

How to award Redress in Race 1 (a Seeding Race) of a multi-heat HMS regatta?

For those of you who race a popular class with big regatta turnouts, you will be familiar with using Heat Management System (HMS) to organise and score the heats in a multi-heat event. Occasionally there will be an incident in a seeding race in a big HMS regatta that generates a request for Redress. However the issue for awarding Redress for a seeding race is that the 'score' for any other race has no resemblance to the 'score' for Race 1 and offers no value to help determine redress.

Say we have a 48 boat fleet - 6 up/down. So we have three fleets, A.B.C. with 20 boats racing in a heat and 14 already assigned to the other heats just awaiting the promo/relegations. But the seeding heats for Race 1 would be 16 boats each. And the make up of the seeding races is to spread the top ranked sailors across the heats, followed by the intermediate, and then the lower ranked sailors.

Now we have a valid request for redress in a heat in Race 1. How do we assign a redress score to that boat that is fair?

Here is my suggestion for how to go about awarding Redress for an incident in a Race 1 Seeding race. This is just my idea and has no official standing, but any Protest Committee may find this offers a solution to the quandary.

For normal multi-heat races, we accept a mathematical model for redress - eg AVG points for some number of races – if the incident is later in the regatta, then AVG of races already sailed - but early in the regatta, redress may be based on an average of some selected range of future races. But how to assign redress for that seeding race, where the fleet make up and size of heat are quite different from the heats of Race 2 and beyond?

So I am extending that philosophy of using a mathematical model to Race 1. But we cannot use the scores of future races as the fleet make up and size are different, so I am suggesting a different approach - use the boat's fleet position in the regatta after some number of races, rather than the boat's score as the basis for that mathematical model – a pro-rated approach rather than an averaging approach.

My suggestion is to award redress for the seeding race based on the boat's position in the regatta after some number of races to be set by the Protest Committee (eg after 8 or 16 races, or end of regatta, which ever comes first – but more is better as it provides more accuracy).

How does this pro-rating work? Ask yourself - if a boat was in the top one two or three spots at the end of the regatta, where would that boat be expected to finish in the seeding race? - probably first or second. So a good redress for that boat in the seeding race would be a score of 1 or 2. However, if the boat was at the bottom of the fleet at the end of the regatta, where would that boat be expected to finish in the seeding race? - probably near the bottom. So a good redress for that boat in the seeding race would be a score of 15 or 16 and if the boat was in mid- fleet, around 24th at the end of the regatta, where would that boat be expected to finish in the seeding race? - probably near the middle, so a score of 8.

So I developed a simple formulae to support that logic. The mathematics for pro-rating a boat's score in a seeding race uses the Excel formulae

$$X = \text{ROUNDUP}(A/B * C)$$

where X is the boat's redress points for Race 1,

A is the boat's place (not score) in the regatta after a number of races set by the protest committee (eg after 8 or 16 races or end of event, which ever comes first)

B is the total number of boats at the event

C is the number of boats in the seeding race.

Applying this to HMS - to keep HMS happy, the procedure would be to use RDGfix and assign a temporary or 'place holder' score equal to a mid fleet finish in the seeding race, and replace that place holder score later in the regatta, once the PC number of races criteria have been reached for the calculated redress score.

Note, that while this process provides a Redress score for a boat in a seeding race, it has no effect on the placement of the boat for Race 2, where it will probably start in the bottom fleet, and may work its way up through the fleet during subsequent races.

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