Safety Equipment Requirements

Note: Organizing Authorities may add or delete items based on the conditions of their specific races.

Effective Date: January 1, 2027, version 2027.0 valid through December 31, 2028

Changes from the prior version are highlighted with red text

Multihull Version

1	Overall
1.0.3 Definition	Nearshore: Races primarily sailed during the day, close to shore, in relatively protected waters.
1.1	The Safety Equipment Requirements establish uniform minimum equipment and training standards for a variety of boats racing in differing conditions. These regulations do not replace, but rather supplement, the requirements of applicable local or national authority for boating, the Racing Rules of Sailing, the rules of Class Associations and any applicable rating rules.
1.2 Responsibility	The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the "person in charge", as per RRS 46, who shall ensure that the boat is seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew with sufficient ability and experience to face bad weather. S/he shall be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. S/he shall ensure that all safety equipment is at all times properly maintained and safely stowed and that the crew knows where it is kept and how it is to be used.
1.2.1 Responsibility, Investigations	Should there be an incident during a race the Organizing Authority or US Sailing may conduct an investigation to determine the facts of the incident and provide recommendations. By participating in a race conducted under the SER, the person in charge, each competitor and boat owner agrees to reasonably cooperate with the organizing authority and US Sailing in the development of an independent incident report.
1.3 Inspections	A boat may be inspected at any time by an equipment inspector or measurer appointed for the event. If she does not comply with these regulations, her entry may be rejected or she will be subject to a protest filed by the RC. A Violation of the Safety Equipment Requirements may result in a penalty other than disqualification.
1.4 Equipment and Knowledge	All equipment required shall function properly, be regularly checked, cleaned and serviced, not be beyond their expiration date and be of a type, size and capacity suitable for the intended use and size of the boat and the size of the crew. This equipment shall be readily accessible while underway and, when not in use, stored in such a way that deterioration is minimized.
1.5 Secure Storage	A boat's heavy items such as batteries, stoves, toolboxes, anchors, chain and internal ballast shall be secured.
1.7.1 Watertight Integrity	A boat's hulls and amas, including, deck, coach roof, windows, hatches and all other parts, shall form an integral watertight unit, and any openings in it shall be capable of being immediately secured to maintain this integrity. Centerboard and daggerboard trunks and the like shall not open to the interior of the hull unless the opening is watertight and situated entirely above the waterline floating level in normal trim.
1.9 Sailing without power	The crew of a boat must demonstrate that normal sailing functions (including but not limited to: raising and lowering sails; trimming sails; steering; raising and lowering dagger boards; positioning canting centerboards and moveable ballast; operating bilge pumps; rotating masts (if applicable); and deploying safety gear) can be performed in the event of a complete loss of power.

2	**Hull and Structure** **A boat shall have or be equipped with:**
2.8 Nets or Trampolines	All trampolines shall be (a) essentially horizontal; (b) Made from durable woven webbing, water permeable fabric or mesh with openings not larger than 2" (5cm) in any dimension. Attachment points shall avoid chafe and the junction between net and boat shall present no risk of foot trapping; (c) Solidly fixed at regular intervals on transverse and longitudinal support lines and (d) Able to carry the full weight of the crew either in normal working conditions at sea or when the boat is inverted.
2.9 Nets or Trampolines	Each multihull shall have one or a combination of netting, coamings, bulwarks, railings, lifelines or jacklines, extending from the aft most part of the cockpit or steering station to the aft most part of the central pulpit or forestay, to keep the crew aboard while sailing and sail handling in conditions expected for Offshore, Coastal or Inshore racing. If lifelines are used, they may be either stainless or HMPE with a minimum diameter of 3/16" (5mm), they must be taut, supported at distances of no greater than 87" (2.2 m), and be a minimum of 24" (762 mm) above the deck with a maximum vertical gap of 15" (381mm).
2.10 Nets or Trampolines	A trimaran with a single crossbeam shall have nets between the central hull and each outrigger on each side between two straight lines from the intersection of the crossbeam and the outrigger, respectively to the aft end of the pulpit on the central hull, and to the aftermost point of the cockpit or steering position on the central hull (whichever is furthest aft).
3	**Safety Equipment** **A boat shall have or be equipped with:**
3.1.3 Lifejackets	Each crewmember shall have a life jacket intended for small boat sailing or other active boating. Each such life jacket shall be USCG, ISO, or applicable government approved or shall meet the ocean requirement of 3.1.1.
3.1.4 Lifejacket Use	Lifejackets as described in 3.1.1 – 3.1.3 shall be worn by all crew on deck unless the person in charge has indicated that they may be set aside.
3.3.1 Navigation Lights	A boat racing between sunset and sunrise shall carry navigation lights that meet U. S. Coast Guard or applicable government requirements mounted so that they will not be obscured by the sails nor be located below deck level.
3.4 Fire Extinguishers	Fire extinguisher(s) that meets U.S. Coast Guard or applicable government requirements, when applicable.
3.5 Sound Producing Equipment	Sound-making devices that meets U.S. Coast Guard or applicable government requirements, when applicable.
3.6.6 Visual Distress Signals	Either U.S. Coast Guard (or applicable government entity) flares meeting day-night requirements not older than the expiration date OR one Electronic Visual Distress Signal Device ("eVDSD") to meet nighttime requirements marked EITHER as meeting "RTCM Standard 13200.0" or "Complies with U.S. Coast Guard Requirement in 46 CFR 161.013", PLUS to meet daytime requirement one orange distress flag marked "Complies with U.S. Coast Guard Requirement in 46 CFR 160.072."
3.7.3 Throw Line	A throwing sock-type heaving line of 50' (15m) or greater of floating polypropylene line readily accessible to the cockpit.
3.7.4 Throwable Device	A Coast Guard or applicable government approved "throwable device". If the device carried under 3.7.1 or 3.7.2 satisfies this requirement, then no additional device is needed.
3.8.3 VHF	A VHF radio which may be fixed or handheld.
3.19.1 Compass	A permanently mounted magnetic compass independent of the boat's electrical system suitable for steering at sea.
3.23 Anchor	One anchor, meeting the anchor manufacturer's recommendations based on the boat's size, with a suitable combination of chain and line.
3.24.3 Flashlights	At least two watertight flashlights with spare batteries in addition to the requirement of 3.24.1.

3.25 Medical Kits	A first aid kit and first aid manual suitable for the likely conditions of the passage and the number of crew aboard.
3.27.2 Bucket	One sturdy bucket of at least two gallons (8 liters) capacity with lanyards attached.
3.30 Spare Parts	Tools and spare parts, including an effective means to quickly disconnect or sever the standing rigging from the hull.
3.32.1 Cockpit Knife	At least one strong, sharp knife, sheathed and securely restrained on deck which is readily accessible from each trampoline in the event of inversion. In addition, a second knife meeting the requirements above which is accessible from the underside of the boat.
4	**Skills**
4.1.2 Emergency Steering	Crews must be aware of methods of steering the boat with the rudder disabled.
4.2 Man Overboard Practice	Annually, two-thirds of the boat's racing crew shall practice man-overboard procedures appropriate for the boat's size and speed. The practice shall consist of marking and returning to a position on the water, and demonstrating a method of hoisting a crewmember back on deck, or other consistent means of reboarding the crewmember.
4.4 Crew Training	As required in 1.2 above the person in charge shall ensure that all crew members know where all emergency equipment is located and how to operate the equipment. In addition, the person in charge and crew should discuss how to handle various emergency situations including Crew Overboard, Grounding, Loss of steering, Flooding, Fire, Dismasting, and Abandon Ship.
4.6 Crew Training	~~Lifejackets as described in 3.1.1 – 3.1.3 should be worn by all crew on deck in any conditions where recovery may be difficult. It is recommended that lifejackets **shall** be worn by all crew on deck unless the person in charge has indicated that they may be set aside.~~ Requirement has been revised and moved to 3.1.4