

Received by race office: Number ..11. Date and time 26/03/26 @ 1058hrs Signature

Matt..... **REQUEST FOR REDRESS**

1. EVENT: Thursday Twilight Summer Series Race 11.. Organizing authority ...SYC

Date ..19 Mar 26.....Race no. ..11.....

2. TYPE OF HEARING ~~Protest by boat against boat~~ **Request for redress by boat or race committee** ~~Protest by race committee against boat~~ ~~Consideration of redress by protest committee~~ ~~Protest by protest committee against boat~~ ~~Request by boat or race committee to reopen hearing~~ ~~Consideration of reopening by protest committee~~

3. BOAT PROTESTING, OR REQUESTING REDRESS OR REOPENING

Class Offshore..... Fleet ..Twilight..... Sail no.8455.....

Boat's nameESPRIT.....Represented by ...Roderick West.....

Tel.....0407539088, e-mailinfo@rrservices.com.au.....

4. BOAT(S) PROTESTED OR BEING CONSIDERED FOR REDRESS ...SYC Sailing Committee..... Fleet ..Thu Twilight Race

5. INCIDENT Time and place of incident.....Southport, Thu 19 Mar 26

Rules alleged to have been broken ..RRS Part 1 Rule 2 Fair Sailing, Part 7 Event Organisation Rule 90, SYC R1.2, SYC Rue 15 Penalty System and Penalties, SYC 2025-26 Sailing Season Policy Rule 1.1 Club Participation Rules, SYC 2025-26 Sailing Season Policy Rule 4 Due Process and Handicaps,

WitnessesMr Gary Green.....

6. INFORMING PROTESTEE How did you inform the protestee of your intention to protest? Via email

7. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: On 19 Mar 26 I sailed my yacht ESPRIT in the SYC Twilight Race on the Broadwater. The winds were variable ranging from 6 knots up to 12 knots later in the Race. We sailed a fair and competitive race but choosing not to pole out a headsail as I did not have any trained foredeck crew aboard. We lost a little time approaching the ELKES mark when I needed to duck ALPHA TAURI and then a cat from Div 2. In the act of ducking the cat I wandered onto a sand finger but very quickly tacked away and sailed off.

It was therefore a surprise to me and my crew to find out on Tuesday this week that our handicap had not been adjusted for the next twilight race. I was not informed of this decision by the Sailing Committee nor was I provided with any explanation or data justifying why ESPRIT had been penalised in this way. In fact,

I received no communication from anyone to confirm any facts or any intention to override the normal handicap system. Usually yachts are clamped only by an automated process within the Topyacht Program. However, I have been informed that on this occasion a manual clamp was suggested by the Handicap Committee. I have requested but have not been furnished with a Statement of Reasons from either the Handicap Committee or the Sailing Committee as why to such a punitive penalty has been applied to ESPRIT. I regard this action as unfair and not in the spirit of RRS Part 1 Rule 2 Fair Sailing where results should only be as a result of actions on the water. Our overall performance was not unusual. We circulated some 1 minute slower than Wild Honey (a similar type of boat) and only 4 minutes behind Xvitesse (a light weight X Yacht). Another yacht in Division 2 that also hit a sand bar the same day and sailed way outside his parameters has not been treated in this way. The outcome is that yachts who finished around us will start with a 2 minute advantage in race 12 affecting the overall series results.

Other rules I believe have been ignored by the Sailing Committee:

- Part 7 Event Organisation Rule 90. The Race Committee shall (only) conduct races as directed by the organising authority and as required by the rules. Rule J1.3 states that a sailing event will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing. A race committee cannot impose rules not covered by the NoR or SIs as amended. Neither of these documents allow the Sailing Committee to manipulate the handicap of entrants within a series. If SYC wants to do that in the future it should be specifically noted in the SI's.
- SYC R1.2. This rule states that all races conducted by SYC will be governed by the current rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing and the prescriptions of Australian Sailing. It does not allow the discretion of Sailing Committees to arbitrarily manipulate the handicaps of yachts participating in a series.
- SYC Rue 15 Penalty System and Penalties. SYC Rule 15 specifies what penalties can be applied during Twilight sailing, These are limited to:
 - Boats that have grounded and need to start their engines to get off the obstruction,
 - boats that have collided,
 - boats that use their engine within 1 minute of the star time, and
 - an infringement against the SIs.

There is no provision for the imposition of a handicap penalty just because someone on the handicap committee thought a yacht should have sailed faster.

- **SYC 2025-26 Sailing Season Policy Rule 1.1 Club Participation Rules.**
Southport Yacht Club is bound by the AS Racing Rules of Sailing and the associated Prescriptions and Special Regulations. Nowhere in these rules does it authorise a Sailing Committee to arbitrarily manipulate the handicaps of yachts racing fairly under these conditions.
- **SYC 2025-26 Sailing Season Policy Rule 4 Due Process and Handicaps.**
This policy states that SYC utilises a due process in relation to pertinent sailing matters and that the Topyacht program is used by SYC for race management. It then goes on to specify the handicap systems to be used by the Club. Nowhere does it authorise members of the Sailing Committee to manipulate handicaps in order to disadvantage yachts they don't like. TopYacht has its own built in method to apply limits to calculated handicaps by clamping which is already in the software. It should not be overridden just because someone doesn't like the results it produces. I do not believe I have been afforded due process in this matter. I was never informed that such a penalty had been applied nor have I received a Statement of Reasons as to why the penalty had been applied in the first place.

It is requested that ESPRIT is provided with redress for this matter and that her start time for Race 12 be as properly calculated as per the CHC from Race 11.

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..... DECISION Protest: dismissed Boat(s)

..... is (are) disqualified from race(s) penalized

as follows : Redress: not given given as follows :

..... Request to reopen a hearing: denied granted Protest committee chairman and other members

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..... Chairman's signature

..... Date and time

