

Procedural Rules Committee - Winter 2024 Report

The committee has worked on a number of proposed updates to the PR document. Each can be approved or rejected individually. All additions marked in **red**, all subtractions marked in **red and struck**.

I. Changes to the Procedural Rules

PR 3(c,d,e), 13(c), 16, 18(b), 25, 37

PR 3

Changes:

- c) For the purposes of RRS 89.2(a), these Procedural Rules and other information provided by the ICSA Interconference or Conference Schedule shall rank as **an addendum to the** Notice of Race for all ICSA regattas **whether or not stated in the Notice of Race**. Hosts shall provide further details as needed.
- d) For the purpose of RRS 90.2, these Procedural Rules and their Appendices shall rank as **an addendum to** sailing instructions for all ICSA regattas **whether or not stated in the Sailing Instructions**. Hosts shall provide further details as needed.
- e) ~~A copy of the Procedural Rules and Collegiate Dinghy Class Rules shall be readily available at all ICSA regattas. (remove)~~

Explanations:

- c) The PR document cannot meet NOR requirements for all regattas at the same time, necessitating fragmented publishing where there should be only one true NOR per event. Also, defining it as an addendum removes any conflicting logic about a separate NOR changing the PR's.
- d) As above, but for SI.
- e) In modern smartphone times, it is unnecessary to require this of the host.

PR 13

Original:

- c) Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) – All student-athletes shall wear inherently buoyant personal flotation devices (USCG Certified Non-Inflatable Type III or Type V) while on the water. PFD's shall be worn outside all clothing and foul weather gear, except that a thin shirt or team uniform (See PR 13(e)) may be worn over the PFD. PFD's are not required when ashore or on objects attached to shore. PR 13(c) shall be enforced at all times, in all ICSA regattas. (Changes RRS 40 and the preamble to Part 4.)

Change:

- c) Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) – Each competitor shall wear a USCG-approved inherently buoyant Type III or Type V PFD at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while adding or removing clothing. PFD's shall be worn outside all clothing except that a thin shirt or team uniform (See PR 13(e)) may be worn over the PFD. (Changes RRS 40 and the preamble to Part 4.)

Explanation:

More closely align with RRS and other language cleanup

PR 16

Changes:

a) No ~~contestant student-athlete~~ shall use, either on or off the water, during the hours of competition or at an ICSA National- or Conference-sanctioned function, any ~~federally~~-controlled substance including, but not limited to, marijuana and alcoholic beverages unless prescribed by a licensed physician. Violations of PR 16(a) shall be reported to the student-athlete's Conference Commissioner and to the ICSA President for appropriate action. ~~Violations of this PR may also be misconduct.~~

b) No ~~contestant student-athlete~~ shall use any tobacco, vaporizer, nicotine, cbd, thc, or similar product during the hours of competition in the vicinity of the Regatta Site.

Explanations:

a) Different states have different laws. We want to be consistent across all regattas.

b) Technology has brought us beyond only cigarettes and we want to maintain the intent of the rule.

PR 18

Changes:

(b)(ii) Individual Recall - When at a boat's starting signal any part of her hull is on the course side of the starting line or she must comply with RRS 30.1, the race committee shall promptly display flag X ~~(or a designated flag or device)~~ with one sound. The flag shall be displayed until the hull of each such boat has been completely on the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions and has complied with RRS 30.1 if it applies, but no later than two minutes after the starting signal, whichever is earlier. The Race Committee may also attempt to notify individual boats by hailing their sail or bow numbers. (Changes RRS 29.1 and U4)

(b)(iii) General Recall – The race committee may signal a general recall with multiple sounds and the hail of “general recall” and ~~may need not~~ display the First Substitute. Following a general recall, the warning for any subsequent start may be initiated at any time (Changes RRS 29.2). After a general recall, RRS 30.1 (I Flag Rule), shall apply to subsequent starts of the corresponding race and no signal need be given. (Changes RRS 30.1)

Explanations:

(b)(ii) Remove potential confusion for sailors. Regatta-specific SI's can always specify an alternative signal, but this should be infrequent.

(b)(iii) Keep intent but match language with RRS.

PR 25 (except tiebreaks)

Additions

1. D1.2(b) is changed to: Rule 61.1(a) is changed so that the boat may remove her ~~red flag~~ **raised open hand** after it has been ~~conspicuously displayed~~ **acknowledged by the race committee or umpire.**

2. D1.2(f) is changed to: A boat is not entitled to redress or compensation for a breakdown based on damage or injury caused by another boat on her team.
3. D5.3 is changed to: The ~~race~~ Protest committee shall decide requests for a score change in accordance with rules D5.4 and D5.5. It may take evidence in any way it considers appropriate and may communicate its decision orally.
4. D5.4 is changed to: When the ~~race~~ Protest committee decides that the team's finishing position was made significantly worse, that the breakdown was through no fault of the crew, and that in the same circumstances a reasonably competent crew would not have been able to avoid the breakdown, it shall make as equitable a decision as possible. This may be to abandon and resail the race or, when the boat's finishing position was predictable, award her points for that position. Any doubt about a boat's position when she broke down shall be resolved against her.
5. D5.5 is replaced by PR Appendix D

Explanations:

1. Ensure umpires know there is a protest request at the time of the incident. Avoid complaints about non-calls or late-call procedural greens.
2. Include "breakdown" as ICSA uses it specifically
3. Give authority for points adjustments to Protest Committee rather than Race Committee, in keeping with standard practice.
4. Same as 3.
5. Use ICSA's breakdown guidance for consistency with fleet racing.

PR 37

Changes:

For the purpose of RRS 69, the term '~~boat~~ competitor' shall be interpreted to include any sailor or team member from a college. Any penalty, including a warning or directed apology, imposed under this rule shall be reported to the offending college's Conference Commissioner and the President of ICSA.

Explanation:

Updated terminology to match RRS 69 and be more personal. Clause about warnings added per US Sailing's request to track those.

II. Team Race Tiebreaks (PR 25 c, d)

The Committee plans to reformat PR 25 as below to clarify the team race tiebreak procedure. This is a structural change only - content remains as it is today.

c) Breaking Ties – the following methods shall be used for breaking ties:

Conditions of tie	First tiebreak	Second tiebreak	Third tiebreak
Teams met once, trophy or qualifying place	Sail-off	Head-to-head races	Head-to-head points
Teams met more than once, trophy or qualifying place	Head-to-head races	Sail-off	Head-to-head points
Neither a trophy place nor a qualifying place	Head-to-head races	Head-to-head points	Tie stands

*After the third tie break, if a tie remains involving a qualifying place for a future regatta or round, the tie shall be broken with future sail-off, to be scheduled by the Regatta Chair either at the same site or at a neutral, equitable, site.

Definitions from table:

- *Qualifying Place* – The finishing position involves qualification for a future regatta or round.
- *Trophy Place* – First, Second, or Third.
- *Sail-off* – if conditions permit and after prescribed sailing hours if necessary, of no more than a single race between each tied team (based on their overall win-loss records). Races sailed from an incomplete round robin or series, where the tied teams met, shall be used as sail-off races. Sail-off wins and losses shall not affect a team's overall record.
- *Head-to-Head Races* – The number of races won when the tied teams met.
- *Head-to-Head Points* – Total points scored when the tied teams met.
- *Tie Stands* – The teams remain tied for the higher of the two places. IE if teams are tied for sixth, both teams are scored sixth and the next team is scored in eighth.

III. CDCR 7.2 & 7.3

Original:

7.2 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Unless otherwise specified in the sailing instructions, only timing devices, signal flags, tape, tell tales, bailers, fastening devices, knife, pliers, screwdriver, nutrition, and drinking water may be carried while racing.

7.3 SAFETY

Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) – Inherently buoyant personal flotation devices (USCG Certified Non-Inflatable Type III or Type V) shall be worn by all student-athletes while on the water. PFDs shall be worn outside all clothing and foul weather gear, except that a thin shirt or team uniform (See ICSA PR 13(e)) may be worn over the PFD. PFDs are not required when ashore or on objects attached to shore. (ICSA PR 13(c) changes RRS 40 and the Part 4 preamble.)

Changes:

7.2 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

7.2.1 Mandatory

- Reserved.

7.2.2 Optional

- Electronic devices: Competitors in the racing area may only use electronic devices for timing purposes except in case of emergency. Real-time GPS feedback is prohibited.
- Knife
- Nutrition and drinking water
- Pliers
- Screwdriver
- Signal flags
- Tape: Competitors may use any tape provided it does not leave a residue on the boat when removed.
- Tell tales
- Whistle

7.4 renumbered to 7.3

Explanations:

- Restructure to more closely match other class rule formats.
- Remove PFD requirement. (PR 13(c) covers this. Class rules cannot change RRS 40.)
- Restrict GPS technology to keep things simple, prevent costly arms race.

IV. Redress vs. Breakdown

The Committee discussed ICSA's "breakdown" process (PR 20, Appendix D) and its distinction from the RRS "Redress" (RRS 62, 64.3). It seems as though the term exists primarily for PR 20(d) - Limits on Compensation for Breakdowns. The remainder of PR 20 is otherwise redundant to, or sometimes in conflict with, the RRS. Both of these we want to avoid.

The Committee requests direction from the Board on the following: Do we still need the distinction between "breakdown" and "redress"?

- The Committee's position is that no distinction is necessary. The RRS allows for redress on what the PRs call a breakdown. Furthermore, F23 saw only 11 BKD in 38 regattas G0-G2 (Open + Women), indicating that the limits in PR 20(d) are not necessary.