

EVENT: SYC FLAT ROCK YACHT RACE 2026

PROTEST COMMITTEE DECISION

PARTIES: RACE COMMITTEE vs ALPHA TAURI



Party	Boat / Class	Represented By
Race Committee	N/A	Kayla Boothby
Alpha Tauri	-	NOT PRESENT

Witness	Role / Boat	Notes
-	Race Committee	Protestor representative

Case Introduction: This was a Race Committee protest against Alpha Tauri concerning an alleged breach of SI 18 – Safety Regulations, specifically failure to report to the Race Committee vessel by 0940 hrs for sign-on and visual safety inspection.

Procedural Matters

The protest was lodged by the Race Committee within the prescribed time limit in accordance with the Sailing Instructions.

The protest was deemed valid, and all parties were notified in accordance with the Sailing Instructions.

No conflicts of interest were declared by the Protest Committee.

All relevant parties were given the opportunity to be heard.

Facts found:

Alpha Tauri was required under SI 18 – Safety Regulations to report to the Race Committee vessel with all crew on deck, wearing compliant safety equipment, no later than 0940 hrs.

Alpha Tauri did not report and complete the required visual safety inspection by 0940 hrs.

Alpha Tauri subsequently reported and completed the inspection after the prescribed time, and no evidence was presented that Alpha Tauri received permission or exemption from this requirement.

The requirement relates to pre-start safety compliance and applies equally to all competitors.

Conclusion & Rules:

Alpha Tauri breached SI 18 – Safety Regulations by failing to report to the Race Committee vessel by the required time of 0940 hrs.

Under the Sailing Instructions:

Breaches of Sailing Instructions (not related to RRS Part 2) may be subject to a Discretionary Penalty (DP) applied by the Protest Committee.

The Protest Committee determined that:

The breach was proven

The breach relates to a safety-related procedural requirement and a Discretionary Penalty (DP) is appropriate

Decision:

The Protest Committee upholds the protest. A Discretionary Penalty (DP) is applied in the form of a scoring adjustment, resulting in Alpha Tauri receiving the same score as boats recorded as retired in each handicapping category.

This results in:

PHS: adjusted from 5 points to 8 points

IRC: adjusted from 5 points to 7 points

ORC: adjusted from 4 points to 6 points

This outcome reflects a discretionary penalty in the order of approximately 33% to 43%, depending on division, effectively aligning Alpha Tauri's result with that of retired boats.

In practical terms, this represents an increase of:

3 points in PHS (≈43% based on 7 boats)

2 points in IRC (≈33% based on 6 boats)

2 points in ORC (≈40% based on 5 boats)

The Protest Committee considers this penalty to be:

Fair and proportionate, and

Appropriate given the safety-critical nature of the Sailing Instruction breached.

Request to Withdraw:

Not applicable

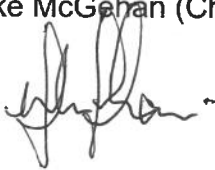
Request Approved:

Not applicable

Protest Committee:

Name: Mike McGehan (Chair), Name: Kelvin Holdt, Name: Lauren Twigg

Signed:



Date, time:

08/06/2026 7.30pm.