

Rescue leads to appeal against compensation

SOUTHAMPTON — Winston and La Poste were compensated for turning back to help stricken Italian yacht, Brooksfield, in the Whitbread round-the-world race, but rival boats dispute the decision.

The International Jury deducted 21 hours 28 minutes 30 seconds from the time of American entry Winston and two days 23 hours 30 seconds from the French yacht La Poste after their rescue missions.

The decision pushed Winston into overall second place in the Whitbread 60 class and angered displaced rivals, one of whom appealed.

Galicia 93 Pescanova

captain, Javier de la Gandara, is to ask for redress at a hearing in Fremantle today.

But the skipper of Whitbread 60 leader, Tokio, displaced in the leg standings but not overall, said the decision was fair.

"It was a pretty rugged night when they went back," New Zealander Chris Dickson said.

None of the crews is disputing the award given to La Poste — the boat that located Brooksfield and stayed alongside for 24 hours — although both La Poste's and Winston's time allowances were calculated in the same way. La Poste retained third

place overall in the Maxi class.

Leg three from Fremantle to Auckland will start on January 9th.

Revised overall standings: Combined times legs one and two.

Whitbread 60: 1. Tokio (Chris Dickson, New Zealand) 50 days 03 hours 07minutes 2. Winston (Brad Butterworth, U.S.) 50:14:29; 3. Intrum Justitia (Lawrie Smith, Europe) 50:17:19.

Maxi: 1. New Zealand Endeavour (Grant Dalton, New Zealand) 50:06:16; 2. Merit Cup Pierre Fehlmann, Switzerland) 50:12:53; 3. La Poste (Daniel Malle, France) 54:22:33. — Sapa RNS