IFDS COACH & SUPPORT BOAT REGULATIONS
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ABBREVIATIONS
IFDS International Association for Disabled Sailing
ISAF International Sailing Federation
RMM Race Management Manual (of IFDS)
RRS Racing Rules of Sailing (of ISAF)
TD Technical Delegate
VHF Very High Frequency
VSDA Very Severely Disabled Athlete

INTRODUCTION
The Coach Boat Regulations for the 2008 Olympic regatta were deemed inadequate for the 2008 Paralympic regatta. It was therefore decided that a set of regulations should be
• written for the 2008 Paralympic Regatta, and
• submitted to the IFDS Technical Committee for possible use elsewhere.
This is that document.

DEFINITIONS
In sailing for people with disabilities, it is important to differentiate between a support boat, which might have no equivalent at a regatta for able-bodied sailors, and a coach boat.

A very severely disabled athlete (VSDA) is a person who, in the opinion of the Chief Classifier and/or TD (or, in his/her absence, the race committee), requires close monitoring during competition for reasons of health, safety, comfort or well-being. By way of guidance only, readers are advised that a ventilator-dependant quadriplegic is a VSDA. The term VSDA should not be confused with the term VSDP (Very Severely Disabled Person) used in the Notice of Race.

A support boat is a vessel that carries one or more persons necessary to the health, safety, comfort or well-being of a VSDA.

A coach boat is a vessel that carries a coach or any other person except someone necessary for the health, safety, comfort or well-being of a VSDA.

EXEMPTION
The organising authority shall have the power to exempt a support boat from any of the following regulations where a competition boat, sailed by a VSDA, should be closely monitored by a support boat so as to be available at any time to render assistance. The support 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.
1. GENERAL

1.1 Breach
1.1.1 Allegation of breach of any of these regulations may be referred to the jury.
1.1.2 Following a hearing, the jury shall have the power to impose whatever penalty it deems fit.
1.1.3 Attention is drawn to RRS 69.2(a) as it relates to ‘other person involved’.

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 No person shall operate a coach/support boat unless it is registered with the organizing authority.
2.1.2 Coach/support boats shall be registered with the organizing 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 as soon as practical.
2.1.3 Only under highly exceptional circumstances shall the organizing authority have the power to register more than one coach boat per competition boat per nation per event for use other than training.
2.1.4 Only under exceptional circumstances shall the organizing authority have the power to register more than one support boat per competition boat per nation per event for use other than training.
2.1.5 The organizing 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 €500,000 or equivalent per incident; and
(b) deems the boat appropriate for use at the regatta.
2.1.6 By way of guidance only, athletes are advised that a boat more than 7.5m in length with more than minimal superstructure (cabin, coach-house, bridge etc.) is inappropriate.

2.2 Operators & passengers
2.2.1 No person shall operate a coach/support boat unless s/he is registered with the organizing 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 operator or an operator whose arrival has been inadvertently delayed, in which case, registration shall be as soon as practical.
2.2.2 The organizing authority shall have the power to refuse to register an operator unless it sights proof that the operator is qualified to operate a coach/support boat.
2.2.3 Operators shall comply with all requirements imposed by the organizing authority.
2.2.4 Any national who seeks to go on the water in the coach/support boat of another
nation shall register 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 national whose arrival has been
inadvertently delayed, in which case, registration shall be soon as practical.

2.2.5 Only accredited personnel may be aboard coach/support boats.

3. **ON LAND**

3.1 **Facilities**

3.1.1 Only accredited persons may use venue facilities *e.g.* crane(s), hard-stand(s),
pontoon(s).

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

3.1.3 When using cranes, all persons shall exercise safe operating procedure.

3.1.4 No person shall place him/herself beneath a hoisted boat or in a position where
s/he might be injured if a hoisted boat were to fall.

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

3.2 **Vehicles**

3.2.1 Vehicles may manoeuvre on the hardstand and adjacent areas for the purpose of
launching or retrieving boats.

3.2.2 Vehicles may stand on the hardstand and adjacent areas immediately before and
after launch and retrieval, but they may not remain in such areas for an
unreasonable length of time.

3.2.3 Drivers must remain in the immediate vicinity of their vehicles, and must move
them immediately upon being instructed to do so by a responsible person.

4. **ON WATER**

4.1 **Docking**

4.1.1 Each coach/support boat shall be allocated a docking space, and operators are
expected to moor boats in the spaces allocated.

4.1.2 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.

4.1.3 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.

4.1.3 Interpretation of the word ‘unreasonable’ (above) is a matter for 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, and
(b) Not unreasonable to leave a boat on a non-crowded competition pontoon
overnight during a ‘dry’ regatta when most competition craft are out of the water.
4.2 Identification

While on the water, each coach/support boat shall

4.2.1 Fly, on a staff extending at least 1.5m vertically above the level of the gunnel,
   (a) its national flag (minimum horizontal dimension 50cm), or
   (b) a white flag (minimum horizontal dimension 50cm) displaying, in black or
       dark blue, its national letters (minimum height 20cm), or
   (c) a black or dark blue flag (minimum horizontal dimension 50cm) displaying,
       in white, its national letters (minimum height 20cm); or

4.2.2 display on either side of its outboard-engine cover,
   (a) black or dark blue national letters (minimum height 20cm) against a white
       background, or
   (b) white national letters (minimum height 20cm) against a black or dark blue
       background; and

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

4.2.4 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 Responsibility

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

4.4.2 The operator(s) shall be held accountable for any
   (a) unsafe operation, improper practice, unseamanlike 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
       on board the coach/support boat.

4.5 Compliance

While on the water, a coach/support boat shall

4.5.1 comply with directions given by the police, race committee, race officers, jury,
classifiers, measurers, TD(s), harbour management and other authority; and

4.5.2 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.

5 ON COURSE

5.1 Security

5.1.1 Only registered boats may enter the exclusion zone.

5.1.2 Boats may be subjected to search by the police or other authorities at any time.
5.2 **Assistance when not racing**
Other prescriptions notwithstanding,

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

5.2.2 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.

5.3 **Assistance during racing**

5.3.1 A coach/support boat may assist one or more of her competition boats when racing (RMM 8.2), but see 5.3.3.

5.3.2 A coach/support boat may, but only in extremis or at the request of a non-national (see, for instance, 2.2.4 and 4.5.2), assist one or more competition boats of another nation when racing, but see 5.3.3; and when this occurs, it shall, at the discretion of the jury, cause no penalty to attach to any of her competition boats.

5.3.3 A competition boat shall be disqualified for receiving help in breach of RRS 41, and upon receipt of assistance, shall retire.

5.3.4 Coach/support boats shall comply with directions given by the race committee especially those involving rescue operations.

5.4 **Placement of things in the water**

5.4.1 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.

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

5.4.3 Trash shall be placed aboard coach, support or race committee boats, or returned to shore with competition boats and deposited in the receptacles provided.

6 **ZONES**

6.1 At the display of an orange flag and emission of a sound (instruction 5.5), coach boats shall retire to the Coach Boat Zone (CBZ; Attachment 1).

6.2 If an orange flag is not displayed and a sound not emitted, coach boats shall retire to the CBZ at the warning signal.

6.3 Each coach boat shall remain in the CBZ until

6.3.1 code flag \(U\) is flown from the race committee signal boat, whereupon she is free to navigate at will except in the area shown in Attachment 2;

6.3.2 any of the boats that she is supporting finishes the race whereupon she may rendezvous with that boat in the CBZ and accompany it from the CBZ;

6.3.3 any of the boats that she is supporting retires whereupon she may, with due regard to other boats, rendezvous with that boat, preferably outside the area shown in Attachment 2; or

6.3.4 the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

6.4 Coach boats servicing boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
7  **EQUIPMENT**

While on the water, no coach boat shall carry a mobile telephone or equipment capable of transmitting or receiving a radio frequency apart from

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 (see 9);
7.2 one or more pieces of current-monitoring equipment, which shall be switched off during each race (see also 5.3);
7.3 one or more pieces of wind-monitoring equipment, which shall be switched off during each race (see also 5.3), and
7.4 one or more GPS receivers.

8  **SUPPORT BOATS MAY BE DECLARED COACH BOATS**

8.1 The race committee 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 forms the reasonable suspicion that a person aboard a support boat has caused or intends to cause a
   (a) statement to be made,
   (b) signal to be communicated,
   (c) craft to be positioned, or
   (d) any other thing to be done
that falls within a broad definition of coaching.

9  **EMERGENCY**

9.1 The race committee signal boat shall signal an emergency by, hoisting flag E, and causing a series of intermittent sounds to be made.
9.2 When an emergency is signalled, coach boats shall be free to navigate at will (regardless of whether flag U is flying), and to transmit radio frequencies for the duration of the emergency.
9.3 The race committee shall have the power to signal an emergency without also signalling ‘race abandoned’.
9.4 Signalling an emergency shall not suspend RRS 41.
9.5 The race committee signal boat shall signal the end of an emergency by lowering flag E and causing a series of intermittent sounds to be made, whereupon coach boats shall return to the CBZ or, if flag U is flying, be free to navigate at will except in the area defined in Attachment 2, until the committee signal boat signals postponement, general recall or abandonment.
Attachment 1

Coach Boat Zones for trapezoid and windward-leeward courses

The windward border of the Coach Boat Zone may or may not be defined by buoys.
Attachment 2

Coach Boat Restricted Zone - Trapezoid

Coach boats shall stay out of the area indicated below with hatching (diagonal lines) regardless of whether they service boats sailing a windward-leeward course or a trapezoid course.
Coach Boat Restricted Zone - Windward-Leeward

Ref. 080821 Coach Boat Regulations – 2008 Paralympic Regatta