

Rule 42 Most Common Breaches Europe

THIS PAPER IS INTENDED AS A GUIDE TO JUDGES AND SAILORS

PRINCIPLE:

The judges will give sailors the benefit of the doubt, however, when they are sure a sailor is breaking rule 42 they will act to protect the sailors that are complying with the rule.

CLASS RULES AFFECTING RULE 42: EUROPE CLASS

4. ADDITIONAL RULES WHICH APPLY WHEN RACING

4.2 In alternation to Racing Rule 42

(a) The Race Committee may permit pumping, rocking and ooching, after the starting signal and except on a beat to windward (change of RRS 42.2(a), RRS 42.2(b), RRS 42.2(c)). The signals will be made according to RRS P5.

(b) The Europe Class recommends that race committees apply Rule 4.2(a) in winds of 12 knots and above, measured at deck level.

START

1. One Roll

- A roll at the start should not clearly propel the boat.

Permitted actions:

- One roll that does not clearly propel the boat.

Prohibited actions:

- One roll clearly propelling the boat - BASIC 4
- Repeated rolling the boat - 42.2(b)(1)
- Body pumping causing repeated flicks on the leech – PUMP 6

Gathering evidence:

- Is the competitor causing the boat to roll?
- Does a single roll clearly propel the boat?
- Is the rolling repeated (more than once)?
- Is the body movement causing the leech to flick?

2. Sculling

Sculling is a problem in this class because the Europe rudder has a good shape to help propel the boat. The movements do not have to be forceful to keep the boat stationary or propel it.

Permitted actions:

- Sculling, even forceful sculling, when a boat is above close-hauled course and clearly changes direction to any close-hauled course – 42.3(d), SCULL 1
- Repeatedly moving the helm to reduce the speed – 42.3(f)

Prohibited actions:

- Sculling when a boat is above close-hauled course and at the same time sheeting in the main on the deck to stop the boat from changing course
- Sculling below a close-hauled course
- Forceful sculling on both sides – SCULL 2
- Crabbing, but only if the rudder movements are forceful enough to offset the steering caused by backing a sail – SCULL 3

Gathering evidence:

- Are the tiller movements forceful?
- Are they propelling the boat forward or preventing it from moving astern?
- Is the boat above a close-hauled course and clearly changing direction towards a close-hauled course?
- Is the sculling offsetting previous sculling?
- When backing a sail, is the sculling preventing the boat from changing course?

UPWIND**1. Body pumping**

Rule 42 breaches in Europe do not happen often on the beat to windward. Sometimes body pumping is used by a port tack boat trying to cross a starboard tack boat.

Competitive sailors will often be seen continuously shifting body position on the upwind. This is usually a combination of torquing to change the fore and aft trim of the boat, as well as hiking out to keep the boat as flat as possible, and make it go faster. In lighter winds body movement that is perpendicular to the direction in which the boat is moving can result in body pumping, which will invariably cause the leech to flick. For these breaches to be properly observed and identified the judges must position themselves behind the boat, to be able to connect the body movements with the flicks on the leech.

Permitted actions:

- Moving the body fore and aft in order to change the trim of the boat in phase with the waves – OOC 1

Prohibited actions:

- Body pumping causing repeated flicks on the leech – PUMP 6

Gathering evidence:

- Are there waves?
- Is the sailor's body movement in phase with the waves?
- Is the sailor's body movement causing the leech to flick?
- Can you connect sailor's body movements with the flicks?
- Are the flicks repeated?
- May the flicks on the leech be caused by the waves?
- How does it appear compared to the other boats?

DOWNWIND**1. Pumping**

Pumping breaches are most likely to occur on reach and downwind legs. Both body pumping and sheet pumping are not permitted by 42.2(a)

Permitted actions:

- Trimming a sail in order to trim the boat in the prevailing conditions – PUMP 2

- Pumping a sail once per wave or gust of wind to initiate surfing or planing, but to qualify as surfing the boat must rapidly accelerate down the front of the wave – 42.3(c)

Prohibited actions:

- Repeatedly trimming a sail in order to fan it – PUMP 1
- Body pumping causing repeated flicks of the leach – PUMP 6
- Pumping a sail when already surfing or planing – PUMP 12
- A third consecutive unsuccessful attempt is prohibited – PUMP 8

Gathering evidence:

- Are there surfing or planing conditions?
- Does one pump per wave or gust of wind initiating surfing or planing?
- Is the boat pumping while already surfing or planing?
- Could the trim and release be a response to wind shifts, gusts or waves?
- Is the repeated trim and release fanning the sail?
- On a reach body pumping may best be seen from behind and to leeward of the Europe, in order to observe the athwartships body movement and the effect it has on the leach.

2. Rocking

After the start “S” sailing leads to the most critical breaches of the rule 42 in Europe Class in the run. Europe sailors sailing downwind change course continuously by luffing and bearing away using their bodies to facilitate steering the boat. This is allowed under rule 42.3(a) as long as there are waves and the boat changes course in phase with them. The amount of heeling must be consistent with the amount the boat turns. The best position for judges to observe both the effect of body movement on the boat and any steering by the sailor is from directly astern.

Permitted actions:

- Heeling the boat to leeward to facilitate heading up and heeling the boat to windward to facilitate bearing away, provided it is linked to wave patterns and the amount of boat’s heeling is consistent with the boat’s turn – ROCK 6
- Adopting static crew position when the boat’s stability is reduced – ROCK 4

Prohibited actions:

- Repeated rolling of the boat that is not linked to wave patterns – ROCK 7
- Repeated rolling of the boat in the absence of waves. - ROCK 7
- Repeated rolling of the boat in order to facilitate steering by making big body movements followed by the small change of course that in turn induces rocking – ROCK 6
- Standing up when making legal rolling and sitting down hard at the completion of the roll clearly propelling the boat – BASIC 4
- Single body movement followed by repeated rolling especially after inducing a roll to windward and before the roll is completed moving the body inward to counteract against it – ROCK 5
- In light air, inducing rolling by rhythmic repeated movements of the shoulder or head when sitting inside the boat on the traveller, with the centreboard out of the water and a loose leech

Gathering evidence:

- Is the competitor causing the boat to roll?
- Is the rolling helping the steering of the boat?
- Are there conditions for rolling the boat to facilitate steering?
- Is the amount of heeling consistent with the boat’s turn?
- Is it linked to the wave patterns?

TIPS

1. Ask questions!
2. If you are not sure about a technique, ask in writing for a clarification so that other sailors can also benefit from the answer.
3. If you get a yellow flag penalty, ask the judges for an explanation of what you can and can't do.
4. Remember, the more important the event, the higher the ratio of judges to sailors, so your sailing technique will be under scrutiny when it really matters.

In case of any further questions please contact: luisoferrandiz@gmail.com

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