



Class Rules & Equipment Compliance



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Class Rules & Equipment Compliance

- Framework (in theory)
 - How to deal with compliance at an event
- Penalties
 - Some shades of grey?
- Conclusions

but first.....



Individual task – 5 minutes

Measurement rules – give examples of breaches where you as another competitor would want a breach of measurement rule to result in:

1. A disqualification
2. No penalty
3. Somewhere in between

In each example, give class and event



Class compliance - the baseline

- A rule is a rule
- Sailors are responsible for their equipment at all times when racing
- Many and varied reasons behind non compliance, and non-enforcement of RRS 78.1
- How do we resolve the RRS and RYA Racing Charter?





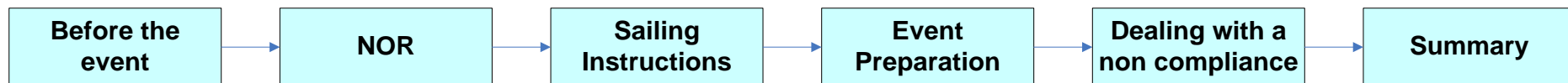
The way forwards!

- Racing rules provide mechanisms for race organisers to
 - Promote fair equipment at their events
 - Specify the requirements for their event
 - Penalise for failure to meet requirements
- In-line with the RYA Racing Charter, race organisers can activate at a level “appropriate to the event”
 - Provide a balance of responsibility at an event
 - Change the consequences for the sailor
- Approach is active internationally
 - Successfully educating sailors and raising standards worldwide



Critical activities: How to make your life easier!

- Preparation
- New tools and way of working
 - Inspection
 - Discretionary Penalties
- Action
 - Link to regatta organisation





Before the event

NOR

Sailing
Instructions

Event
Preparation

Dealing with a
non compliance

Summary

- Establish the event policy
 - Policy of class association (s)
 - Event objectives
 - Club objectives
- Agree how the event organisers will implement the policy
- Ensure common understanding of the consequences



Before the event

NOR

Sailing Instructions

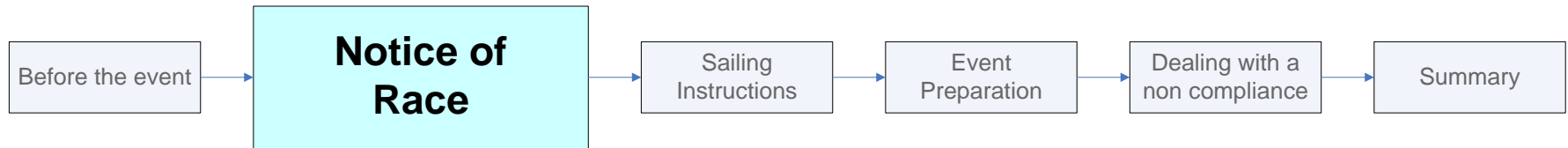
Event Preparation

Dealing with a non compliance

Summary

- Considerations to event policy

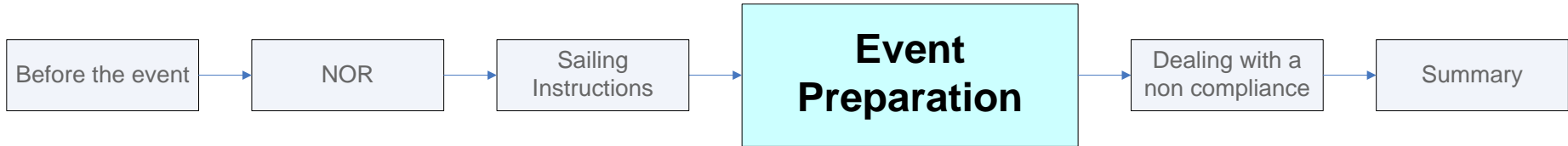
- If the class uses certification to control equipment, does the class require production of the certificate at the event?
- Who will be the equipment inspector?
 - Equipment inspector does not have to be an official class measurer
 - Could be a club member, or Official Measurer from alternative class
- Are the class aware of the consequences?



- First opportunity to communicate the event policy
 - Clarify equipment checks, appoint inspector
 - Need to bring a certificate
 - Changes to crew or equipment limits
 - Special class rules
- Sailors should be prepared!

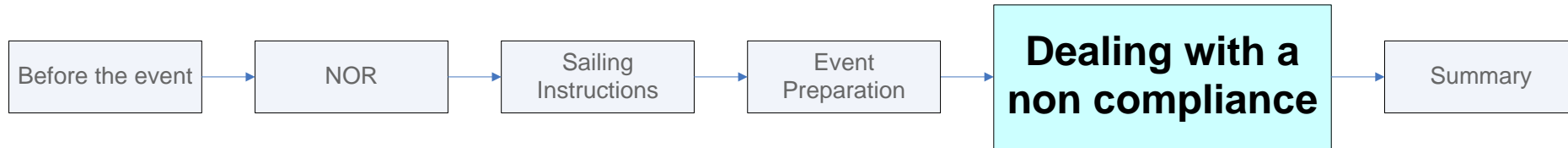


- Allow discretionary penalties
- Add detail of further equipment checks
 - Consider checks prior to racing, on the water, after racing
 - Agree checks with the class and ensure they are in-line with event and host club objectives
- Publish when the checks will be carried out and how boats will be selected, usually by Notice to Competitors



- **Certificate checks**
 - Who is carrying out checks
 - Training in place (class/ club administrator/ volunteer)
 - Route to report compliance

- **Equipment Inspection**
 - Who is carrying out checks
 - Training and equipment available (class / club member)
 - Space and flow for checks to operate smoothly
 - Agreed and published remit
 - Route for reporting compliance



- Be prepared to act swiftly
 - If a non compliance can be rectified prior to racing, the competitor should be given the opportunity to act, within reason.
 - If non compliances are “expected”, the event and class association should have preventative actions in place
 - No one should come to the event with intentionally ineligible equipment.
- 4 categories that might lead to protest:

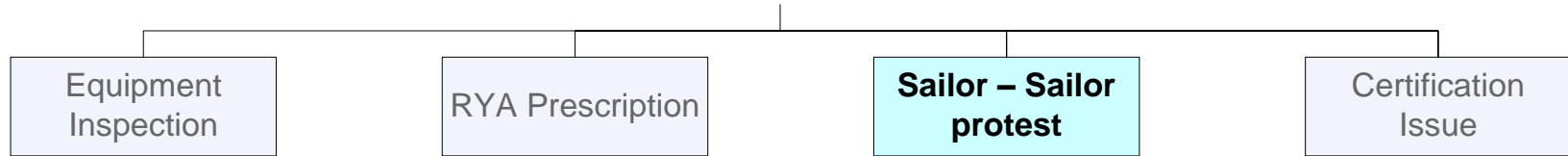




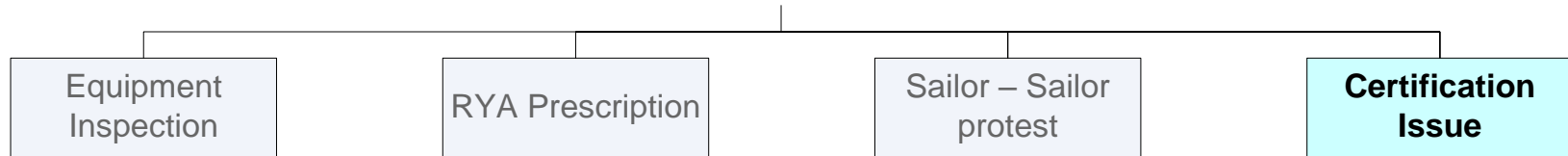
- If an equipment inspector or “measurer at an event” records a non compliance within their remit
 - Required to report in writing to race committee (78.3)
- When a race committee receives a report
 - Required to protest a boat (60.2, 61.3)
- RRS prescribe the consequential action of a report from an equipment inspector
 - The penalty will apply just to the race(s) associated with the protest.
 - If discretionary penalties are invoked, penalty may be less than DSQ



- RYA Prescription to RRS78 states that a race committee **may** inspect or measure any boat or personal equipment at any time
- If a race official becomes aware of a problem
 - If an equipment inspector is appointed for the event, the race committee may request they carry out inspection/measurement of the equipment in question. In this case, the request becomes part of their remit, and reporting follows RRS78.3
 - The race committee is not obligated to act, however a balanced response within the racing charter would include consideration of the following
 - Availability of qualified person to provide evidence
 - Availability of equipment and facilities
 - The objectives of the event and club
 - The class association policy



- **Competitor always has a right to protest another for non-compliance**
 - Particularly relevant to items outside the equipment inspectors remit
 - Competitor must provide the evidence and generate the protest
- **The use of equipment inspection helps clarify the checks that the race organiser will be implementing, and their distribution within the fleet.**
 - Provides a baseline
 - Aid education and awareness
 - Use specialist equipment not available to average sailor
 - Take a view from outside boat during racing

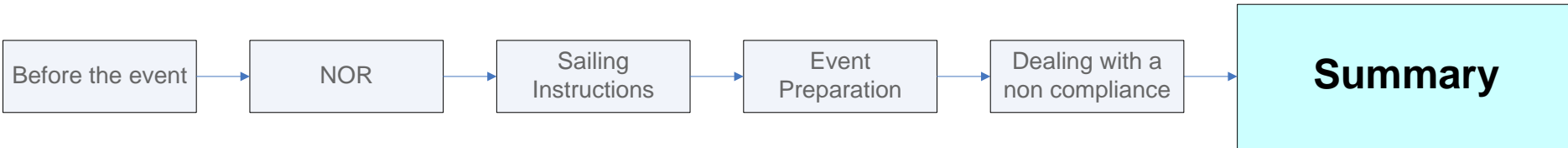


- **Certificates**

- Primary source of confidence that complex checks have been carried out on equipment and that the equipment complies
- Often carry significant information about the boat relevant to equipment inspection at an event – eg. Corrector weights, sail inventory.

- **RRS carries a significant penalty for non-production of a certificate if it is required by a rule of the event (78.2)**

- Total disqualification from all races, if it is not produced by the end of the event.
- Emphasis for classes and race organisers to educate sailors of the significance of their certificate and provide means to access certification authorities if required.
- Classes need to be aware of the consequences of requiring a certificate to be produced



- Preparation
 - Establish the event policy well in advance by consultation
 - Prepare for equipment inspection at registration
 - Prepare for certificate checks at registration
 - Consult and agree consequences are understood
- New tools
 - Appoint equipment inspector and define their remit
 - Transparent equipment checks during regatta via SI's and NtC
 - Activate discretionary penalties
- Action
 - Anticipate issues, activate preventative measures
 - Act swiftly in event of problem



Penalties - which breaches matter!

Examples

Performance enhancing?

“Silly” rules?

Deliberate vs accidental?

Front or back of fleet

Answer – all breaches matter

But – maybe penalties should vary?



Discretionary penalties – good idea?

Group exercise - DSQ – 0 – DPI (10 minutes)

Olympics			
Worlds			
Nationals			
Open			
Club			
Fleet	Back	Middle	Front



Discretionary Penalties

Make the punishment fit the crime

Objectives of RYA Racing Charter

To provide the framework **for everyone to enjoy the sport** of sailboat racing in whatever capacity and to whatever level the individual desires.

To ensure that the sport of sailboat racing welcomes all people and treats them equally.

To ensure that those who experience sailboat racing are **encouraged to continue**.



Discretionary Penalties

A possible sailing instruction

When a protest committee decides that a boat has broken a class rule or a rule in RRS Appendix G, it may disqualify the boat or impose a scoring penalty of any percentage, to be calculated in accordance with RRS 44.3(c), or give a warning.

Rules that always allow discretionary penalties

64.3(a) Warning for normal wear and tear

80 Advertising Code

G4 Identification on sails



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Conclusions

- Processes can be implemented
- Discretionary penalties can be appropriate
- Classes and events need to decide approach
- Class rules need to be relevant

- **Race officials need to be aware and involved!**



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What Next?

A RYA Guidance Note is in preparation.

A fundamental objective of this Guidance Note is to help Class Associations work with event organisers and race officials

- ❖ To educate and advise competitors so that boats will arrive at events compliant with class and other technical rules.
- ❖ To have procedures in place to action promptly and proportionately any reported discrepancies from these rules.



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Thank you all for your invaluable comments at today's two seminars which will help us greatly improve the RYA Guidance.