



Coach Boat Regulations US Olympic & Paralympic Team Trials – Sailing

The purpose of the coachboat regulations are (1) to define a level playing field, (2) to limit or control the advantage that might be gained by major expenditures, and (3) to emulate the restrictions at the Olympic Games. Specifically, the Olympic Sailing Committee (OSC) is attempting to prohibit the advantage that might be gained with multiple boats and wind reading instruments deployed around the course similar to an America's Cup program. The coachboat regulations attempt to achieve these goals by limiting the number of coachboats, their movements and communication.

At the Games, the IOC, OA and ISAF literally control the exclusion zone at gun point and may impose any restrictions as desired. The OSC does not have that level of control in US navigable waters, but the OSC through the RRS does control the communication between athletes and coaches. To some extent, these coachboat regulations are an honor system. A deliberate cheater could probably get away with hidden computers and cellular communication. The most effective policing of the coachboat rules will likely be achieved by coaches keeping an eye on each other. Hopefully, these regulations will be workable, and there will be no need to have the jury and OSC representative take action.

The coachboat regulations differentiate between coachboats and spectator boats. Each team is allowed one coachboat, but there are no limits on spectator boats. This is an acknowledgement that Mom and Dad, sponsors, or other spectators may inadvertently violate some of the technicalities of the coachboat regulations regarding electronic equipment. However, spectator boats may not circumvent the intention of the coachboat regulations.

Spectator boats may move around the course area outside of the coachboat zone. Spectator boats should not be taking wind reading, current readings, and/or communicating with either athletes or coachboats. Basically, spectator boats should not be acting as coachboats. However, if Mom and Dad wave and shout encouragement from a spectator boat, that's not a violation. If Dad is taking wind readings, talking on his cell phone to weather routers, and communicating this information, it's a violation. The OSC does not intend to write a book of regulations for spectator boats, the intention is quite clear.

The OSC may provide further clarification.

Regulations

1. An alleged breach of any of these regulations may be referred to the protest committee for a hearing. As a result of the hearing, the protest committee may instruct the organizing authority to withdraw accreditation and access rights to the regatta venue and the course areas from the offending party. Note also racing rule 69.2 (a) as it relates to 'other person involved.' Other boats such as spectator boats shall not circumvent these regulations.
2. A competing boat may be disqualified for receiving help in breach of racing rule 41, Outside



Help.

3. The Organizing Authority may change these regulations at any time. Changes will be posted on the official Notice Board.
4. Coach boats shall be registered with the race office before the first race. No more than one coach boat may be registered per competing boat. This limitation will not apply to designated US SAILING staff coaches.
5. Each coach boat shall display the required identification.
6. Coach boats shall not leave any device, equipment, buoy, marker or similar item permanently in the water. Temporary use of floating objects is allowed for current measurement. These objects shall be removed as soon as the measurement has been taken.
7. Coach boats shall not have on board any electronic device except;
 - electronic equipment strictly related to the operation of the boat or outboard
 - a public VHF radio, to be used only for monitoring transmissions; transmissions are prohibited except in emergencies, or when responding to directions from the RC or the OSC representative.
 - any device for time keeping
 - hand held device for measurement of wind speed
 - compass
 - camera
 - GPS receiver
 - tape or digital voice recorders
 - electronic stabilized binoculars
8. Coach boats shall not carry equipment capable of making or receiving radio transmission or wireless voice or data transmission except as provided in regulation 7, with the exception of mobile phones. Mobile phones carried on board shall be turned off and stowed at all times except in case of emergency or while flag AP is displayed.
9. During the ten minutes prior to the first scheduled warning signal of the day for any class, no coach boat shall be more than 100 m upwind of the starting line.
10. At the first warning signal for a race, coach boats shall retire to an area 50 meters to leeward of the starting line and its extensions. They shall remain there until after the last boat in the race has started, or until AP is displayed.
11. Coach boats shall stay outside of areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first fleet to start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment, unless otherwise instructed. Areas where boats are racing include everything within 100 meters of any boat racing (except a boat in distress requiring assistance), any mark, any rhumbline between marks, and the entire area inside a course trapezoid.



12. Between sequences of races or when all racing for that course area has been postponed or abandoned, coach boats may enter the racing area to service their athletes.

13. No item carried on board a coach boat shall protrude over the stern, bow or sides of the boat.

Comments, questions, and inquiries should be sent to Olympics@ussailing.org