



## Decision of Protest Committee

- Protest Number:** 1
- Protest Heard With:** N/A
- Date of Hearing:** 29 August 2018
- Event:** Saturday Round the Stix Series
- Class:** N/A
- Date of Incident:** 25 August 2018
- Race Number:** 9
- Boat Contesting:** SM 6142 – Watermark II                      **Represented by:** Herschel Landes
- Boat(s) Protested:** SM 385 – Firefox                      **Represented by:** Richard Brearley
- Translator(s):** n/a
- Validity:** Valid – Hail made and flag displayed at the first reasonable opportunity.
- Facts Found:**
1. Boats were approaching SYC 1, the windward mark, which was to be rounded to starboard.
  2. Watermark was close hauled on port tack with Firefox overlapped one boat length to windward, both slightly above the port lay line and well outside the zone.
  3. Saltshaker was close hauled on starboard tack and on a converging course.
  4. Saltshaker hailed 'starboard'.
  5. Watermark then hailed Firefox for room to tack but there was initially no response because Firefox was not aware of Saltshaker's presence as she was obscured by Watermark's mainsail.
  6. Approximately one and a half boat lengths later, Watermark luffed to tack, hailing Firefox at the same time, that she was doing so.
  7. Firefox immediately responded by tacking away, completing her tack about two metres clear ahead of Watermark.
  8. At this point, Saltshaker tacked on to port without interference and then, a short time later, rounded the mark.
  9. Watermark accelerated out of the tack more quickly than Firefox and there was contact between her bow and the stern of Firefox causing minor damage to the bow of Watermark and the transom of Firefox.
  10. Neither boat took a penalty and both finished the race.
- Diagram:** Protest Committee's diagram is attached.
- Conclusions:**
1. Firefox responded to Watermark's second hail and tack in compliance with RRS 20.2(b) even though Watermark hailed and tacked at the same time.
  2. When Firefox completed her tack clear ahead of Watermark, she acquired right of way and initially gave Watermark room to keep clear as required by RRS 15 as Watermark could have avoided contact by luffing to windward of Firefox, not being constrained by the proximity of Saltshaker who had tacked away.

3. It was not reasonably possible for Firefox to have avoided contact with Watermark when it became clear that Watermark was not keeping clear and she did not break RRS 14.
4. It was reasonably possible for Watermark to have avoided contact but she did not do so and broke RRS 14.

**Rules that Apply:** 14, 15 and 20

**Decision:** Watermark is disqualified

**Protest Committee:** James Sly, Paul Mentiplay and Rob Ware IJ (Chairman)

**Chairman's Signature:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Ware IJ', written in a cursive style.

**Decision Advised:** 29 August 2018