



THE YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION of SAN FRANCISCO BAY
500 First St, Suite 200-E.
Benicia, CA 94510
Phone: 415-771-9500; Fax: 415-276-2378
E-mail: info@yra.org

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Appeal 2025-01

Tahoe Yacht Club Protest Committee
Request for Confirmation or Correction
Trans-Tahoe Regatta, Race 1
PERSONAL PUFF and *HOT SHEET* Redress Requests
11-12 July 2025

DECISION

SUMMARY OF SITUATION

The Trans-Tahoe Regatta was a series of races held on 11-12 July 2025 on Lake Tahoe. The series consisted of three short races on Friday 11 July 2025 and one long distance race on 12 July 2025.

In the first race of the series, for division 2 the race committee (RC) selected course 3 (Start – 1 – 2 – 3s/3p – 1 – 2 – 3s/3p – 1 – 2 - Finish) with an approximate length of 5.5 nm.

With winds ranging from 5 to 12 knots, the first boat finished approximately 70 minutes after the start. The remaining boats in the division finished within 15 minutes of the first boat.

The sailing instructions stated:

13 TIME LIMIT

13.1 For Friday's races:

The time limit for finishing a race shall be 60 minutes. Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat in their class sails the course and finishes will be scored DNF without a hearing.

The RC did not score race 1 as no boat finished within the time limit.

PERSONAL PUFF, the first boat to finish, requested redress, arguing that the RC erred by selecting a course that could not be finished within the time limit and that the race should be scored based on actual the finish positions.

The protest committee (PC) accepted this argument, granted redress, and directed the RC to score all boats based on their actual finishing times.

After the decision was announced, *HOT SHEET* requested redress, arguing that the original decision was incorrect as it broke rules by extending the time limit in SI 13.

The protest committee believed that the request for redress was, in fact, a request to reopen the original hearing and declined to reopen the hearing.

FACTS FOUND BY PROTEST COMMITTEE

1. RC sent division 2 on course 3 (S, ww, gate, ww gate, ww, F) in race 1 of 2025 TT.
2. Course length was approximately 5.5 nm (3/4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 3/4).
3. Winds were ~5-12 knots from ~245 deg.
4. First finisher crossed the line in 70 minutes; the other seven boats finished within 15 minutes of the first finisher.
5. SIs established a time limit of 60 minutes with a finishing window of 15 minutes.

CONCLUSIONS, APPLICABLE RULES, AND DECISION OF THE PROTEST COMMITTEE

1. It was unreasonable for any boats to finish within the prescribed time limit; thus constituting an improper action by the RC.
2. The scores of several of the eight participating boats were made significantly worse as a result of this improper action.

DECISION OF THE PROTEST COMMITTEE

Redress granted. The race committee is directed to score all boats in their finishing positions in race 1.

BASIS FOR REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OR CORRECTION

After learning of World Sailing Case 129 and World Sailing Judges Manual K29.9(*), the PC decided to request confirmation or correction of their decision.

* see *World Sailing Judges Manual, July 2017*

ASSOCIATION APPEALS COMMITTEE DECISION

The decisions by the PC are corrected. The request for redress by *Personal Puff* is denied and the series results are to be recalculated based on race 1 being abandoned. *Hot Sheet's* request for a hearing to consider redress is granted.

The AAC finds:

- It is not improper for the RC to send the boats on a course that has a small chance of being completed within the time limit. Once a race has started, the RC has several options, including shortening the course or abandoning and restarting the race, when it becomes apparent that no boat will finish within the time limit. That they did not avail themselves of any of these options is not an improper action or improper omission of the committee as no rules were broken.
- The second sentence of RRS 35 says "If no boat sails the course within the race time limit, the race committee shall abandon the race." The SI set a time limit of 60 minutes for the race and no boat finished within that time limit, so the race must be abandoned.
- The PC erred by not holding a hearing on *Hot Sheet's* request for redress. Because *Hot Sheet* was not a *party* to the original hearing, she had no standing to request a reopening, see RRS 63.7(b) and NoR 1.5. Therefore, a hearing is required to be held to consider her request for redress should *Hot Sheet* not withdraw her request.

THE APPEALS COMMITTEE OF THE YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY.



John Christman, Chair (email: john@christman.org)

Distribution:

TYC Protest Committee – Mr. John Siegel, Chair, (john@johnsiegel.com)

Personal Puff – Mr. Dan Hauserman (dan@ilovetahoe.com)

Hot Sheet – Mr. David Wick (wick.d.spencer@gmail.com)

Association Appeals Committee Members:

Rob Overton (rob.overton@gmail.com)

Tom Roberts (tomroberts36@gmail.com)