

Rule 42 Most Common Breaches Snipe 2025



Version 1.2

THIS PAPER IS INTENDED AS A GUIDE TO JUDGES AND SAILORS AND IT IS BASED ON WORLD SAILING RULE 42 DOCUMENTS AND THE EXPERIENCE OF WORLD CLASS SNIPE SAILORS AND JUDGES

PRINCIPLE:

The judges will give sailors the benefit of the doubt, however, when they are sure a sailor is breaking rule 42 they will act to protect the sailors that are complying with the rule.

CLASS RULES AFFECTING RULE 42: NONE

Class Specific Techniques and Breaches:

Snipe does not have many issues regarding rule 42. Her flat and chine hull makes her quite stable and easy to plane. The rudder is very small, and it is inefficient for sculling. The relative long boom makes one single pump, allowed by the rules, enough to promote surfing. Considering these characteristics, rule 42 infractions in Snipe Class are usually gross and they are easy to spot.

STARTS and UPWIND

Starts

Sculling is not a huge problem in the Snipe. Nevertheless, a boat may scull faster from close-hauled course to gain speed in light winds. Also, in light air, the attention should be at one big roll or rocking after the starting gun.

1. Rocking after the Start

Permitted actions:

- One roll that does not clearly propel the boat.

Prohibited actions:

- One roll clearly propelling the boat - BASIC 4
- Repeated rolling the boat - 42.2(b)(1)
- Gathering evidence: Is the competitor causing the boat to roll? Does a single roll clearly propel the boat? Is the rolling repeated (more than once)?

Sailing upwind:

Upwind the most common infraction is body pumping. It is normally seen off the starting line or when another boat had made a close lee bow tack. Usually, it is difficult to induce a flick on the mainsail due to a body pump, but on the beat to windward in conditions between 7-8 knots this can be an issue. It is also possible to observe some *ooching* in upwind. This is very hard for the jury to identify because the crew is hidden by the helmsman and the leech does not move.

2. Sculling at the start line

The Snipe rudder is very small and it has a long tiller making sculling very ineffective. However, in very light wind and flat sea it is possible to use the rudder to keep a spot in the starting line avoiding drifting to leeward. When using the rule 42.3(d) exception, the helmsmen may need to do aggressive movements to turn the boat.

Permitted actions:

- Provided the boat's course is above close-hauled and she clearly changes direction towards a close-hauled course, repeated forceful movements of the helm are permitted until the boat is on a close-hauled course. This action is permitted even if the boat gains speed. She may scull to turn to a close-hauled course on either tack – SCULL 1

Prohibited actions:

- After a boat has sculled in one direction, further connected sculling to offset the first sculling action is prohibited.

3. Body Pump

Permitted actions:

- Moving the body fore and aft (torquing) in order to change the trim of the boat in phase with the waves – OUCH 1

Prohibited actions:

- Body pumping causing repeated flicks on the leach by repeatedly moving the body up and down or in an out or excessively torquing upper part of the body – PUMP 6

Gathering evidence: Are there waves? Is the sailor's body movement in phase with the waves? Is the sailor's body movement causing the leach to flick? Can you connect sailor's body movements with the flicks? Are the flicks repeated? May the flicks on the leach be caused by the waves? How does it appear compared to the other boats?

4. Tacking technique

Roll tacking is an efficient technique in the Snipe Class. However, exaggerated roll tacking can break the basic rule and it may happen in light air. Sailors move their bodies forcefully through a tack.

Permitted actions:

- Body movements to exaggerate the rolling that facilitates steering the boat through a tack and cause the boat to sail out of a tack at the same speed as she had just before the maneuver - ROCK 8

Prohibited actions:

- Body movements exaggerating rolling the boat through a tack that increase the boat's speed just after the tack is completed.

Gathering evidence: Do the individual tacks increase the speed of the boat? Does sailor's body movement cause the increased speed? Is the increase in speed after the tack followed by a sudden and significant decrease in speed?

DOWNWIND AND REACHING

1. Pumping

Pumping is a very effective technique when the wind builds, especially on boats with direct mainsheet. In light winds, it may be necessary trim the sail repeatedly to find the perfect trim.

Permitted actions:

- Trimming a sail in order to trim the boat in the prevailing conditions – PUMP 2
- Pumping a sail once per wave or gust of wind to initiate surfing or planing but to qualify as surfing the boat must rapidly accelerate down the front of the wave – 42.3(c)

Prohibited actions:

- Trimming a sail in order to fan it – PUMP 1
- Pumping a sail when already surfing or planing – PUMP 12

- If a boat repeats an unsuccessful attempt to plane or surf, she is in the yellow light area. A third consecutive unsuccessful attempt is prohibited. (PUMP 8)

Gathering evidence: Are there surfing or planing conditions? Does one pump per wave or gust of wind initiating surfing or planing? Is the boat pumping while already surfing or planing? Could the trim and release be a response to wind shifts, gusts or waves? Is the repeated trim and release fanning the sail.

2. Rocking

Helmsmen sometimes combine pumping and rolling by leaning their body backwards while making a legal pump. One movement is enough to induce repeated rolling. The exception in rule 42.3(c) refers to one pump per wave or gust of wind and at no time includes one roll per wave or gust of wind. Rocking the boat without changing the course up or down is a common rule 42 break.

Permitted actions:

- Heeling the boat to leeward to facilitate heading up and heeling the boat to windward to facilitate bearing away as long as it is done in phase with the waves.

Prohibited actions:

- Single body movement followed by repeated rolling especially after inducing a roll to windward and before the roll is completed moving the body inward to counteract against it – ROCK 5
- Leaning the body backwards and inducing rocking while making a legal pump

Gathering evidence: Is the competitor causing the boat to roll? Is the rolling repeated? Does a single body movement result in repeated rolling of the boat?

3. Ooching

It is necessary to move the crew forward to initiate a surf. When the Snipe is surfing, it quickly overtakes waves and then it is necessary for the crew to move backwards fast to avoid diving the bow. The best position to judge *ooching* is aside the Snipe as it then easier to identify whether the body is stopped forward abruptly or is it linked to the waves. It is easier to identify this infraction downwind because crew and helmsman are in opposite sides

Permitted actions:

- In conditions with waves, sliding forward and backwards on a deck in phase with the waves – OOOCH 1

Prohibited actions:

- Sliding forward on a deck and stopping the body abruptly – 42.2(c)

Gathering evidence: Is the movement of the body in phase with the waves? Is the movement of the body forward stopped abruptly?

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