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.