

The Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club - Protest Hearing

Event: Saturday Spring Series Race 5 on 4 November 2023

Protestor: *Gunner Goodwin* represented by Robert Alpe

Protestee: *Ocean Ranger* represented by Craig Bothwell

Witnesses: Warwick Jacobson, John Alford

Validity of the Protest:

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

FACTS FOUND:

1. Wind was 6-10 knots from S-SE
2. At ~30 seconds before the start, *Gunner Goodwin* was close hauled on Starboard tack approximately 3-4 boat lengths from the Start Boat.
3. *Ocean Ranger* was to windward of *Gunner Goodwin* then had borne away to avoid starting early.
4. *Young at Heart* was approximately 1 boatlength to leeward of *Gunner Goodwin* and slightly ahead.
5. When it became apparent to *Gunner Goodwin* that there was a risk of collision with *Ocean Ranger*, *Gunner Goodwin* altered course to Starboard to avoid such a collision.
6. *Ocean Ranger* crossed *Gunner Goodwin's* bow on a reciprocal course and bore away in to the gap between *Gunner Goodwin* and *Young At Heart* which was now approximately 1 ½ boatlengths wide.
7. No contact occurred and *Gunner Goodwin* then resumed their course, but was disadvantaged by the actions of *Ocean Ranger*.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. *Ocean Ranger* was the give way boat.
2. *Gunner Goodwin* had reasonable apprehension that contact with *Ocean Ranger* might have occurred and took evasive action.
3. *Ocean Ranger* failed to keep clear of *Gunner Goodwin*.

Rules that apply: RRS 11 & Definitions – Keep Clear (a), RRS 14

DECISIONS:

The protest is upheld.
Ocean Ranger is disqualified.

Protest Committee: Stephen Merrington (NJ) & Jim Gordon (CJ)

Date: 8 November 2023