



PROTEST COMMITTEE DECISION

Case No: 5/2025 Race:-- 1/11

1st Thursday Series

PARTIES

Boat or Committee or Person	Class/Fleet	Represented By/Not Present
Z68	Victory	
Z75		
Z76		

WITNESSES

Valid – Yes

Case Introduction: Following the start of this race five boats sailed a shorter course than the other three due to differing interpretations of the OOD's intended course set both on Sapriesti's board and on VHF. This case was the second hearing of this case with redress was requested by Zs 68, 75 and 76 after previous redress was given to Zs 54, 79, 80, 78 and 69.

Procedural Matters: No conflict of interest was declared by any member of the protest committee.

Facts found: The protest committee found that the Race Committee had indicated a start between the committee vessel 'Sapriesti' and KB Drystack. They had indicated, on the course blackboard, Victory Class course 4 (YO-Haslar Start, Baker Trait, KB Drystack, Baker Trait, KB Drystack, Yola, Portsmouth Sailing Club, Yola) followed by the comment omit YO/BT. All agreed that the same course had been passed on VHF.

The protest committee also found that the fleet had sailed two different interpretations of the course; a literal interpretation where YO and BT were taken out of the course; this interpretation was sailed by X54,



Z79, Z80, Z78 and Z69. And a different perception where 3 boats (Z68, Z74 and Z76) sailed an additional rounding of KB-BT.

Conclusion & Rules: It was clear to the committee that there were two clearly different perceptions of the course on the evening. That of the race officer and Z68, Z74 and Z76 and that of Z54, Z79, Z80, Z78 and Z69.

The committee deliberated the course as indicated on the course board and indicated on VHF; the committee alighted on the fact that looking at the logical conclusion of pure facts of the information transmitted visually and verbally rather than any perception was vital.

The evidence presented by Z68, Z74 and Z76 was congruent with that of Z54, Z79, Z80, Z78 and Z69 in that the race committee had set a course which was unclear; the redress of the first race had worsened their positions through no fault of their own.

In reviewing the evidence the committee considered whether they had sailed an incorrect course when compared to the rest of the fleet; whilst the course sailed was different they had an equally logical argument as to why their interpretation of the course was such that they had been unfairly impacted through the miscommunication of the race committee.

As this miscommunication significantly affected the fairness of the race and there was no feasible way to consider a finishing order the fairest option for all competitors is for the race to be abandoned in accordance with rule 32.1 and 62.4 (c).

Although this decision is not taken lightly it is noted that due to the number of races in the series it the effect is not as significant as it might be with a shorter series.

The protest committee reiterates the need for Race Officers to accurately and unambiguously signal the course

Decision: The race is abandoned.

Request to Withdraw:

Request Approved:

Protest Committee: Adam Ballard (Chairman) Matt Salt Jim Page

Signed:

Date, time: