SUPPORT PERSONS REGULATIONS (SPR)

Version September 2025

1. General

1.1. These Support Persons Regulations (SPR) apply at all times while support persons are at the event venue, ashore, in the racing area or on their way to or from the racing area.

1.2. These Support Persons Regulations apply from 0800 on “venue opens” date to 1800 on “venue closes” date, as stated in the Notice of Race/Sailing Instructions.

1.3. For the purpose of these regulations 'support person vessel' means any vessel that is under the control or direction of a person who does or may provide physical or advisory support to a competitor, including the collection of data that may be used at a later time.

1.4. The Organizing Authority may inspect support person vessels at any time to ensure that they comply with these regulations, and the person responsible for the vessel shall facilitate such inspection.

1.5. The Organizing Authority may change these regulations at any time. Any changes will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

1.6. The Organizing Authority may, at its discretion, refuse to register support person vessels not deemed to be suitable. Generally, open vessels more than 4.0m and less than 6.5m in length and having minimal or no superstructure (cabin, coach house, bridge, etc.) are considered suitable.

1.7. Support persons, support person vessels and designated drivers shall be registered with the Organizing Authority by 1800 hours on the day before the first race, or as outlined in the Notice of Race/Sailing Instructions.

1.7.1. Each support person vessel shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance as specified in the Notice of Race/Sailing Instructions.

1.7.2. Only accredited support persons may be designated drivers.

1.7.3. The person registering the support person vessel shall confirm that:

a) a valid insurance certificate showing proof of third-party liability coverage as required by the Notice of Race / Sailing Instructions exists.

b) each designated driver has a driving license recognized by a national authority appropriate to that vessel and the shipping waters; and

c) anyone who will be using a radio has an appropriate radio operation license recognized by a national authority.

1.8. Support person vessels are permitted to carry one or more support persons from other competing Member National Authorities (MNAs) that do not have a registered support person vessel for that Event.

1.9. Support person vessels shall be marked with the applicable MNA codes clearly displayed on both sides of the vessel in strongly contrasting colours and other identification, if provided by the Organizing Authority, at all times while afloat. The minimum height for the letters shall be 200mm. The letters will not be provided by the Organizing Authority.

2. Venue

2.1. Support person vessels shall use the designated slipway/area for launching. Once launched, trailers shall be moved immediately to the trailer park or as otherwise directed by the Organizing Authority.

2.2. Only registered support person vessels will be allowed into the venue.

2.3. When not in use, support person vessels shall be appropriately berthed at the event venue in the allocated areas for support vessels for the entire time that these STR apply.

2.4. Support person vessels shall not be berthed in front of the launching area.

3. Safety

3.1. The engine safety cut out switch and tether (kill chord) shall be securely attached to the driver at all times when the engine is running.

3.2. Support person vessels shall carry on board:

a) life jackets / buoyancy aid for all passengers and the driver;
b) first-aid kit;
c) VHF radio which shall be used only as permitted by STR 7.2;
d) device for making sound signals;
e) adequate anchor and tackle for conditions and depth;
f) tow rope (minimum 15m long and 10mm thick);
g) operational engine safety cut out switch and tether (kill chord), also known as a safety lanyard or automatic engine immobilizer;
h) hand pump and bailer;
i) knife; and
j) any additional safety equipment required by local maritime law.

3.3. The maximum plated/certified passenger limits for the support person vessel shall not be exceeded.

3.4. Team leaders are responsible for overseeing the safe operation of their support person vessels on the water, including knowledge of who is afloat and ensuring their safe return to the venue.

3.5. At all times, support persons including the registered driver(s) of a support person vessel shall comply with directions given by or under the authority of a Race Official. This includes assisting in rescue operations when requested to do so.

3.6. Support person vessels shall comply with local harbor and marina regulations, in particular speed limits.

4. Afloat

4.1. The registered driver(s) of a support person vessel will be responsible for the control of the vessel at all times and will be held responsible for any inappropriate behavior, dangerous actions or improper practices, or actions affecting the fairness or safety of competition.

4.2. Support persons shall not leave any device, piece of 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.

4.3. The Race Committee may communicate race and safety information to support person vessels in English. The VHF channel used will be published in the Local Sailing Instructions.

4.4. The VHF radio permitted in STR 3.2 shall be monitored while afloat and may only be used:

- for any safety related communications;

- to receive information from the race management team; or
- for general communication in and out of the venue.

4.5 Unless otherwise instructed by the Race Committee, support person vessels shall remain at least 150m to leeward of the starting line and starting marks and extensions, from the moment the orange flag is displayed and while wingfoils are racing.

4.6 Support person vessels shall proceed around the Race Area in such a way to minimise the effect their wash on wingfoils racing and official vessels. Except in an emergency, they shall restrict their speed to 5 knots.

4.7 When the race committee displays flag V, all support person vessels shall follow the instructions given by the Race Committee.

5. Drones

The use of drones, similar flying devices and other remote-controlled objects is prohibited.

6. Towing

Support person vessels shall not tow competitors.