



Racing Rules & Sportsmanship



CHALLENGES:

- A growing problem with bad sportsmanship within the Hobie classes has been noted the last couple of years. Latest at the 2019 Europeans and HC16 Worlds and this in term of lacking “right of way” respect, competitors not taking their penalty turns and protests not being filed.
- It appears some sailors deliberately ignore to take a penalty, simply because they calculate the risk of ending up in front of the protest committee/jury as being quite low.



Just a bit of illustration





..... and a bit more





- Other classes have identical challenges.
- The good questions are:
 1. What are the reasons for the lacking fairness and sportsmanship?
 2. What can be done to improve the situation at Hobie regattas?



REASONS

1. Lacking RRS knowledge/respect.
2. The penalty turn is considered unproportionally hard, when racing in a highspeed class with relatively short races.
3. Penalty turns are not taken as the risk of being formally protested is considered rather limited at Hobie events.
4. Filing a protest is many times felt to be too cumbersome and time-consuming especially with minor incidents.
5.?



WHAT CAN BE DONE (1)?

1. Talk about it. **Lacking sportsmanship & fairness is not the Hobie way!**
2. Offer RRS lessons.
3. Modify the penalty turn to something with less lost distance. E.g.:

Change RRS 44.1, so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by
As soon as possible, after the incident, a boat takes a penalty, by completing one of the following:

- (1) Two consecutive gybes with the gennaker (if applicable) completely inside the snuffer at some time between the two gybes.*
- (2) Two consecutive tacks.*



WHAT CAN BE DONE (2)?

4. Consider ways to simplify and speed up the protest-process (*at major events*):
 - Activate the RRS possibility of arbitration.
 - Have the jury/protest committee formed with 6 people, so it can be split in two panels, with one of these offering a “fast track protest handling” option from a station nearby the beach/boat ramp.
5.