



# International Radio Sailing Association

## System for Reducing Protest Hearings

SYRPH may be used when observers are appointed under E5.1 as follows:

- a) Each protesting boat shall complete and lodge her Protest Form.
- b) In addition to the requirements of Rule 61.2 Protest Forms shall contain sufficient information that would allow a competitor to make an informed decision as to whether or not to continue to a protest hearing. Such information shall include the availability of witnesses, any damage to or disablement of a boat and any other detail that could materially affect the outcome of the protest.
- c) The Protest Forms received and any Observer Report Forms will be given to each party.
- d) After a few minutes (five maximum) each party shall place a coin on the table, either heads or tails up, keeping the coin covered and unseen. The SYRPH hearing administrator, appointed by the Race Committee, signals the simultaneous uncovering of all coins. The coins will signify the following:
  - i) Heads: "I wish to proceed to a protest hearing"
  - ii) Tails: "I wish to retire".
- e) Boats displaying a tails coin will be scored RET. If there is only one boat displaying a heads coin, there will be no hearing. If two or more boats display a heads coin, there will be a hearing and all parties will be informed orally of the hearing time.
- f) RRS 63 is not varied except that, when as a result of the SYRPH procedure the parties decide to proceed to a protest hearing:
  - i) The Protest Committee will not allow a party to retire during the hearing if b) above has been complied with
  - ii) The Protest Committee may allow a party to retire if information that should have been declared under b) above is presented at the hearing.

---

### Advice to the Race Committee and Competitors

The system is NOT a substitution for a protest hearing.

The system does NOT require a jury member to administer it. The administrator does not need any knowledge of the RRS!

Observers need to make written reports as soon as the heat has finished. You will find this of great help when conducting actual protest hearings.

Each party shall ONLY be given a copy of the other boat(s) protest form(s) and the relevant observers' reports. There should be no discussion or dialogue concerning the incident.

The advantage of the system is that, in borderline cases, it does allow both parties to score RET since neither party knows what the other party has elected to do until the coins are revealed. Whereas, if it was any sort of verbal system, as soon as one party mentioned that they were going to retire, the other will more than likely remain silent.