

Decision of the International Jury No. 4

Protest from the Polish team received by the Championship Director 9 Aug 2008 10:40

The original complaint and the protest were both received within the correct deadlines and the correct protest fee was included with the protest.

The jury took evidence from the Deputy Championship Director, the deck marshal (Michal Wojas), and the Polish team leader.

The essence of the protest was that in task 5 competitor 105 took off after the takeoff window closed and was scored zero. In the complaint, the pilot claimed that he was blocked for taking off by landing pilots to the extent that he could only take off after the takeoff window closed and therefore the penalty was unfair. The Championship director disagreed.

Local regulations 2.2.1 states: *In the case of a take-off time window, the precise time of take-off is entirely at the discretion of the pilot but should be within the overall time window.* The task sheet states *Launch: Open window from 13:30 to 15:00 ... PF2 yellow deck.* It also states, for all classes: *Landing: On blue or yellow deck.*

The team leader said the pilot came to the deck at around 14:35 – 14:40. The first takeoff attempt failed. He claimed the second attempt was baulked by landing pilots who left their equipment on the deck, and the eventual attempt failed 'because they had to avoid landing pilots'. The third takeoff attempt succeeded, but after takeoff window was closed, a fact they were aware of.

The Jury finds that the pilot had adequate opportunity to take off in the 1 hr 30 minute window. The fact that he did not attempt to take off the first time until there was only about 20 minutes remaining was his choice. The chance of being baulked by landing pilots was equal to all pilots taking off from the deck.

Decision of the Jury

The International Jury can find no reason why the penalty imposed by the Championship Director in task 5 on the Polish crew, competition number 105 should be changed.

The international Jury does NOT support the Polish protest.

International Jury President.....

Jury Member

Jury member

Date and time