



INTERNATIONAL FIREBALL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Shop 6, Civic Centre, 60 Tasman Terrace, Port Lincoln, SA, 5606

Date 20 February 2014

In the days following the Warrnambool Fireball Nationals there were a number of concerns raised with IFAA by both officials and competitors regarding an incident that occurred between 14777 and 15032 in race nine of the Australian Championships.

As a result IFAA considered it appropriate to investigate further the issues raised.

The decision to investigate was based on the level of negative publicity the Fireball Class was getting as a result of the public discussion about the incident.

It is unfortunate that the incident was not dealt with through a protest hearing at the national championships. If there had been a protest the incident would have been dealt with at the regatta and all parties would have moved on after the event.

IFAA has sought advice from David Tillett as the chairman of the International Rules Committee as to how best address the concerns raised.

David's advice was –

- That a race official or competitor should have lodged a protest if they felt they witnessed an infringement and neither party directly involved had lodged a protest.
- IFAA as the organizing authority should have lodged a protest prior to the end of the regatta if they felt there had been a serious issue that had not been dealt with by a protest.
- The late raising of concerns – over a week after the event - has limited IFAA's ability to address the issue through processes under the International Rule of Sailing.
- A letter be addressed to 15032 notifying them of the concerns and asking them to provide light on their perception of these concerns.

Based on David's recommendations a letter was sent to 15032 listing the concerns brought to IFAA's attention.

15032 as a result has sent a response to IFAA stating that they are of the opinion that they have not infringed any rules and feel that they have done all they could to sail within the rules.

At this point in time IFAA is not in a position to pursue the concerns any further.

If any of the interested parties wish to take the matter further we advise them to do so amongst themselves.

Regards

John Heywood
IFAA President.
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