

RPEYC – Centenary Regatta & Wednesday Summer Series 2022-2023

Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club, 1930 hrs 22/11/2022

Protest Hearing – Boat Against Boat

Race 7, Div 4 16/11/2022 Wednesday Series

Race 1, Div 4 16/11/2022 Centenary Regatta

Boat Protesting: Encore (AUS 236) against Rapunzel (3458)

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Rapunzel represented by: Richard Lawson

Encore Represented by: Andy Pether

Procedural Matters:

Conflict of Interest

Protest Committee members declared that they had no conflicts of interest, two members had sailed in the same regatta in different Divisions and had not witnessed the incident. No party objected to the members hearing the protest.

Validity

The requirements of RRS 61.1 (a) & 61.1 (a) (1) were met in that red flags were displayed at the first opportunity and the notices of protest were lodged within the time limits specified in the Sailing Instructions

Other Procedural Matters

As both protests were lodged regarding the same incident the parties agreed for them to be joined and heard concurrently.

Facts Found

1. Wind was 18-20 knots and gusting from the sw-ssw
2. Prior to the incident both boats were sailing on a close reach on a starboard tack to a downwind mark designated EC in the sailing instructions, the mark was to be left to Starboard

3. Both boats were travelling at around 4-5 knots towards the EC Mark
4. Prior to entering the *Zone*, Encore established an overlap to leeward boat named Sahara.
5. Sahara provided *mark-room* to Encore as required
6. Encore rounded the Mark, moving to a close-hauled position and had slowed to 2-3 knots
7. Rapunzel attempted to round the Mark and collided bow first to the stern starboard quarter of Encore
8. Both boats suffered obvious damage and were able to complete the race
9. No crew were reported as injured on either vessel

Conclusion

In moderate to fresh conditions Rapunzel on a starboard reach at a mark rounding impacted the starboard stern quarter of Encore. Rapunzel had not established an overlap to windward of Encore prior to entering the *zone* and therefore was not entitled to *mark-room*. Prior to the collision no other boats were to windward. Encore rounding the mark and moving to a close-hauled position was not able to avoid the collision. Rapunzel did not take sufficient action to avoid a collision.

Rules Applicable

RRS Rules 18.2 (b) & 14

Decision

Rapunzel breached rule 18.2 (b) in that an overlap had not been established prior to the *zone* and was required to keep clear of Encore. Prior to the collision the contact could have been reasonably avoided breaching rule 14.

The protest lodged by Encore against Rapunzel is upheld, the protest lodged by Rapunzel against Encore is dismissed.

Rapunzel is to be marked DSQ from Race 7, Division 4 RPEYC Wednesday Series and Race 1 RPEYC Centenary Regatta, Division 4 held on the 16/11/2022

Greg Mason,
Chairman
22/11/2022

Protest Committee: Simon Barrington, Gordon Woolf, Greg Mason