

2024 Formula Kite World Championships

Question for Officials

Date: 2024-05-14

Question No: 01

Question For: Protest Committee

Question:

In order to complete a penalty turn, i.e. a tack and a gybe, does a rider need to switch their feet/stance in both maneuvers to maintain a normal riding position? Alternatively, can a tack and a gybe for the purposes of completing a penalty turn be done WITHOUT changing stance or moving feet position through the maneuver? Will the jury uphold a rider as having completed a penalty turn if evidence is presented that they did not change their stance or foot position through their maneuver?

Answer:

Rule F4 44.2 specifies the one-turn-penalty for a kiteboard; while it does not explicitly mention the foot position, it states, "The turn shall include one completed tack and one completed gybe." The rules do not define a 'completed tack' or 'completed gybe'. However, the last sentence of the Terminology in the Introduction of the RRS states, "words and terms not elsewhere defined in the rules are used in the sense ordinarily understood in nautical or general use." A "tack" is ordinarily understood to be the manoeuvre to change tack while going upwind, and a "gybe" to change tack while sailing downwind with all steps that a competitor would normally perform during either manoeuvre. This includes moving the feet to their normal position on the new tack. Therefore, a penalty turn without changing foot position to complete the tack and again to complete the gybe does not meet the requirements of taking a penalty under rule F4 44.2.

Rule interpretations are valid for this event only.
