

Practical Rules

Please watch the related video and then think about the following questions. For purposes of this exercise, we will call the crew in the lead at the beginning of the video bow number 3 and the slightly behind them bow number 4. The other two crews are bows 2 and 1 respectively.

The crews 3 and 4 collided with each other. Who is at fault?

As the Umpire following the race, what actions could you have taken to try to prevent the interference?

If 4 (the boat on the left) raises a hand at the end of the race to object to the interference, what would your ruling be?

How would you make your decision?

If 2 raised a hand to object that they had been interfered with, how would you handle the objection?

In the video, the crew in 3 clearly enters the lane of 4 and collides with 4 and there is interference. 4 was in their lane and thus in their "protected water." Therefore, 3 is at fault for interference.

Given that the incident occurred in the last meters of the race, it is questionable how much the Umpire could have done to prevent the situation. However, if the Umpire saw the incident start to develop, the Umpire could have moved their launch closer to the incident and be ready to respond. There are times when just the movement of the Umpire coming closer can influence the crews and keep them apart.

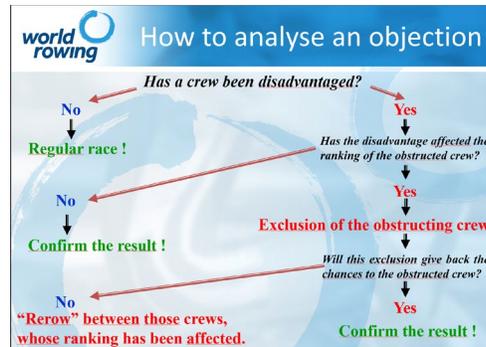
As 3 started to move into 4, the Umpire could use their flag to signal to 3 to return to the crew's assigned lane by raising a white flag in the air, saying the name of 3 and dropping the flag in the direction 3 should move.

Even if an Umpire did not signal a crew to return to their lane during the race, the Umpire can still impose a penalty at the end of the race.

Reviewing our procedures, if a crew raises their hand at the end of a race to lodge an objection, the Umpire needs to go to that crew and listen to their objection. The Umpire then needs to gather the information and decide on the appropriate actions. If the Umpire rejects the objection, the Umpire raises a white flag. If the Umpire accepts the objection or needs more time to decide, the Umpire will raise a red flag to tell the Finish not to release the results of the race as official without further information from the Umpire

The steps in deciding an objection are:

1. Was there interference?
2. Did the interference affect the ability of a crew to place or advance?
3. If it did, will excluding the crew that caused the interference restore the victim crew's ability to place or advance.
4. If not, then order a rerow of the appropriate crews.



On our case, if 4 lodges an objection at the end of the race, the umpire needs to determine if there was interference. In this case, yes the 3 came into 4 and interfered with the crew in that lane.

The next question is: did this interference affect the outcome of the race? 3 which was in the lead at the time of the interference. After the interference both boats were almost level when they crossed the finish line. The Umpire needs to confirm the order of finish with the Finish Judges.

If the Finish Judge indicates that the order of finish is 4, 3, 2, 1, then the interference has not affected 4's ability to win the race. In this case the answer to our earlier question is "No", the outcome of the race was not affected by the interference. The Umpire can then confirm the results of the race. There is no need to exclude 3 due to 4's objection.

If the Finish Judge gives the order of finish as 3, 4, 2, 1, the analysis is different. 3 interfered with 4's ability to win. The Umpire needs to exclude 3 due to their interference with 4. Excluding 3 moves 4 into first place, restoring 4's ability to win. The Umpire gives a red flag. The Umpire then needs to inform the crews and the finish line of his decision.

What about if 2 raises a hand and objects on the grounds that 3 came into their lane and interfered with them. Was there interference? 3 came into 2's lane and 2 altered their course to make sure that they did not hit 3. However, this was just as the race ended and it did not affect the outcome of the race. Therefore, the Umpire should reject the objection of 2 and confirm the results of the race with a white flag.

If 3 had come into 2's lane earlier in the race, then it could be a different discussion and decision, but that is for another race.