



Hearing #01
Dorado vs. Recidivist
21 July 2026, 1200 HST

The FUN Race to Hawaii

Parties and Witnesses

Initiator: Dorado, represented by Brendan Huffman

Respondent: Recidivist, represented by Rob Reis

Witnesses: Michael Morazadeh (a member of the race committee, called by the protest committee, regarding validity)
Irina Potekhina (called by the protest committee, presenting video evidence)

Procedural Matters

1. The hearing was held via video conference, with all parties, witnesses, observers, and panel members attending remotely.
2. Bob Hinden, an officer of the OA, attended the hearing as an observer.
3. Irina Potekhina, a media professional hired by the OA, presented video evidence of the incident and provided testimony.
4. After presenting evidence regarding validity, Michael Moradzadeh remained in the hearing as an observer.

Facts Found: Validity

1. Dorado is a tiller-steered boat.
2. Dorado was sailing close-hauled on port tack, heeled to leeward, with all of her crew on the windward rail.
3. Dorado hailed "Protest" during the incident.
4. A crew member of Dorado came off the windward rail, retrieved the protest flag from a deck locker that was to starboard of the tiller.
5. Dorado displayed her protest flag within 30 seconds of the incident.
6. Recidivist was aware of Dorado's intent to protest at the time of the incident.
7. Dorado struck her protest flag after displaying it for 5 hours.
8. Dorado reported her intent to protest Recidivist to the race committee as part of her first check-in message after the incident.
9. Dorado displayed her protest flag again before finishing and kept it displayed until after she finished.
10. Dorado delivered her protest to the race office before the time that was 8 hours after her finish time had elapsed.

Conclusion: Validity

1. The protest is valid.



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Facts Found: Incident

1. Approximately 5 minutes after her starting signal, Dorado was sailing close-hauled on port tack.
2. Recidivist, close-hauled on port tack, was sailing faster on a lower course that would converge with Dorado.
3. Recidivist was clear astern and between one boat length and one-half boat length to windward of Dorado.
4. Recidivist became overlapped to windward of Dorado, separated by more than one-half boat length.
5. A crew member on Recidivist repeatedly hailed Dorado to fall off, using profanity in the hails.
6. The distance between Recidivist and Dorado continued to close.
7. The helm of Dorado turned to respond to the hails, and in that process, pulled the tiller to windward, causing Dorado to fall off slightly.
8. As she rotated, her port quarter came closer to the bow of Recidivist. At this point, the separation was one-half boat length.
9. Recidivist luffed slightly in response, slowed, and became clear astern of Dorado.
10. Dorado luffed slightly and then held her course.
11. Recidivist fell off to a course below that of Dorado, crossing clear astern of Dorado.
12. At the closest point of that crossing, the bow of Recidivist was one-half boat length clear astern of Dorado.
13. Neither boat took a penalty.

Conclusions: Incident

1. Recidivist kept clear of Dorado.

Decision

1. The protest is dismissed.

Hearing Panel

Michael Roth, Kevin Hawkins, John Christman, Vickie Gilmour

Decision Delivered

21 July 2026, 1314 HST