

29er

Class Event Rules regarding low wind speed.

The current Class Rules are quoted below:

APPENDIX 2 - EVENT RULES

- 1.1. The minimum wind speed for starting shall be that in which the Race Committee considers the boats have sufficient capability for pre-start maneuvers.
- 1.2. Races should not start, or races in progress should be abandoned when:
 - (a) wind gusts exceed 25 knots for more than 30 seconds
 - (b) wind gusts exceed 30 knots for any duration
 - (c) the race committee considers conditions are unsafe for sailing
 - (d) the wind is less than 4 knots for more than 5 minutes.

The Issue:

At a recent World Championship the Race Committee had some problems in light winds with 29er CR App 2, 1.2 (d) (see above). In one race, after a request for redress, the Jury abandoned the race after the finish because the wind speed was not recorded as required and it could not be confirmed that CR App 2, 1.2 (d) had been met.

After this ruling the Jury and Race Committee met and the following questions resulted.

1. Does the RC need to monitor the wind speed constantly?

ANSWER: The RC should monitor wind speed whenever they know there is a likelihood that the speed could drop below 4 knots. Further, the wind speed need not be recorded on any regular basis but each time the wind does go below 4 knots the incident should be recorded and the length of time during which the wind is below 4 knots should be recorded.

If any of these time periods exceeds 5 minutes the race should be abandoned.

(Another way of saying this is that the RC should start a stopwatch any time the wind goes under 4 knots and stop it when the wind goes back over 4 knots - if the time ever exceeds 5 minutes the race should be abandoned).

2. Where on the course should the wind speed be taken?

ANSWER: The RC should select a spot or spots on the course as needed to give a reasonable indication of the conditions throughout the course.

The Race Committee shall ensure compliance with CR App 2, 1.2 (d) and monitor such positions in the racing area as they feel are necessary to give a reasonable indication of the wind speed throughout the racing area.