

ICSA Rules Committee Mid-Annual Report:

Follow up from the Annual meeting to incorporate the approved rules changes and additions in the most appropriate place in the procedural rules using procedural rules language:

Add to PR 18c(ii): Match Racing Courses 15-20 minutes (shorter time in earlier flights)

Add PR 18(f): No intersectional race shall start after 3 PM on Sunday. Any change to this rule shall be submitted to the Intersectional Coordinator and ICSA President for prior approval.

Add PR 18(g): Races should not be started unless the Race Committee is satisfied that the wind strength in the starting area, and to the best of its belief on the rest of the course, is in excess of an average of three knots (3.45 mph) for a reasonable period before the start as measured using instrumentation and while not moving over the bottom or anchored.

Change D2.2(a) in PR 25(a) to: When a boat protests under a rule of Part 2 or under Rule 31, 42 or 44, she is not entitled to a hearing. Instead, a boat involved in the incident may promptly acknowledge breaking a rule and take the appropriate penalty. If the protested boat does not take a penalty, the protesting boat may request a decision by conspicuously displaying a raised open hand and hailing the word "Umpire." An umpire shall decide whether any boat has broken a rule, and shall signal the decision in compliance with Rule D2.2(b).

Change PR 25(b)(1) to: A sail-off, if conditions permit and after prescribed sailing hours if necessary, of no more than a single race between each of the tied colleges (based on their overall win/loss record). Races sailed from an incomplete round robin or series, where the tied teams met, shall be used as sail off races. Sail off win/losses shall not affect a team's overall won/lost record.

After review of other rules that involve wind minimums, please consider the alternate draft:

Add PR 18(g): Races shall not be started in less than three knots (3.45 mph) of wind, as measured using instrumentation in the starting area, and to the best of the Race Committee's belief on the rest of the course. This lower limit may be higher if there is strong current in the racing area.

The advantages of this version of the rule are:

- Simpler wording.
- Preserves that just one anemometer could be used in smaller events.
- Removes the "while not moving over the bottom or anchored" clause as best practices for measuring wind minimums is generally from a drifting boat (which, in strong current or high chop, will be from an un-anchored boat that IS moving over the bottom (to prevent an artificially high reading)). There are times, when the current is moving against the wind, where a reading from an anchored boat will produce a lower wind strength (or more accurate reading of the apparent wind). Leaving the "anchored" requirement out of the rule allows for race committees to use the best technique for the specific circumstance and location.
- Accounts for locations that have current (which may require a higher amount of wind as compared to a location without current).

Here are ways other classes deal with wind minimums:

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Olympic Windsurfer:

RS:X RACE MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Please note that these policies are guidelines to the Race Management Team. Failure to observe these guidelines are not grounds for redress.

3.4. Wind will be measured from drifting boats.

3.5. Races will not be started in less than 4 knots of wind established over the entire course area. This lower limit may be higher if there is strong current in the racing area.

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Professional Windsurfing Association, Part 2 Racing Rules:

2.2 Conditions. Minimum Wind Conditions. For all races in the Slalom 42 discipline, the wind minimum shall be 7 knots for the starting procedure. The race shall then be abandoned if the wind drops below the minimum of 7 knots, for more than 20 seconds, over the course area. It is recommended to have boats at various buoys around the course to determine if wind is suitable. In all cases the race director shall ensure that the wind is measured over the whole course area, i.e. at the start, on both sides of the course, close to course markers. Protests regarding wind strength and suitability of wind direction or wind conditions shall be disallowed.

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Feedback is most welcome on the above for errors or potential improvements. If the above changes are approved by the board at the mid-annual meeting, an updated 2012 version of the ICSA Procedural Rules will be made available on the College Sailing website.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan McDonald
ICSA Rules Committee, Chair