

SACA proposal to alter the I.A.C.A championship rule 16

Rule 16 in the current version

16. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

No transmitting equipment, radio receivers and portable phones shall be carried on board of any competing boat.

Proposal for rule 16 to allow safety radio device and trackers

16. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

16.1 Radio transmitters, radio receivers, portable phones and similar devices may be carried but shall only be used in relation to emergencies.

16.2 Screen-less GPS trackers devices are allowed only if requested by the event organization.

Rationale

With the development of foiling boats, the number of capsizes and sailors in the water separated from their boats is increasing dramatically. It is only a matter of time before we get some bad news from somewhere around the world.

Non-visual GPS trackers are allowed to encourage sponsorship.

Status for GPS devices

Explanations and interpretation of the current rule:

- Under the existing rule 16, GPS are considered to be radio receivers.
- After consultation of Graeme Harbour (technical committee chairman), GPS are forbidden during continental and world championships. "Continental" as stated by ISAF means North America and Europe.
- As a consequence, and when not explicitly forbidden, GPS are allowed without restrictions elsewhere.
- The wording and existing interpretation of RRS 41(c) might forbid the usage of portable phones using specialized software.

To clear up the existing situation where different federations interpret the rule differently, I ask the technical committee to publish an official rule interpretation on this subject.

Support

This proposal is supported by: Denmark, Switzerland, United Kingdom & USA.