Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 41

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Proposal

41 OUTSIDE HELP

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.
(e) help to recover a crew member from the water and to return the crew member to the boat before the boat continues in the race.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

Following the deletion from rule 41 of help to comply with rule 1, the issue remains of recovering crew from the water to avoid risk of injury or worse. No sailor should ever be left in the water unless it is clear they are actively helping with their own recovery. There is also of a Duty of Care for the race committee which conflicts with current rule 41. No-one will gain an advantage from capsizing or from falling out of a boat and, in most cases, self-rescue will be quicker than waiting for a safety boat. The proposed words are based on and consistent with rule 47.2.