

2023 Forbidden Actions & Protest Procedure

Dear eSailors,

World Sailing (WS), in accordance with Virtual Regatta Inshore (VRI), appointed in 2022 an Advisory Panel (AdP), the Panel has been confirmed also for 2023.

The AdP's main responsibility is to hear protests and send recommendations to WS and VRI on possible penalties to be applied as a result of incidents, which have occurred during the **2023 eSailing World Championship (eSWC)**.

The AdP will not make decisions on the engine game rules (such as windward/leeward, port/starboard, mark rules, penalty start, etc..) or gender or nationality.

The AdP will only hear protests regarding one or more of the following actions, based on video evidence:

- **Team Racing** – racing with a fellow eSailor in order to gain or give an advantage during fleet races or to give a disadvantage to another eSailor.
- **Cheating** – unsportsmanlike behaviours.
- **Pirating** – repeatedly targeting a boat with the unique purpose of ruining that boat's race.
- **Breach of the Notice of Race (NoR) and Sailing Instructions (SI) of the 2023 eSWC.**

PROTEST PROCEDURE

An eSailor* or the AdP who intends to protest shall proceed as follows:

1. No later than four (4) hours from the time of the incident, they shall fill in the form available at:
 - a. <https://forms.gle/Xwz62PJtL1UWtLts5>
 - b. In the Discord App in **#protest-form** -> <https://discord.gg/hF4DAucktJ>
2. The protest will receive an identifier number as soon as possible.
3. Any eSailor involved in the protest might be contacted by the AdP via email, Discord or for further information, schedule a quick meeting.
4. The AdP will send their recommendations on the action to be taken by VRI/WS.
5. VRI/WS will post their decision on the Discord App **#panel-decision**, and if necessary will send an email to the involved parties.

CLARIFICATIONS

1. If the AdP finds NO clear evidence that any rule (listed above) was broken, the case will be dismissed.
2. If the AdP finds clear evidence that a rule (listed above) was broken, the decision (**follow by the recommendation to VRI/WS**) could range from: disqualification (DSQ) in an attempt of the challenge of a season up to a Ban for a certain period of time (for severe or repetitive breaches) and in some cases the deletion of the account from the game. If an eSailor gets disqualified (zero points) the result of that attempt will not be changed.
3. The goal is not to scare the eSailors but, as a Virtual Sport, to align to the standard rules of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Chart, World Sailing and encourage fair play.
4. **In accordance with 2023 eSWC Penalty Guidelines, a protest for the possible breach of a rule during the eSailing World Championship may be submitted by:**
 - *An eSailor(s) directly involved in the incident.
 - The AdP.

February 13th, 2023