



Support Person Regulations

2025 Hansa Class World & International Championships
and
Australian & NSW Hansa Class Championships

in conjunction with the
Para World Sailing Championships

23 – 30 March 2025



Para
World Sailing
Championships



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World Sailing
Championships

Abbreviations

WS - World Sailing

RMM - Race Management Manual

RRS - Racing Rules of Sailing

TD – Technical Delegate

AHSN – Athlete with High Support Needs

Notations

[SP] denotes a rule for which a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee or the Technical Committee without a hearing or a discretionary penalty applied by the International Jury with a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5; and

[NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1 (a).

[DP] denotes a rule for which the penalty is at the discretion of the International Jury and may be less than disqualification. This changes RRS 64.1

Aim

The aim of these support person regulations is threefold:

1. **To Create Fair Competition:**

These regulations are designed to ensure that all athletes compete on a level playing field, regardless of the level of support they may require. By clearly defining the roles and limitations of support persons, including caregivers and coaches, the rules seek to prevent any undue advantage or performance enhancement that could arise from improper use of support resources.

2. **To Enable Athletes with High Support Needs Access to Care and Support:**

Athletes with high support needs often require assistance with daily living tasks, equipment management, or communication. These regulations provide a framework to ensure they have access to the care and support necessary for their participation without compromising the integrity of the competition. This access is fundamental to making the sport accessible and equitable for all athletes, regardless of their impairment level.

3. **To Create an Inclusive Racing Environment:**

Inclusivity is a cornerstone of Para sport. These regulations help create an environment where all athletes, regardless of their support needs, can compete without barriers.

It is understood that in some cases, coaches may also fulfil the role of a caregiver or support person. However, it is essential that this dual role is not exploited to gain a performance advantage. The regulations are structured to differentiate between necessary care and support versus activities aimed at improving competitive outcomes. This distinction ensures the primary focus remains on enabling participation and maintaining fairness in competition.

Definitions

Athletes with high support needs in Para sports are typically defined as those requiring additional assistance to participate in training, competition, or other sporting activities due to the severity of their impairment. The definition varies slightly across sports but generally includes the following considerations:

1. Level of Impairment:

- Athletes with significant physical, sensory, or intellectual impairments that limit their ability to independently perform tasks necessary for participation, such as transferring in and out of equipment, communication, or self-care.

2. Need for Assistance:

- These athletes may require one-on-one support, adaptive equipment, or modifications to the environment to compete safely and effectively.
- Support might include personal assistants, carers, or aides to

manage day-to-day needs, as well as technical support for equipment adjustments.

3. Classification Systems:

- Sports classify athletes based on the nature and extent of their impairment. High support needs are often reflected in classifications, especially for those in the most impaired groups.

4. Examples:

- In sailing, athletes with high support needs may require assistance boarding the boat or managing equipment.
- In wheelchair rugby or boccia, athletes with severe quadriplegia or other impairments may rely on powerchairs or assistants to facilitate their participation.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and individual sport federations provide specific guidelines to ensure inclusivity and fair competition for athletes with high support needs.

A **support boat** is a vessel designated to carry individuals who are essential for ensuring the health, safety, comfort, or well-being of one or more competitors.

In contrast, a **coach boat** is specifically intended to carry a coach or other personnel whose primary role is to provide coaching and support aimed at improving performance and developing specific skills.

1 General

1.1 Breach

1.1.1 Allegation of breach of any of these regulations may be referred to the protest committee for a hearing.

1.2 Change to these regulations

1.2.1 The organizing authority shall have the power to change these regulations at any time.

1.2.2 Changes shall be posted on the official notice board(s) and circulated to team leaders.

2 Registration

2.1 Boats

2.1.1 A coach/support boat may be operated only by a support person who is registered with the organising authority.

2.1.2 Coach/support boats shall be registered with the organising authority at the place posted on the official notice board(s) or earlier published, and at the time posted on the official notice board(s) or earlier published, except for a replacement boat or a boat whose arrival has been inadvertently delayed, in which case, registration shall be soon as practical.

2.1.3 Requests should be made to the World Sailing TD to register more than one coach boat per competition boat per nation per event for use other than training.

2.1.4 The organising authority shall have the power to refuse to register a coach/support boat unless it

(a) sights proof that the boat is covered by third-party liability

insurance for a minimum of £3,000,000 or equivalent per incident;
and

(b) deems the boat is appropriate for use at the regatta.

3 Operators and Passengers

3.1.1 No person shall operate a coach/support boat except for support people registered with the organising authority at the place posted on the official notice board(s) or earlier published, and at the time posted on the official notice board(s) or earlier published, except for a support person who is a replacement operator or an operator whose arrival has been inadvertently delayed, in which case, registration shall be soon as practical.

3.1.2 The organising authority may refuse to register a support person as an operator unless it sights proof that the support person is qualified to operate a coach/support boat.

3.1.3 Operators shall comply with all requirements imposed by the Organising Authority, including local bylaws and restrictions.

4 On Land

4.1 Facilities

4.1.1 Only registered persons may use venue facilities e.g. crane(s), hard-stand(s), pontoon(s).

4.1.2 Venue facilities may be used only for registered craft, but this Paragraph will not be unreasonably enforced immediately before registration.

4.1.3 When using cranes, all persons shall exercise safe operating

procedure and abide by the direction of event officials.

4.1.4 No person shall place themselves beneath a hoisted boat or in a position where they might be injured if a hoisted boat were to fall.

4.1.5 Coach/support boats may not occupy the hardstand/ pontoons except immediately before, during and after launch or retrieval.

4.2 Vehicles

4.2.1 Vehicles may manoeuvre on the hardstand and adjacent areas for the purpose of launching or retrieving boats. Appropriate care should be taken when manoeuvring.

4.2.3 Drivers must remain in the immediate vicinity of their vehicles and must move them immediately upon being instructed to do so by a regatta official.

5 On Water

5.1 Docking

5.1.1 Each coach/support boat shall be allocated a docking or mooring space, and operators are expected to moor boats as allocated.

5.1.2 An operator may moor a coach/support boat at a competition pontoon, or alongside a competition boat moored at a competition pontoon, or between a competition boat and a competition pontoon

- (a) in preparation for assisting athletes,
- (b) while assisting athletes, and
- (c) after assisting athletes.

5.1.3 An operator may not moor a coach/support boat as above

- (a) for an unreasonable period of time,
- (b) where such mooring displaces a competition boat of another nation from pontoon frontage,
- (c) when such action significantly hinders navigation, or
- (d) contrary to a direction by the dock master or other responsible person.

5.1.3 Interpretation of the word 'unreasonable' (above) is decided by the organising authority. By way of guidance only, athletes are advised that it might be

- (a) Unreasonable to leave a boat on a crowded competition pontoon for more than a few minutes after assisting athletes during a busy time.

5.2 Identification

5.2.1 Coaches, helpers, team leaders and support personnel that are bringing RHIBs or other non-racing vessels are required to register the boats and comply with local legislation

(<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-03/boating-handbook.pdf>).

5.3 [DP] Support boats shall be marked with a flag or decal not less than 200mm x 300mm bearing the national letters or national flag, and visible from both sides of the boat.

5.3.1 Support and Coach boats may be required to display numbers,

letters and/or insignia supplied by the organising authority in accordance with guidelines issued by the organising authority; and

5.3.2 Support and Coach boats may display no form of signage, advertising, publicity or propaganda (which form includes boat name, home port, club name or manufacturer's mark) other than that approved by the organising authority.

5.4 [DP] Support boats with team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first fleet to start until all boats have finished or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

5.5 Protrusions from craft

While a coach/support boat is under way, nothing shall extend from it except one or more lines (but only while towing or preparing to tow), boathooks or equivalent (but only while in appropriate use), paddles, oars, flag-staffs, antennae, fenders, outboard motors and/or rudders.

5.6 Responsibility

5.6.1 The registered operator(s) of a coach/support boat shall be responsible for it at all times.

5.6.2 The operator(s) shall be held accountable for any

(a) unsafe operation, improper practice, un-seamanlike manoeuvre, refusal to render assistance, breach of regulation, excessive speed or like action by the coach/support boat, and

(b) gesture, comment, behaviour, transmission, signal or like action by

a person onboard the coach/support boat.

5.7 Compliance

While on the water, a coach/support boat shall:

5.7.1 comply with directions given by the police, Race Committee, race officers, jury, classifiers, measurers, TDs, harbour management and other authority; and

5.7.2 carry, as a passenger, any person designated by the organising authority and, in good faith, comply with any reasonable request made by that person, but this requirement shall not be unreasonably enforced.

6 On Course

6.1 Assistance when not racing

Other prescriptions notwithstanding,

6.1.1 A coach/support boat may assist one or more of her competition boats when not racing.

6.1.2 A coach/support boat may assist one or more competition boats of another nation when not racing, but only with the permission of the competition boat and following a request for assistance or acceptance of an offer of assistance.

6.2 Assistance during racing

6.2.1 A coach/support boat may assist one or more of her competition boats when racing.

6.2.2 A coach/support boat may, but only *in extremis* or at the request of a nonnational, assist one or more competition boats of

another nation when racing, and when this occurs, it shall, at the discretion of the jury, cause no penalty to attach to any of her competition boats.

6.2.3 A competition boat that receives assistance, should declare assistance given.

6.2.4 Coach/support boats shall comply with directions given by the Race Committee especially those involving rescue operations.

6.3 Placement of things in the water

6.3.1 Nothing that sinks, floats or dissolves shall be left in or on the water. This prohibition does not apply before or after a race where

- (a) buoys are anchored to the sea bed for coaching purposes, or
- (b) floats are released to estimate current direction and speed.

6.3.2 Any item left in the water after use will be removed and either confiscated or destroyed.

6.3.3 Trash shall be placed aboard coach, support or Race Committee boats, or returned to shore with competition boats and deposited in the receptacles provided.

7 Equipment

7 Each coach boat and support boat shall carry aboard:

7.1 one or more public VHF radio transceivers, the transmission function of which shall not be used during a race except during an emergency;

7.2 All [safety equipment required by New South Wales Marine Regulations](#).

8 Emergency

8.1 The Race Committee signal boat shall signal an emergency by, hoisting flag V, and causing a series of intermittent sounds to be made.

8.2 When an emergency is signalled, coach boats shall be free to navigate to assist competitors in difficulty or in danger, and to transmit radio frequencies for the duration of the emergency.

8.3 The Race Committee shall have the power to signal an emergency without also signalling 'race abandoned'.

8.4 Signalling an emergency shall not suspend RRS 41.

8.5 The Race Committee signal boat shall signal the end of an emergency by lowering flag V and causing a series of intermittent sounds to be made, where upon coach boats shall return to their positions outside the racing area.

9 Support boats may be declared Coach Boats

8.1 The Race Committee or World Sailing TD shall have the power to declare that a support boat is a coach boat.

8.2 By way of guidance only, athletes are advised that this power will be exercised whenever the Race Committee or the World Sailing TD forms the reasonable suspicion that a person aboard a support boat has caused or intends to cause a

- (a) statement to be made,
- (b) signals to be communicated,



(c) craft to be positioned, or

(d) any other thing to be done that falls within a broad definition of coaching.

10 Exemptions

10.1 The World Sailing TD shall have the power to exempt a support or coach boat from any of the following regulations where required in line with World Sailing Development Program support.

10.2 The World Sailing or IHCA TD shall have the power to exempt a support or coach boat where a competition boat, sailed by an AHSN, should be closely monitored by that boat so as to be available at any time to render assistance. The support or coach boat shall in no way affect any other competition boat unless she is engaged in assisting her competition boat. Any unnecessary interference by a support boat may result in a:

- penalty to her competition boat, and/or
- redress for the boat that has suffered interference.