 m) at first reasonable opportunity?
9. Decide if protest is valid (deliberate if necessary).
10. If valid, take evidence from parties:
 - a. protestor tells his/her story
 - b. protestee tells his/her story
 - c. protestee questions protestor
 - d. protestor questions protestee
 - e. PC questions protestor, then protestee
11. Take evidence from witnesses (protestor's first):
 - a. set the stage and ask, "Tell us what you saw."
 - b. protestee questions protestor's witness first (and vice versa)
 - c. PC questions witness
12. Invite each party to give a brief summation.
13. Excuse parties and deliberate:
 - a. find facts and write them down
 - b. decide what rules apply to whom
 - c. decide which boat (if any) broke a rule
 - d. decide the relevant penalty (DSQ or other)
14. Call parties back and announce decision.
15. Give copies of decision to parties if requested.

Speed, Distance & Time Table

(based on the formula: distance = rate x time)

(1 knot = 6076 feet per hour)

Boat speed	Feet per second	Meters per second
1 knot	1.7	0.5
2 knots	3.4	1.0
3 knots	5.1	1.5
4 knots	6.8	2.1
5 knots	8.4	2.6
6 knots	10.1	3.1
7 knots	11.8	3.6
8 knots	13.5	4.1
9 knots	15.2	4.6
10 knots	16.9	5.1



In other words, if your boat is going 4 knots, you will travel 6.8 feet per second. One way to determine your boat's speed is to sail by a buoy or other fixed object and count how many seconds it takes for the buoy to go from your bow to your stern. If in a 24-foot boat it takes 3 seconds to go by the buoy, you are going 8 feet per second, or just under 5 knots.

It's very useful to know your boat's approximate speed on all points of sail in all wind and wave conditions, particularly in a protest hearing. For instance, in the above example you know that a zone that is three lengths wide is about 9 seconds worth of sailing before the mark. You also know that if you tack in front of another boat and she claims to have hit you only 3 seconds after you became close-hauled, you can point out that, by her own testimony, she held her course for a full boat-length after you were close-hauled.

Adapted from *Dave Perry's 100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes*.

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