

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 78.1

A submission from the Chair of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

Quite often, the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions for an event provide that class rules are subject to discretionary penalties. However, not complying with class rules implies breaking rule 78.1 as well. Yet, breaking rule 78 is seldom marked as [DP] or [SP].

Proposal 1

Please note that proposal 1 and proposal 2 are mutually exclusive

78.1 While a boat is racing, her owner and any other person in charge shall ensure that the boat is maintained to comply with her class rules and that her measurement or rating certificate, if any, remains valid. In addition, the boat shall also comply at other times specified in the class rules, the notice of race or the sailing instructions. **When a rule provides that the penalty for a breach of a class rule may be less than disqualification, the same penalty will apply to a breach of this rule.**

Current Position

See above.

Reasons

If the Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions provide for penalties lower than disqualification for breaches of class rules, the same level of penalty should be applied to breaches of rule 78.1—which will almost always happen when there is a breach of a class rule. By adding the new text to the rule, the penalty for rule 78.1 will be automatically adjusted to the level of penalty set up by the class rules or notice of race or sailing instructions without the need to add this provision in the notice of race or the sailing instructions.

Proposal 2

78.1 While a boat is racing, her owner and any other person in charge shall ensure that the boat is maintained to comply with her class rules and that her measurement or rating certificate, if any, remains valid. In addition, the boat shall also comply at other times specified in the class rules, the notice of race or the sailing instructions. **The penalty for a breach of this rule may be less than disqualification.**

Current Position

See above.

Reasons

As in proposal 1. But rather than tying the penalty to the level set by the class rule/notice of race/sailing instructions, with this proposed wording the rule itself will grant the opportunity to give a penalty which is less than disqualification.