



## YACHTING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Yachting South Australia  
ABN 68 395 845 629

1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
300 Morphett Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

PO Box 6135  
Halifax Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

T (08) 8410 2117  
M +61 (0)400 836 076  
F (08) 8410 2275  
E [ysa@yachtsa.com.au](mailto:ysa@yachtsa.com.au)  
W [www.sa.yachting.org.au](http://www.sa.yachting.org.au)

To all Competitors of the Plympton & Le Hunte Cups

As most sailors who competed in last Sunday's Plympton and Le Hunte Cups would agree, it is disappointing that we need to write this letter.

Yachting South Australia ("YSA") has received information concerning an incident alleged to have occurred shortly after the abandonment of the above race.

YSA has been advised that a number of statements were made, including obscenities and foul language, over the radio directed at the Race Officials responsible for conducting the race.

YSA have been advised that this abuse was carried out on a radio frequency that is open to the general public and accordingly, would have been capable of being heard by not only the competitors and Race Officials but other persons monitoring that frequency.

If this information is correct, not only has it degraded the volunteer Race Officials that freely offer their time, but may have brought the sport of sailing into disrepute.

YSA also has information that comments have been posted on social media (which have now apparently been removed) that likewise may be considered to have been offensive and beyond the standards reasonably expected of our sailors.

A recent ISAF disciplinary case which is available on the ISAF website (case number 2013/017/DC), demonstrates the seriousness that the sport of sailing takes of such matters and is a precedent demonstrating offensive behaviour of the nature suggested to have occurred here will not be tolerated.

As soon as this matter was brought to my attention, I contacted several people in an endeavour to ascertain the full facts surrounding the matter.

The information provided has identified the boat concerned and YSA is aware of the names of social media participants.

YSA, as the peak body in this State, does not condone criticism of our Race Officials in such a manner and, as indicated, this may well have brought the sport into disrepute.

YSA has no issues with properly expressed criticism but the nature of the criticism alleged here goes well beyond what YSA considers to be appropriate.

YSA is prepared to give the opportunity to the individual(s) concerned to contact the President of YSA for further discussion in respect of the matter.

On the information that YSA has available, it may well be in the individual(s) interest to consider making a public apology to the Race Officials of the day, the Organising Authority Clubs and all participants in the event.

I would take the opportunity of reminding the individual(s) that there are Racing Rules and procedures covering these matters and, in particular, RRS 69.1(a), "Obligation not to commit gross misconduct" and RRS 69.3 "Action by a National Authority or Initial Action by the ISAF".

I therefore invite the individuals responsible to take this opportunity to contact me by 5.00 pm, Friday the 27th June 2014 and make the apology.

Yours faithfully,  
Wayne Thompson  
YSA President  
0458 526 790