

PROTEST PROCEDURE – 3 MINUTE JUSTICE

Three minute justice is a protest hearing system that takes the burden off of the race organizers. It is a system that has been around for years. The former head coach of the Old Dominion Sailing Team, K.C. Fullmer, was the first to introduce it to the USTRA. Currently, the system has been used at many regattas including the USTRA Midwinters. The race organizers do not have to form a protest committee. The burden of forming a committee is put on the shoulders of the parties involved in the protest.

For the Frostbite Series it will work like this:

If you feel have been fouled and you desire to protest another boat for an infringement of the RRS as applied to the Frostbite Series or, if you have been protested this is the process to follow:

- ***Hail the boat at the time of the incident and state that you are protesting them (if you are unable to hail at the time of the incident, inform the boat at the earliest time subsequent to the incident.***
- ***Inform the Race Committee at the earliest time subsequent to the incident, at the end of racing or upon arrival of the RC boat to the SSA dock.***
- ***Find another sailor to act as one member of the Protest Jury***

The Protest will be held in the upstairs classroom of the SSA Clubhouse as soon as practical. All sailors are invited to observe. This room has a whiteboard, markers and magnetic boats to reenact the incident.

- The sailor protesting has one minute to present their case to the Protest Jury.
- The sailor being protested has one minute to present their case to the Protest Jury.
- Both sailors are excused from the Protest room.
- The Protest Jury then has one minute to make a decision. The Jury is strongly encouraged to make a decision, which is final.
- If the Protest Jury cannot come to a decision then the protest is disallowed.
- The outcome is then passed on to the Fleet Captain and the Scorer for inclusion into the day's scoring.

Keep in mind that the time allowed does not always permit a Talmudic review of the RRS during the decision process. We all should have a good basic understanding of the RRS but there are always times when an incident can be complex and based on estimation and approximation of position and intent. This method may not be perfect but it will certainly lead to discussion and perhaps further our understanding of the RRS.