

RRC 2018 Agenda item 9(d)

### **Use of Drones**

The use of drones is becoming more common and there is no reason to believe this trend will not continue.

There are five groups of people that might use drones:

- Competitors – wind seeking or observing the opposition from larger racing yachts, for example.
- Race Officials – information gathering for applying the rules. Creating training material.
- Organising Authorities – often for media purposes, but also for boat park surveillance/security
- Media - Publicity.
- Coaches – Training material. Evidence for hearings

All, with the exception of the Media are governed by the RRS.

There are a number of issues that are related to the rules. Here are some:

- More and more aviation authorities are introducing drone regulations.
  - Drones may require a licenced pilot. The pilot may be a support person or competitor.
  - Limitations of permitted flying zones.
  - If the event invoked these regulations would we have the competence to make decisions?
- What if a drone is not recovered – does It become trash? RRS 55
- Use of data collected

Overall it is better that World Sailing and specifically Racing Rules Committee are pro-active. We should appoint a group to look at the issues and asked to make recommendations for November 2019.

John Doerr  
Chair, RRC  
October 2018.