Coach Boat Rules

Background
The Star Class requested a change to its championship rule prohibiting coach boats at there major events. Because of the structure of the championship rules forming part of the class rules ISAF was therefore given the opportunity to approve the change as per regulation 26.

The class rules sub committee deferred it decision and now wants the issue to be raised with other committees and advise on whether to approve the rule change and to start a general debate. The reasoning given to the class by the secretariat on behalf of the CRSC was as follows:

“This is hugely political and will effect the way in which Olympic campaign are run and conducted. A number of practical considerations of yachts solely reliant on sail power for some events were the race course are substantial distance for the marina were raised by committee members. The class rules sub committee is primarily set up and established to handle class equipment rules. It would not be due process for ISAF to approve this change without consulting other ISAF committees.”

Star Class Proposal
31.1.4 For Gold and Silver events a yacht shall receive no outside assistance from support boats or otherwise once she has left the dock for the day until the finish of the last race of the day, except in the case of emergency and/or towing supplied by the organizer and available to all participants.

Class Reasoning view from Bill Allen Class President
This rule will not apply to ISAF World Cup events, ISAF Combined Worlds, Olympics or any other event that is not directly under the jurisdiction of the ISCYRA. The most compelling reasons to restrict the coaching and on the water support as proposed is to keep the playing field level for all competitors, help preserve the environment, and to help keep control on the costs of competition by keeping the Star within the financial reach of a person with moderate income.

The Star Class believes that the Race Organizers should be responsible for supplying safety boats. Our experience is that coach/support boats cannot be depended on for safety because they are being paid for exclusively by specific competitors and those competitors are the first and foremost of their concerns.

Class Rules Sub-Committee view from Georg Tallberg
The proposed rule is not a normal class rule but a Championship rule. It applies in only in world, continental and hemisphere championships. Technically the rule is not difficult to enforce in these events with only the Star class competing. The reason this should be discussed in relevant ISAF committees and commissions is that the Star is an Olympic class and these championships play a major role in the campaigns of the Olympic athletes. Especially the use of this rule in the Star Worlds 2012 which is an Olympic qualification event should be carefully discussed before a decision is made.