

Support Vessel Regulations [DP] / [SP]

The class values the contribution supporters make to enable sailing. These regulations are to help ensure the smooth event running, fairness and clarity.

1. GENERAL

These Support Vessel Regulations (SVRs) apply while a vessel is at the venue or engaged in the event.

1.1. A Support Person is any person who:

- a) Provides or may provide physical or advisory support to a competitor, including any coach, trainer, manager, team staff, medic, paramedic or any other person working with, treating or assisting a competitor in or preparing for the competition, or
- b) Is the parent or guardian of a competitor.

1.2. For the purposes of these regulations, a Support Vessel includes any vessel that is under the control of a Support Person whether or not it is registered with the OA.

1.3. The OA will normally consider a Support Vessel to be suitable if it is an open vessel between approximately 4.0m and 7.5m long and having minimal or no superstructure (cabin, coach house, bridge, etc.).

1.4. Unsuitable support vessels (e.g. overly large or small) may have restrictions placed upon them additional to these SVR standards.

1.5. The OA may inspect support vessels at any time to ensure they are SVR compliant. The person in charge of the Support Vessel shall facilitate such inspection.

1.6. Alleged breaches of the SVRs may be referred to the event Protest Committee. As a result of any hearing, the Protest Committee may instruct the OA to withdraw or further restrict a Support Vessel's or one or more designated driver's access rights under conditions they deem appropriate (e.g. timing, distances, speeds, etc.)

1.7. The OA may post changes to the SVRs on the Official Notice Board at any time.

1.8. Support Vessels and designated drivers shall register as part of the event Registration process as set out in the event NOR and the person registering the support vessel (the person in charge) shall register all Designated Drivers and confirm that:

- a) The vessel has valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of AUD\$5,000,000 (or equivalent) per incident
- b) Each Designated Driver (including the person in charge) has a motorboat driving licence (or equivalent) recognised by a national authority appropriate to that vessel
- c) Anyone who will be using a radio has an appropriate radio operation licence recognised by a national authority.

1.9. Only registered Designated Drivers (including the person in charge) may drive a Support Vessel.

2. Support Vessel launch, storage and recovery

Support vessels shall follow any location specific aspects set out by the OA and published on the ONB relating to launching support vessels, storing them afloat or ashore (including trailers) and recovering them.

3. SAFETY

3.1. Support Vessels shall carry on board safety equipment required by local maritime law but a minimum

- a) Suitable first-aid kit
- b) Operational VHF radio capable of receiving the event allocated VHF channels
- c) Adequate anchor and tackle for the venue conditions and depth
- d) Tow rope (minimum 15m long and 10mm thick)
- e) Knife

3.2. All those on Support Vessels shall wear a PFD 50, 100 or 150 which meets standard AS4758

3.3. At all times when the motor is in operation, a Designated Driver shall wear a kill cord or utilise a proximity immobiliser

3.4. The maximum plated / certified passenger limits shall not be exceeded.

3.5. The person in charge of Support Vessel is responsible for overseeing its safe operation, including knowledge of who is afloat and ensuring their safe return.

3.6. At all times, a Support Vessel shall comply with reasonable directions given by Race Officials. This includes assisting in rescue operations when instructed to do so noting RRS 37 – *“When a race committee displays code flag “V” with one sound, all boats and official and support vessels shall monitor the race committee communication channel for search and rescue instructions.”*

4. GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

4.1. The Person in charge of a support vessel is responsible for the control of the vessel at all times and will be held responsible for any inappropriate behaviour, dangerous actions or improper practices, or actions affecting the fairness or safety of competition.

4.2. Support vessels shall not leave any device, piece of equipment, buoy, marker or similar item permanently in the water. Temporary use of floating objects to perform current measurement is allowed as long as these objects are removed as soon as measurements have been taken.

4.3. Support vessels shall not interfere with boats racing or official vessels or create a wake that affects boats racing and shall take particular care to minimise wash when transiting the course areas.

4.4. Support Vessels shall continuously monitor any VHF channel designated by the OA.

5. RACE AREA RESTRICTIONS

5.1. Unless giving all possible help to any person or vessel in danger, support vessels shall not be positioned:

- a) Closer than 200 metres to any boat racing
- b) Within 200 metres of the starting line and marks from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have left the starting area or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.
- c) Between any boat racing and the next mark of the course.
- d) Within 200 metres of any mark of the course while boats are in the vicinity of that mark.
- e) Within 200 metres of the finishing line and marks while boats are finishing.

5.2. Support vessels motoring above 5 knots shall remain at least 200 metres from any boat racing.

5.3. Below is a diagram of race area restrictions.

