

## ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE 2025

### INTERNATIONAL JURY DECISION

#### HEARING 2

#### CASE 3 – Race Committee v BNC My Net Leon (FRA 39337)

##### Parties:

Lee Goddard representing the Race Committee

Michel Quintin and Yann Rigal representing the boat BNC My Net Leon

**Hearing Date:** 31 December 2025

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#### 1. Procedural Matters:

- 1.1. The Race Committee received a report from BNC My Net Leon ('Leon') declaring that it did not comply with 'art 55.3 of RRS on the last 2NM downwind towards finishing line'.
- 1.2. From this report, the Race Committee promptly informed them of their intention to protest and lodged a protest against Leon.

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#### 2. Facts Found:

- 2.1. On the last 2 nm of the 628 nm race, Leon set and used its A1.5 asymmetric spinnaker, with the tack connected to the boat's bowsprit and a spar connected to the sheet at one end and the mast at the other end. The spar exerted outward pressure on the sheet at a point from which, with the boat upright, a vertical line would fall outside the hull or deck.
- 2.2. Leon only set the sail in this manner in the last 2 nm of the race.
- 2.3. Compared to the previous 2 nm Leon sailed before this incident the boat gained 3 to 5 minutes compared to sailing in compliance with the rules.
- 2.4. The image was broadcast, showing the way the sail was set. This photo was taken of Leon in the Derwent River.



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### **3. Conclusions and Rules:**

- 3.1. The spar is a device that exerting outward pressure on the sheet of the spinnaker. This breaks rule 55.3 and none of the exceptions to this rule apply.
- 3.2. The Jury is satisfied that the boat did not deliberately break rule 55.3. This is based on the report made and the evidence presented, re-enforced by the fact that the crew set the sail in this manner, in full knowledge that press and onlookers would be watching.
- 3.3. Sailing Instruction 21.1 allows the International Jury the option to apply a discretionary scoring or time penalty in lieu of disqualification for an infringement of rule 55.3. Satisfied that the boat did not deliberately break a rule, the Jury has decided to apply a discretionary penalty.
- 3.4. In assessing the penalty, the Jury has ensured that any possible performance gains are accounted for and a proportionate penalty for a rule breach is also applied.
- 3.5. The Jury is satisfied that the circumstances of this case are comparable to a boat breaking a rule of Part 2 and taking a 1 hour penalty as detailed in SI 20.2.

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### **4. Decisions:**

- 4.1. 1 hour and 5 minutes is to be added to the elapsed time of Leon.

Decision Published: 10:50, 31 December 2025.

David Tillett AM AUS NJ (Chair), Jamie Sutherland NZL IJ, Philippe Mazard FRA IJ, Russell Green NZL IU, Richard Slater AUS IJ/IU