



## Sanctions

# Objection – Protest – Appeal

*This presentation reflects the World Rowing Statutes, Rules of Racing and interpretation of them in effect on Jan 1, 2026.*

*World Rowing is not responsible for providing updates to this material.*

This presentation will cover the following:

- Sanctions available
- Judicial Process
- Examples

A member of the Jury may impose the following sanctions for a breach of the Rules of Racing

- Reprimand
- Yellow Card
- Relegation
- Red Card
- Disqualification

Note: The Coastal Rules have a separate Challenge Process which replaces that Classic Rowing process. Coastal sanctions can include time penalties.

## Reprimand

- A formal admonishment of a crew when the crew's violation of the rules does not warrant a higher level of sanction

## Yellow Card

- A formal warning for a violation of the rules
- Applies to the next race the crew competes in and lapses when the race is complete
- A Yellow Card still applies if there is a Re-Row or postponement of the race
- A crew awarded two Yellow Cards for the same race shall be awarded a Red Card

## Relegation (REL)

- Places the crews in last position in a race where the Rules allow (e.g. BUW, Identification violation)

## Red Card or Exclusion (EXC)

- For serious and/or repeated breach of the Rules
- A crew is excluded from all rounds of the event

## Disqualification (DSQ)

- A sanction for the most serious breaches of the Rules
- Disqualifies a rower or crew from all events in the regatta
- A Disqualified rower may not be replaced by a substitute rower
- No member of a Disqualified crew may compete in another event at the regatta.

## Sanction on a Member Federation

- The President of the Jury may provide a report to the Executive Committee on the breach of the Rules
- If the Executive Committee (EC) feels that the sanction that was imposed is insufficient, the EC may:
  - Give notice to the relevant Federation of the breach and additional sanctions that may be considered
  - Invite the Federation to provide a written submission on the issue
  - After considering the report and any submission by the Federation – Apply additional sanctions that the EC considers appropriate

## Yellow and Red Cards

- A Jury member should notify the crew of the sanction immediately or as soon as possible
- Where a sanction applies to a future race, the President of the Jury must report the sanction in writing to the team manager
- If the crew is not yet on the water, the Control Commission should inform the crew of the sanction when they launch
- The Starter will announce all Yellow Cards that apply to a race before giving the starting commands
- A crew awarded a Red Card at the start will not participate in the race once it has been informed of the Red Card

# 4 legal 'steps'

**OBJECTION** (CREW->UMPIRE/JURY MEMBER)

**PROTEST** (TM->JURY PRESIDENT)

**APPEAL** (TM-> World Rowing EXEC.COMM.)

**COURT of ARBITRATION for SPORT**  
(NF->CAS)

# Objection (Crew)

## What to do?

- Raising arm
- Verbally



## When?

- At the Control Commission
- At the start
- During race
- After finish

## To Whom?

CC Jury Member  
Starter  
Umpire  
Umpire

## To clarify when a crew can object

When Sanction Awarded	When/Where a crew can object	Object to
During Warm-up or on the way to the Start	At the Start	Starter
During the Race or at end of Race (also for incidents during the race)	During or at the end of the Race	Umpire
During Cool-Down or any other time	When notified of the Sanction but no later than when the crew leaves the outgoing pontoons before the race that the sanction applies to	Jury member informing the crew of the sanction or a Jury member at the Control Commission

## What to do?

- Listen to crew
- Acknowledge receipt of Objection
- Action on Objection

## To whom?

- Crews concerned
- Other race officials

## When?

- Action immediately
- Decision depends on situation



For the Umpire

How?

- By showing a flag

Which flag?



You reject the Objection  
You confirm the result



You accept the Objection or  
you need to make an inquiry  
No result can be released

What does the red flag mean?

- Do not release the result
- The Umpire wants to collect extra information



What does the red flag **not** mean?

- The objecting crew has right
- The Umpire must consequently exclude a crew

The Umpire may take all time needed to make a final decision!

# Protest

## (Team Manager)

### Who?

- A crew whose Objection was rejected
- A crew whose ranking was affected by an acceptance of an Objection
- A Crew ruled DNS, DNF, EXC or DSQ

### What to do?

- Written protest
- Deposit of 100 Euro

### To whom?

- President of the Jury

### When?

- Not later than 1 hour after the umpires decision

# Protest

## (Board of the Jury) (1)

Composition (Rowing World Cup or World Rowing Championships)

*3 persons: the President of the Jury and two Jury members, designated by the President of the Jury on a daily (or session) basis prior to the start of racing; ideally they have no other duties during that day (or session).*

Information to teams

*The names of the Board of the Jury shall be communicated by official communication and/or displayed on the notice boards in the boathouse area each day.*

Remark:

*During international regattas the President will also nominate 3 substitutes (no-one directly involved in the dispute shall constitute part of the Board).*

# Protest

## (Board of the Jury) (2)

### Task

- The Board of the Jury shall decide if the Protest was justified

### How?

- Collecting all relevant information
- Interview of all parties concerned

### When?

- Before next round of the event
- No later than two hours after the last race of the day

### Remark:

No victory ceremony when a protest is discussed by Board of the Jury

# Appeal (Team Manager)

## Who?

- A crew whose ranking was affected by a decision of the Board of the Jury
- A Crew whose Protest against the published results was rejected by the Board of the Jury
- A decision by the Board of the Jury *confirming* the decision of a member of the Jury *is final and can not be protested*

## What to do?

- Written document
- Caution of 200 Euros

## To whom?

- World Rowing Executive Committee

## When?

- The same day the decision of the Board is communicated

# Appeal

(World Rowing Executive Committee)

## Task

- The Executive Committee shall decide if the Appeal was justified.

## How?

- Collecting all relevant information
- Interview of all parties concerned

## When?

- Before next round of the event

## Status

- The decision of the Executive Committee is final within World Rowing's jurisdiction

# Appeal to C.A.S. (National Federation)

Any party sanctioned by a judicial body of World Rowing may appeal the decision to CAS (Fr. TAS) (or Court of Arbitration for Sport) in Lausanne only.

What to do?

- The appeal brief shall set out the facts and reasons on which it is based.

When?

- Within 21 days following receipt by the party of the decision in question.

# Appeal to C.A.S. (C.A.S.)

## How?

- The CAS conducts the appeal and rules on it in accordance with its own regulations.

## Decision

- The decisions made by the CAS are final and may not be appealed.

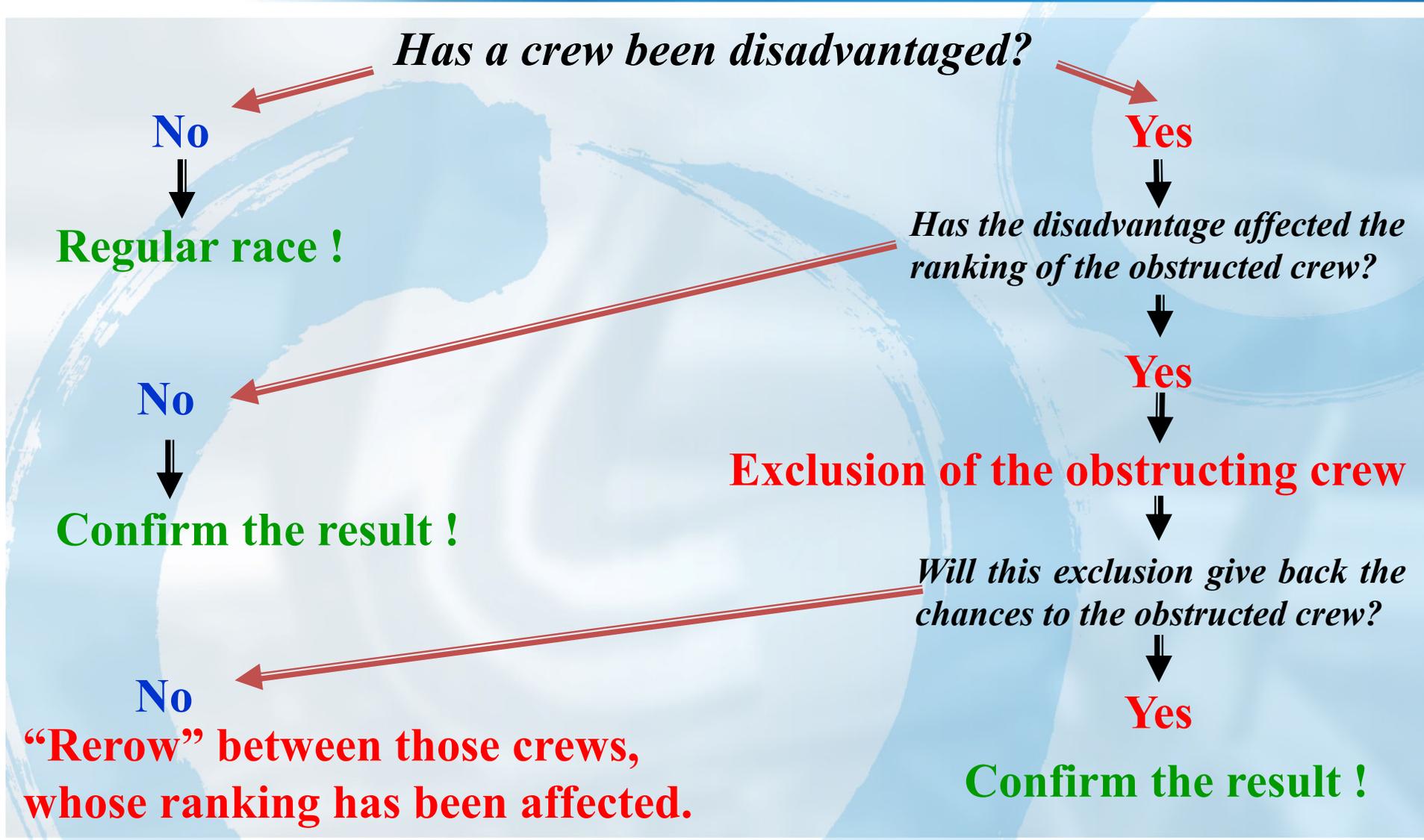
# General remark

The lodging of a protest or of an appeal shall not have the effect of suspending the decision at stake or any penalty imposed.

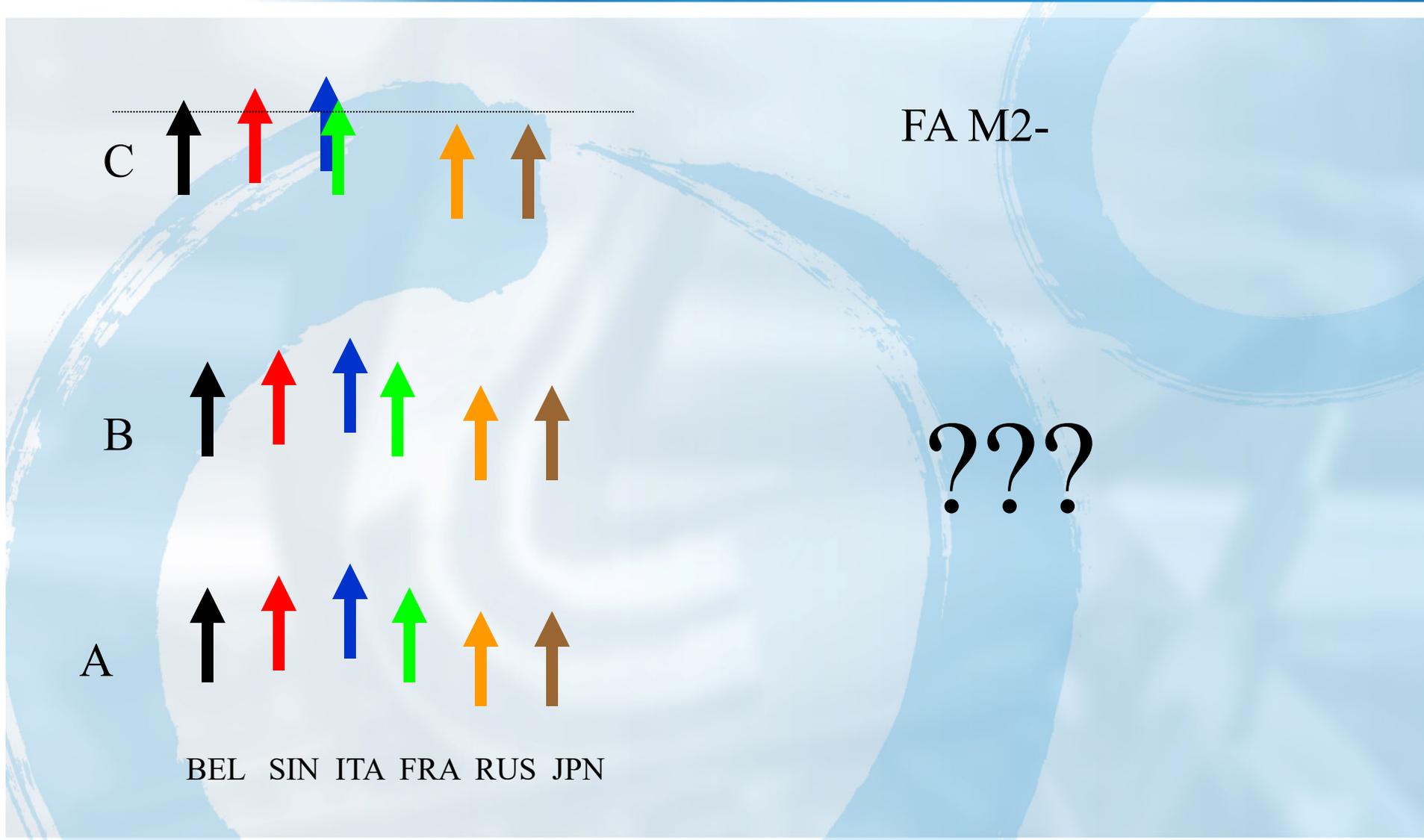
However, the protester or appellant may submit a request for suspension of the decision or penalty and the body hearing the appeal or the protest shall rule on the request.

Keyword: Appeal

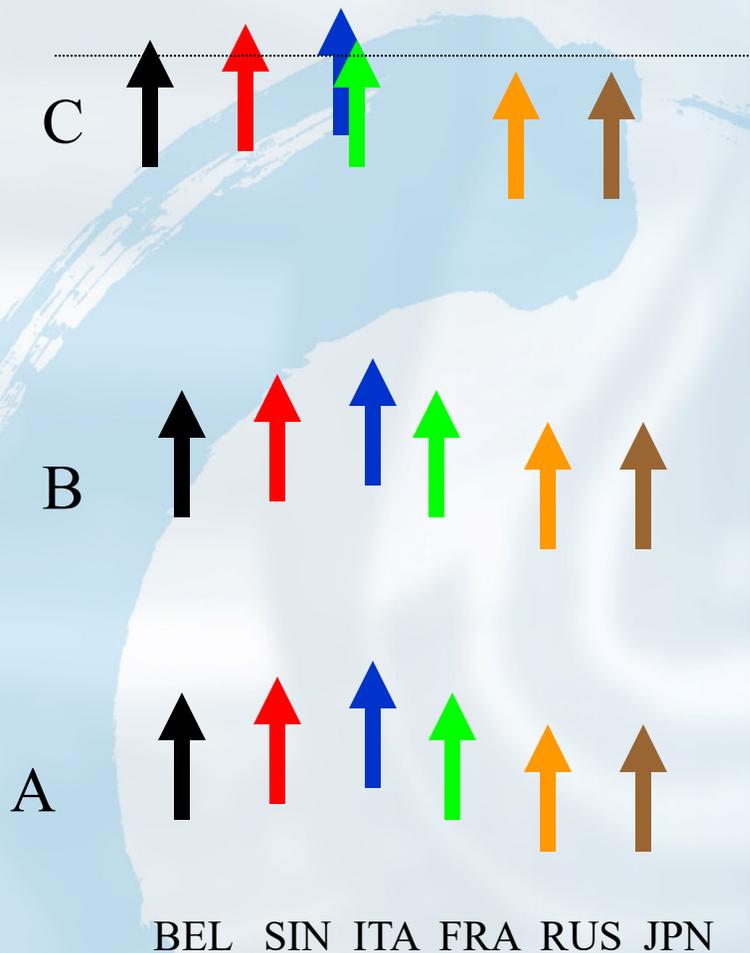
# How to analyse an objection



# An example (1)



# An example (2)



FA M2-

**Finish order: 1. ITA**

**2. SIN**

**3. FRA**

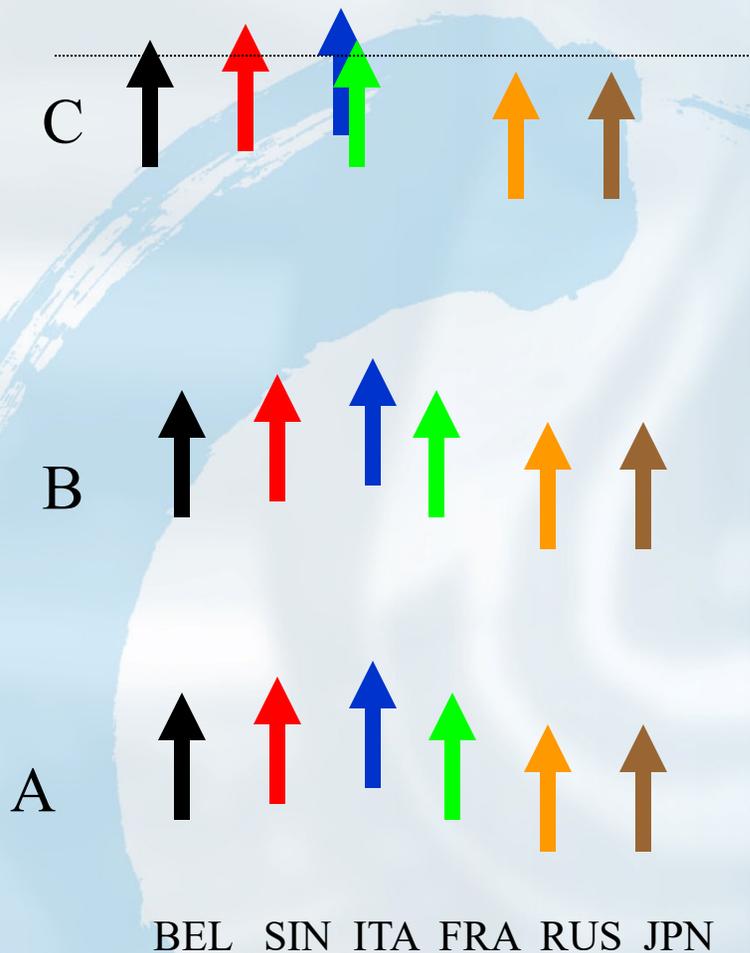
**4. BEL**

**5. RUS**

**6. JPN**

**Confirm the result !!!**

# An example (3)

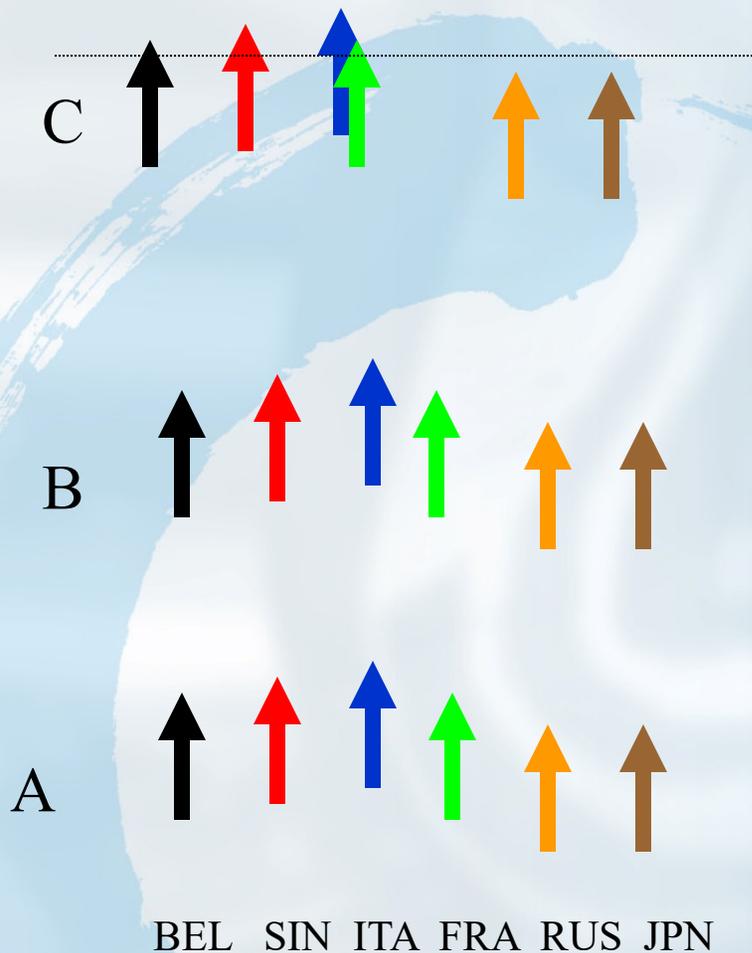


FA M2-

- Finish order:**
1. SIN
  2. ITA
  3. FRA
  4. BEL
  5. RUS
  6. JPN

FRA EXC / Rerow between SIN - ITA

# An example (4)



FA M2-

**Finish order: 1. FRA**

**2. ITA**

**3. SIN**

**4. BEL**

**5. RUS**

**6. JPN**

FRA EXC / confirm the result

# Another example (1)

JM4X SemiC/D

Clash between HUN and CRO in last 50 meter ...

All crews within 1 boat length

HUN excluded by umpire

Finish order:

1.	BLR
2.	USA
3.	GRE
4.	CHN
5.	CRO
6.	HUN

## Another example (2)

- Finish order:
1. BLR
  2. USA *In principle qualified for FC*
  3. GRE

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  4. CHN
  5. CRO *In principle qualified for FD*
  6. HUN

REROW between ???

# Another example (3)

Finish order:	1.	BLR	
	2.	USA	FC
	3.	GRE	
	4.	CHN	
	5.	CRO	FD
	6.	<del>HUN</del>	

- Only CRO & HUN were affected by clash
- In any case CHN would always been at least 4th
- If CRO would have 1st, 2nd or 3rd, BLR and USA would have been qualified for FC
- REROW between GRE and CRO !

Remark: Protest of GRE was rejected !

Final result: CRO won rerow and was 1st in FC – GRE last in FD

# Questions?

**Thank you for your  
attention!**