Protest Situation 2025 – 2

Etchells Tuesday Night Series race #1 of July 15, 2025
Two boats approaching the first windward mark
Winds about 5 knots, boat speeds 4 knots.

Protest is valid; S hailed P after the incident, hailed "protest", flew a red protest flag, and notified the Race Committee at its finish.

Protested boat did not take its penalty turns per RRS 44.

There were considerable differences between the descriptions and diagrams of the incident by both boats. Both boats were instructed to review and reproduce their original reports in an attempt to clarify the incident. 5 witnesses were contacted, which helped improve clarity to the situation.

Two boats approaching the first windward mark of the race. Spaghetti Farm #1302 is approaching a bid below the port lay line. D-Sports #612 is approaching from the starboard lay line.

Facts found:
P approached the windward mark and entered the zone inside the 3 boat length circle, likely at 1.5 BL from the mark. S was approaching on the starboard lay line. The boats approached each other with P slightly ahead of S and it is estimated that S would have hit P forward of the chainplates. P tacks to round the mark but as she does so, S is forced to alter he course above a close hauled position to avoid P.
S then bears away and both boats continue to the offset mark.
No other boats were found to be in the incident area interfering with either of the boats in question.

Rules applicable to this situation:
RRS 18.3 Tacking in the Zone

Decision:
Spaghetti Farm, #1302 is disqualified from the first race on July 15,2025.
The scorer is to score #1302 DSQ and adjust other boats accordingly.

Educational points:
It is highly uncommon to find recounting of a single event to be so diametrically opposed but when this happens, PCs must reach out for as much quality information as they can find. With conflicting facts found, the protested boat has the burden of proof. Here, he was unable to defend himself using outside sources.

Etchells Protest Committee, July 23, 2025