

Response from Ernie Hauser

Rick,

You are already aware of my views about the racing rules and committee selection process used last year and any modifications for 2008, but I wanted to make an 'official' response to your solicitation to the racers.

(1) The quality of racing was greatly improved in 2007 with the use of the pontoon boat as a stable committee boat platform and the automatic horn system donated by LLSSS. Accurate elapsed times could be determined for the handicap fleet and starting and finishes could be adequately monitored for OCS and finishing order.

(2) The process for determining race committee duty for the series race days was effective. The process, which used the boat finishes from the 2006 season to determine the sequence for choosing days to do committee duty, was able to get all race days covered and exempted the lower placing boats from 2006 (and any newly participating boats racing in the series in 2007) from committee duty.

(a) This process meant that the most active and most successful participants from the previous year 'paid back' by being responsible for committee duty.

(b) This process, by requiring racers to do committee rather than 'mercenaries', gave (at least some) racers deepened respect for what a race committee has to deal with and thereby giving them more forbearance when racing and someone else is doing committee.

(c) This process of racers doing RC is more cost effective than 'hiring' a full time race committee in order to have every potential boat racing each day.

(d) To require that ALL boats do race committee once during the season would unnecessarily duplicate RC needs and keep two boats off the race course on those days and would keep the less experienced or new boat off the course where they need to be to learn and improve.

(e) This process encourages participation of new boats that may be intimidated as much by being required to do committee as they are by merely racing and starting.

(f) The idea of giving 'average points' for doing RC is unfair to those boats NOT doing committee, since at no time will 'average points' be low enough to be thrown out. Therefore, a required DNC for the boat doing RC on their chosen day is the most fair for those boats doing RC since they all will need to throw out their DNCs for that day. The fact that boats that do not do RC will not have to similarly be required to throw out any RC races is the price to be paid by the fleet for encouraging participation of new boats and also a small benefit to the boats that were low in the standings the previous year for whatever reason.

(g) The fact that there potentially may be 0, 1, or 2 races on any given race day is almost uncontrollable and merely the 'luck of the draw'. The boats that get to pick their RC days first will get a slight benefit by being more able to select days in mid-summer when the likelihood of no wind is higher; however, as last season showed, this is not a universal truth. Every effort should be made to get 2 races in on any given race day, but the decision to have any races on no-wind days

should rest solely with the Race Director and NOT the RC of the day (since the RC of the day may be motivated to have fewer races for which they would have to take a DNC for). It would be good to have specific time-limits for starting a race (i.e., not after 3:30-4pm) in order to take any arbitrary judgement out of the process. Nevertheless, there may be days when there is NO wind all afternoon and it might be necessary or possible to be able to cancel racing before a 4pm time limit. There probably is a way to 'say it' in a rule . . . i.e., "No race shall be started after x:xx pm, although the Race Director may cancel racing for the day at an earlier time due to the conditions." The term 'conditions' can refer to both bad weather like storms as well as no wind or light-irregular wind coming from widely varying directions. Although there are days when there is the possibility of running a 3rd race given good conditions, it would be unfair to have more than 2 official races on a race day.

Anyway, I thought I would compose a response to the feedback solicitation to add to the statistics of respondents.

Fundamentally, I am happy to have the exact same rules and procedures as last year, with the minor change of having only a DNC for an RC day rather than a DSQ.

E