

# RACE OFFICIALS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015



**SAFETY DECISIONS AND RULE 41**

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## The old (pre-2013) rule

A boat shall not receive help from any outside source except

- a) Help for an ill or injured crew member;
- b) After a collision, help from the crew of the other boat to get clear;
- c) Help in the form of information freely available to all boats;
- d) Unsolicited information from a disinterested source, which may be another boat in the same race.



## The rule from 1.1.2013

A boat shall not receive help from any outside source except

- a) Help for a crew member who is ill, injured **or in danger** ;
- b) After a collision, help from the crew of the other boat to get clear;
- c) Help in the form of information freely available to all boats;
- d) Unsolicited information from a disinterested source, which may be another boat in the same race.

**However, a boat that gains a significant advantage in the race from help received under 41(a) may be protested and penalised; any penalty may be less than disqualification.**



## Why the changes?

Competitors in the water and, particularly, when separated from their boat, are in danger.

- Assistance to remove them from danger will be a priority of the race committee – normally working through patrol boats on the course.
- Fellow competitors are required by rule 1.1 to offer and, possibly, provide help

**Such assistance is now permitted outside help!**



## ISAF Case 20

Decision (part):

“Any boat in a position to help another that may be in danger is bound to do so. It is not relevant that a protest committee later decides that there was no danger or that help was not requested.”

*Abstract:*

*When it is possible that a boat is in danger, another boat that gives help is entitled to redress, even if her help was not asked for or if it is later found that there was no danger.*





## What happens next?

It is normal and acceptable for a patrol boat to return a rescued competitor to his/her boat (i.e. a proper action).

Delay in doing so because of other safety or other requirements is not improper.

- When competitors are returned to their boats close to where they were recovered from the water, it is unlikely that the boat has gained a significant advantage.
- Returning a competitor to a boat that has made significant progress along the race course will need to be considered by the protest committee.



## Other 'rescue boats'

When a competitor is recovered from the water by a coach or support boat associated with his/her boat, or by any other boat not under the control of the race committee, any action other than the recovery of the competitor from the water will need to be considered by the protest committee.



## Who tells the protest committee?

In fairness to all competitors, all help rendered under rule 41(a) should be reported to the protest committee

– preferably by the competitor

The PC then considers whether the boat may have gained a significant advantage and, if so, it should protest the boat.

This requires a sailing instruction





# A sailing instruction

A possible SI might be:

When a boat has received help for a crew member who is ill, injured or in danger, the boat shall report that help to the protest committee in writing before the end of protest time on the day concerned. The protest committee will consider if the boat gained a significant advantage as a result and, if so, may protest the boat.

**This should also be covered by a notice and in a briefing**



# Outside help examples

| Race committee action  | Allowable help?<br>RRS 41 | Improper action?<br>RRS 62.1(a) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Recover a competitor from the water when separated from boat | Yes                       | No                              |
| Return competitor to boat in the same area as recovery       | Yes                       | No                              |
| Return competitor to boat when boat has made progress        | <b>NO</b>                 | No                              |
| Assist righting of capsized boat                             | <b>NO</b>                 | No                              |



# More outside help examples

| Race committee action  | Allowable help?<br>RRS 41 | Improper action?<br>RRS 62.1(a) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Hail boat that she is OCS  | Yes                       | No                              |
| Use visual signals or VHF before the start to indicate boats are over the line                   | Yes                       | No                              |
| Advise a competitor that she is sailing to the wrong mark  | Yes                       | <b>YES</b>                      |
| Advise one competitor that a mark is about to be moved   | Yes                       | <b>YES</b>                      |
| Use VHF (when standard on all boats racing) to advise an imminent change or shortening of course | Yes                       | No                              |