

# Proposal to Amend Rule 16 of the **INTERNATIONAL A CLASS CATAMARAN WORLD & EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP RULES 2017**

The Australian International A Division Catamaran Association (AIADCA) proposes that a motion be put at the next IACA General Meeting that,

*“Current Rule 16.1 and 16.2 is deleted, and Rule 16 is replaced with:*

## **RULE 16 RADIO COMMUNICATION**

*Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not freely available to all boats. [DP]”*

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### **Background and Rationale**

The use of devices to send and receive data is now a normal feature of our daily living and technological developments will see this become even more so. In the spirit of a development class, the A Class must move forward with new technology.

The wording proposed is a direct copy of the text used in the of the **Racing Rules of Sailing** Appendix K, Notice of Race Guide item 18, and Appendix L item 27, Sailing Instructions Guide, with the inclusion of the word “freely” as used in Rule 41.C of the RRS.

For reference RRS Rule 41 reads thus:

#### **41 OUTSIDE HELP**

A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except

- (a) help for a crew member who is ill, injured or in danger;
- (b) after a collision, help from the crew of the other vessel to get clear;
- (c) help in the form of information freely available to all boats;**
- (d) unsolicited information from a disinterested source, which may be another boat in the same race.

World Sailing has made specific explanations of Rule 41(c) in **The Case Book for 2017 – 2020 Interpretations of the Racing Rules** – Case 120.

### **Interpretation**

The wording proposed clearly and rightly endorses the use of voice and data communication for emergencies and safety. It also allows the receipt of voice and data transmissions if these are freely available to all boats. Such data would obviously include GPS signals and freely available internet data. World Sailing Case Book Case 120 makes a moderately detailed explanation of the interpretation of “freely available”, and would thus in conjunction with Rule 41, form the basis of any interpretation by a Jury, Protest Committee or A-Class Technical Committee.

Also of note is that we have avoided trying to describe types of device. Whether it’s a radio, GPS tracker, smart phone, smart watch or other device, is actually irrelevant. What is important is, as the RRS refers to is, “voice and data transmissions”. The proposed new rule with the RRS sets out a framework for competitors to receive data whilst racing that is explicitly inline with the current approach of World Sailing.

Paul Neeskens. President AIADCA. 21 April 2020.