**RYA Rules Dispute Procedure including Post Race Exoneration Penalty and Arbitration (January 2019)**

Sailing Committee has decided to accept the RYA Rules Dispute guidance to encourage everyone to follow the Racing Rules of Sailing and to offer more rapid and accessible resolution of infringements of the rules and of disputes.

This has four elements.

**1 An Exoneration Penalty.**

A boat may accept an Exoneration penalty after the race if it becomes apparent that she has broken a rule and did not take the penalty on the water (ie circles).  The penalty results in the boat being given a finishing place in the race at least 3 places lower than before the penalty.  (The exact number of places is calculated by adding 30% of the score for Did Not Finish to the boat’s finishing position).

**2 Advisory Hearing**

Used when an incident has occurred and no party wants to protest, but want to learn from what happened.   This hearing can be as soon after the race as possible, with one person with a knowledge of the Rules advising.  If it becomes apparent that one party was in breach of a rule they may decide to accept an exoneration penalty.

**3 RYA Arbitration**

The aim of this is to settle a dispute quickly and simply.   A valid protest must have been lodged.  All parties must agree to RYA arbitration.  A person with knowledge of the rules is appointed arbiter.  If a boat is found to be in the wrong, she can accept an exoneration penalty.  No one is disqualified.  If the exoneration penalty is not accepted a formal protest hearing will follow.

**4 Protest Hearing**

Protest committee of usually 3 people formed. Exoneration penalty is no longer applicable.  A boat that has broken a rule is likely to be disqualified.

There is a helpful RYA poster on the club noticeboard and in the race office.

More details on RYA website   [www.RYA.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk/)  under Racing/Racing Rules of Sailing/Racing Rules Downloads/Rules Dispute Procedure.

Full Rules Dispute Procedure is on the noticeboard in the Race Office.

The club sailing instructions will be amended for January 2019 to include the RYA disputes procedure.

This procedure will be adopted following the end of the current Frostbite series.