

# International Radio Sailing Association



## SYRPH

### System for Reducing Protest Hearings

SYRPH may be used when observers are appointed as E3.1 as follows:

- a) Each protesting boat shall complete and lodge her Protest Form.
- b) The Protest Forms received and any Observer Report Forms will be given to each party.
- c) After a few minutes (five max) each party shall place a coin on the table, either heads or tails up, keeping the coin covered and unseen.
- d) The SYRPH hearing administrator, appointed by the Race Committee, orders the uncovering of the coins simultaneously. The coins will signify the following:
- e) Heads: "I wish to proceed to a protest hearing"
- f) Tails: "I retire acknowledging my breaking of one or more of the RRS"
- g) Boats displaying a tails coin will be scored RAF. If there is only one boat displaying a heads coin there will be no hearing. If two or more boats display a heads coin there will be a hearing and all parties will be informed orally of the hearing time.

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#### Advice to the Race Committee

RRS E5.4 permits a boat to retire before a protest hearing and SYRPH makes use of this rule.

The system is NOT a substitution for a protest hearing.

RRS 63 most definitely is NOT varied.

The system does NOT require a jury member to administer it. The administrator does not need any knowledge of the RRS!

Observers need to make written reports from their recorded notes as soon as the heat has finished.

You will find this of great help when conducting actual protest hearings.

Thus each party shall ONLY be given a copy of the other boat(s) protest form(s) and the relevant observers' reports. There should be no discussion or dialogue concerning the incident.

The underlying theory is that this system allows both parties to quietly reflect upon the incident in dispute and to take advantage of RRS E5.4 should they so desire.

The beauty of the system is that in borderline cases it does allow both parties to RAF, since neither party knows what the other party has elected to do, until the coins are revealed.

Whereas if it was any sort of verbal system, as soon as one mentioned that they were going to retire, the other might think "yippee I'm off the hook!"