

DOYLE SAILS ROUND NORTH ISLAND TWO HANDED YACHT RACE 2026

PROTEST COMMITTEE DECISION

HEARING 1

CASE 1 – Race Committee v Pipi (Sail # 9933)

Parties:

Geoff Herd, representing the Race Committee

Steve Newcombe representing the boat Pipi

Hearing Date: 12 March 2026

1. Procedural Matters:

- 1.1. The hearing was held via Zoom. Protest committee member Bob Witham was at the same location as the parties.
 - 1.2. The Race Committee received a report from Pipi declaring that it believes it did not comply with its PHRF certificate for Legs 1 and 2. From this report, the Race Committee protested Pipi.
 - 1.3. The protest was lodged outside the time limit. The Protest Committee has decided that there is a good reason to extend the time limit because:
 - (a) Pipi instigated the process with the intention to bring itself back into compliance with the rules; and
 - (b) the issue was not one the Race Committee could have been aware of while boats were racing.
 - 1.4. Some rule references in the Sailing Instructions ('SI') refer to the rule numbers from the 2021-2024 Racing Rules. The Protest Committee see this as an improper action by the Race Committee and as a result, reads those sailing instructions to be changing the new rule numbers.
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2. Facts Found:

- 2.1. Pipi entered and raced Leg 1 and Leg 2 of the event with PHRF certificate 250193. This certificate identified 'No Spin Pole'.
- 2.2. Prior to the start of the race Pipi decided to carry a spinnaker pole so it can be used as a whisker pole.
- 2.3. Pipi did not use the spinnaker pole while racing on leg 1.
- 2.4. On Leg 2, Pipi used the spinnaker pole as a whisker pole to pole out a jib for approximately 2.5 hours. The tracking shows Pipi averaging approximately 10 knots at this time. Pipi presented evidence (that was not disputed by the Race Committee) that in poling out the jib, this gave a speed benefit of 1 knot.

- 2.5. Following the end of Leg 2, Pipi requested and received a new PHRF certificate 260031 that identified 'Spin Pole 4.20m'. The Base SH TCF increased from 0.851 to 0.852.
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3. Conclusions and Rules:

- 3.1. The Protest Committee thanks Steve Newcombe for his good sportsmanship in bringing this issue to the attention of the Race Committee. This is consistent with the Basic Principle – Sportsmanship and the Rules, as well as in compliance with Fundamental Rule 2 – Fair Sailing.
- 3.2. The Protest Committee is satisfied that Pipi did not deliberately break a rule. The committee believes that it was an omission to update the certificate when the late decision was made to carry a spar that can be used as a whisker pole. The Protest Committee has decided to apply a discretionary penalty (refer SI 22.7).
- 3.3. In assessing the penalty, the Protest Committee has ensured that any possible performance gains are accounted for and a proportionate penalty for a rule breach is also applied.
- 3.4. Pipi's corrected time for legs 1 and 2 has been formulated using the wrong base handicap for a boat carrying a spinnaker pole. This gain must be accounted for by re-scoring the two legs using the new base handicap.
- 3.5. Pipi used the spinnaker pole as a whisker pole for 2.5 hours on leg 2. From the facts, this equates to an approximate gain of 15 minutes.
- 3.6. In determining a proportionate penalty, the Protest Committee is guided by SI 13, where failing to lodge required paperwork incurs a 5% penalty added to an elapsed time. In the circumstances, the Protest Committee has decided to reduce this penalty by 50% due to Steve Newcombe's proactive compliance with sailing's Basic Principles and Fundamental Rule 2.
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4. Decisions:

- 4.1. Pipi broke rule 78.1.
- 4.2. The committee has chosen to impose discretionary penalties in the following order.
- (a) A 15 minute penalty is added to the elapsed time of Pipi for Leg 2;
 - (b) A penalty of 2.5% is added to the elapsed time of Pipi for Legs 1 and 2; then
 - (c) Legs 1 and 2 re-scored with handicap as per certificate #2360031 (0.852)

Decision Published: 10:30, 12 March 2026.

Ryan Parkin NZL IU (Chair), Bob Witham NZL, Richard Slater AUS IJ/IU