



Stanley Residents Association  
96 Stanley Main Street  
Hong Kong

Attn: Race Director / Race Controller

Hong Kong, June 6, 2005

**Stanley Short Course Race – Men's Plate Final 2005**  
**Protest and Complaint regarding Starting Procedure for Race 27**

Dear Sirs,

The Admiralty of the Liechtenstein Princely Navy wishes to lodge a strong protest against the starting procedure employed for Race 27 at the above event.

Following a detailed post race analysis among our crew and with competing teams of Race 27, we have come to the following conclusions:

Boat number 3 (The Liechtenstein Princely Navy) was under starter's orders to reposition the boat backward into the correct position. The front left paddler was **standing** in the boat trying to take hold of the bow-line when suddenly the race was started, i.e. the boat was clearly not ready to race.

In contravention of rule 5.4, there was **no verbal warning "READY"**. Furthermore, several crew members insist that the **horn had not been sounded** to signal the start of the race.

One of the competing boats simply jumped the start. Three competing boats followed the jumped start, while boat number 3 – with its front paddler still standing upright in the boat – had no chance to get under way. **The starter completely failed to signify a false start.**

The Race Controller and Umpire completely ignored the protest filed after Race 27.

Given that our team is enrolled in the "A" class for the Stanley main race on June 11, where our chances of success are marginal, the Short Course Race was **our most important race of the season**. The unprofessional conduct of the Starter combined with the ignorance of the Umpire have completely ruined the event for the Liechtenstein Princely Navy, which has been training since February in preparation for this race.

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We demand a **formal investigation** of the starting procedure of Race 27. In particular, we expect your written answer to the following three questions:

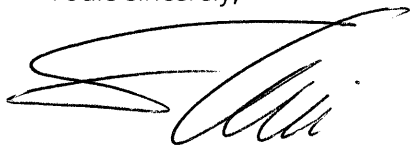
- 1) According to rule 5.4, was the starter "*satisfied that the crews are correctly aligned*" when the race got under way?
- 2) Did the Starter "*alert all crews with the verbal warning 'READY'*" as demanded by rule 5.4.?
- 3) In the opinion of the Starter and the Umpire, was there a false start?

Depending on the outcome of your investigation, we will consider our participation in future races organized by the Stanley Dragon Boat Association.

As a final note, the Liechtenstein Princely Navy has been a strong supporter of the Stanley Dragon Boat Races for the past six years and has invested significant amounts of money and time into building a competitive team. We are very disappointed by the lack of professionalism displayed by the Starter and the arrogance shown by the Umpire.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Silvan Colani (Admiral)  
The Liechtenstein Princely Navy