

The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club - Protest Hearing

Event: RPAYC Pittwater SOPS Race 6 on 6 February 2021
Protestor: Ascalon, represented by Ian Quarrie
Protestee: Solutions represented by Stephen Dadour
Witnesses: None Called

Validity of the protest:

The Protest Committee considered the validity of the protest in accordance with RRS 63.5 and declared it valid.

Ascalon not displaying a red flag was in accordance with Rule 61.1 a) (4)

Facts found:

1. Ascalon & Solutions were both approaching the line to start close hauled on Starboard tack.

At 2 minutes before the start Ascalon was clear ahead of Solutions in a 5-9 knot breeze.

2. At 1 minute 40 seconds before the start Solutions was to windward of Ascalon & clear astern.

3. Ascalon maintained her course while approaching the line to start.

4. At approximately 40 seconds before the Start, Solutions was overtaking to windward of Ascalon and then chose to bear away to go behind Ascalon.

5. Contact occurred between the bowsprit of Solutions and the Starboard quarter of Ascalon resulting in serious damage.

6. Both boats continued to cross the start line and then subsequently retired from the race.

Conclusions:

Solutions, being clear astern and to windward, was obliged to keep clear of Ascalon.

Rules that apply: RRS 12 & 11

Decision: The protest is upheld and Ascalon is awarded redress under Rule 62.1.b and Appendix A.10 b)

i.e. Ascalon is to be awarded points for this race (SOPS Race 6) equal to the average, to the nearest tenth of a point (0.05 to be rounded up), of her points in all the races of the series before SOPS Race 6.

Solutions had retired, so no further penalty action is required.

Protest Committee: Stephen Merrington (Chairman), James Hill and Jim Gordon

Date: 10 February 2021