



**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**

**APPEAL 2025-02 (AAC 25-02)**

22 October 2025

**SUMMARY OF SITUATION**

The Sequoia Yacht Club Summer Series was a series of five races held on April 26, May 18, June 26, July 26 and August 9, 2025.

The notice of race for the series states

**4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

4.3. Boats must have a current PHRF rating issued by the SF YRA, or be of a One Design Class recognized by an SF YRA ODR rating.

*Pelagic*, a Beneteau 310 monohull, and *Phoenix*, a Dragonfly 25 multihull, entered and raced in the series, including the first race on April 26. *Phoenix* had a PHRF certificate, but because the SF YRA does not issue PHRF certificates for multihulls, her certificate was from the Bay Area Multihull Association (BAMA), which is recognized by the SF YRA but distinct from it.

After Race 4 of the series, *Pelagic* began inquiries with Sequoia Yacht Club, the organizing authority, about the legitimacy of *Phoenix's* participation in the series. Her position was that *Phoenix* should not be allowed to compete in the PHRF fleet. This position did not prevail, and on August 9 she filed a request for redress for race 5 of the series.

The protest committee (PC) held a hearing on or about September 4, via Zoom, and published their written decision on September 4. The substance of the decision was that the request was too late and therefore invalid.

*Pelagic* appealed that decision on September 19.

**FACTS FOUND BY PROTEST COMMITTEE**

1. The list of registrants was posted on Jibeset prior to the first race on 26 April 2025 showing the multihull PHOENIX in the PHRF division with the monohulls.
2. The race results for races 1 through 4 showed PHOENIX scored in the PHRF division with the monohulls.
3. After race 4 on 26 July 2025, PELAGIC questioned the Organizing Authority on the inclusion of PHOENIX in the PHRF division.
4. PELAGIC filed a request for redress on 9 August 2025.

**CONCLUSIONS, APPLICABLE RULES, AND DECISION OF THE PROTEST COMMITTEE**

1. The request for redress was not filed as soon as reasonably possible after the relevant information was available as required by RRS 61.2(b)(3).

## DECISION OF THE PROTEST COMMITTEE

The request for redress is invalid.

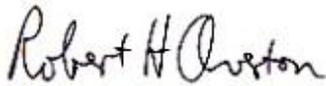
## BASIS FOR APPEAL

The appellant states that he attempted to resolve the issue with the organizing authority before filing for redress. He states "The responses I received were inconsistent, and in some cases, I received no response at all. Throughout [the period July 13-August 8], I relied on race officials to address and resolve the eligibility issue. ... A few days before Race 5, the race captain, Stan Phillips, advised me via text message to file a formal request. In the interim, I received a text message from the rear commodore, Paul, on August 6th, stating that the multihull should not be eligible to compete in the monohull PHRF fleet. However, on August 8th, Paul sent another message indicating that the multihull's BAMA PHRF rating was being accepted as an SF YRA PHRF rating."

## ASSOCIATION APPEALS COMMITTEE DECISION

The decision of the protest committee with regard to validity is reversed. The race time limit stated at the top of the hearing request form is 5.15 PM July 26, the day of race 4. However, the request for redress is for race 5, and according to the same form it was submitted at 5.14 AM the morning of race 5. The "relevant information" is that the race committee scored *Phoenix* in that race. Therefore the hearing request met the requirements of rule 61.2(b)(3).

The protest committee is directed to reopen the hearing. The protest committee is advised to observe the US Sailing Prescriptions to rule 63.1 with respect to the reopened hearing.



Rob Overton, Chair *pro tem* (email: [rob.overton1@gmail.com](mailto:rob.overton1@gmail.com))

John Siegel <[john@johnsiegel.com](mailto:john@johnsiegel.com)>

Tom Roberts <[tomroberts36@gmail.com](mailto:tomroberts36@gmail.com)>

## Distribution:

SYC Protest Committee – Ms. Joanna Sachs <[jsachs@gmail.com](mailto:jsachs@gmail.com)>

*Pelagic* – Mr. Musto Gunan <[mustogunan@yahoo.com](mailto:mustogunan@yahoo.com)>