



2025 Formula Wing Worlds

Question for Officials

Date: 2025-09-26

Question No: 01

Question For: Protest Committee

Question:

In the last few months and year, wingfoiling gear has seen an unprecedented acceleration of equipment size, technology and price. To combat this, you (Wingfoil racing committee) created formula wing events with the EXPRESS PURPOSE of prohibiting non-accessible prototype equipment. Between Wings and Foils, this set of protests we are writing here anonymously expresses the broader community sentiment that those individuals, for whom we will all be launching protests against, are eroding the rules and setting a weak precedent for these events.

Freddie Strawson has used throughout this event an 8 metre gong wing, which is for unknown reason, registered under formula wing “certified wings” despite being completely unavailable for consumer purchase. This is not a protest against the size, this is a protest against this wing is explicitly a prototype wing that has been tailored to his larger stature and completely undermines the supposed rules and standards of this class and its events.

By allowing him to race with this prototype wing, this committee has created an event that explicitly violates class standards and subsequently demonstrates to us the racing community that the committee undermines its own authority and credibility. It suggests a willingness to bend under pressure—whether from athletes, sponsors, or manufacturers—rather than protect the long-term integrity of the sport. Rules in racing are not just guidelines; they are commitments between competitors and organizers that the competition will be fair, transparent, and consistent. When those rules are bent for convenience, the entire competitive structure is weakened. This sets a dangerous precedent: if the committee is willing to compromise once, what else will they compromise on in the future, and moreover, what is to prevent the likes of Freddie and others returning next season with 9m+ wings that are once again, prototypes, but under the guise of being available.

We ask that this is looked into with and Freddie and individuals who we see are using

prototype or unavailable wings AT THIS CURRENT MOMENT should be penalised with greater force. It degrades the integrity of the sport and of myself and the other riders who are using our production wings, in reasonable sizes and that are available for consumers to purchase themselves.

For a class that is looking to potentially go olympic, this is frankly a disgrace and should not be tolerated, especially at the very first "formula wing world cup"

We look forward to hearing your response to the broader community.

Answer:

Sailing is a self policing sport.

Competitors are governed by a body of rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. If you believe that a fellow competitor has broken a rule, you should protest.

The protest procedure, which includes that a protest cannot be anonymous, is described in the rules.

*Response By Marina Psychogyiou Printed at 2025-10-16
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