

Submission: **SR27-07**

Offshore Special Regulations – Category 6

Small Craft Safety

A submission from the Chairman of the Equipment Committee

Proposal:

It is proposed that an additional, Category 6, be added to the existing Categories of ISAF Special Regulation.

That Category 6 is defined as:-

Category 6 Special Regulations are intended for use in races where:-

- participating boats may not be self-sufficient
- the races are short in duration and close to a single manned shore base, in relatively warm and protected waters, in daylight and good visibility
- participating boats can be observed by race organisers at all times
- safety/rescue boats are available all along the course sufficient to enable any competitor to be returned to the shore base in a timely manner
- safety/rescue boats are of a suitable design and properly equipped and are manned by adequately trained and competent personnel including, for each race, at least one skilled in first aid

That the Requirements for Category 6 are:-

Unless otherwise prescribed in Notice of Race and/or Sailing Instructions, where class rules include items of safety such rules shall override the corresponding part of these Regulations.

All equipment required by Special Regulations Category 6 shall:-

- function properly
- be regularly checked, cleaned and serviced
- when not in use be stowed in conditions in which deterioration is minimised
- be readily accessible
- be of a type, size and capacity suitable and adequate for the intended use and size of the boat.

All boats sailing in Category 6 shall be fitted with:-

- A strong point for the attachment of a tow and/or anchor line.

All boats sailing in category 6 shall carry:-

- A personal flotation device (PFD) for each person aboard to ISO 12402-5 - Level 50 or equivalent
- A knife
- If the hull is not self-draining or is able to carry more than 150 litres of free water, a bucket or bailer of not less than 1 litre capacity
- If a trapeze harness is carried it shall be to ISO 10862
- A paddle or means of propelling the boat when not under sail

Current Position:

There are currently five ISAF Offshore Special Regulation Categories:-

Category 0

Trans-oceanic races, including races which pass through areas in which air or sea temperatures are likely to be less than 5 degrees Celsius other than temporarily, where yachts must be completely self-sufficient for very extended periods of time, capable of withstanding heavy storms and prepared to meet serious emergencies without the expectation of outside assistance.

Category 1

Races of long distance and well offshore, where yachts must be completely self-sufficient for extended periods of time, capable of withstanding heavy storms and prepared to meet serious emergencies without the expectation of outside assistance.

Category 2

Races of extended duration along or not far removed from shorelines or in large unprotected bays or lakes, where a high degree of self-sufficiency is required of the yachts.

Category 3

Races across open water, most of which is relatively protected or close to shorelines.

Category 4

Short races, close to shore in relatively warm or protected waters normally held in daylight.

And one Inshore Category:-

Category 5 - for inshore racing

Short races, close to shore in relatively warm and protected waters where adequate shelter and/or effective rescue is available all along the course, held in daylight only.

There currently is no category available for inshore sheltered waters.

Reason:

As a result of submission 042 05 which proposed *that new categories of Safety Recommendations are introduced to encompass events for day keelboats, open multihulls and dinghies*. The Equipment Committee appointed a Working Party comprising Ken Kershaw (GBR), Dina Kowalyszyn (USA), Mark Pryke (AUS), Jason Smithwick (GBR) and Patrick Lindqvist. (FIN). This Working Party has considered the original submission and proposes the adoption of the new Category as detailed above. In making the proposal the Working Party determined:-

- There is a need for Category 6.
- That the adoption of Category 6 would complete the suit of ISAF Special Regulations so as to cover all aspects and sizes of sail racing.
- That, like the existing SR, Category 6 should be venue/event rather than class based. The safety regime of any one boat will be different in different conditions.
- The functionality of Category 6 equipment should be the same as existing SR (the words are the same).
- The requirements of Category 6 should be overridden by class rules.
- The requirements of Category 6 should be minimum augmented by SIs when appropriate.
- Consideration should be given to a Special Regulation for safety/rescue boats.
- Consideration should be given to modifications in the RRS to facilitate the new Category 6 and existing SR Categories.

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