

Rules Specialist Group 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing

Outside Assistance

Issued 10 February 2021

[Background](#)

We are a small country sailing club.

We currently have an issue with some members wanting to use a mobile app called RaceQ's.

On first look we (the race committee) considered if individuals used it and only they could see it, it would be no different to say a depth sounder or chart plotter. But now they want to broadcast it with all users displayed. It has been suggested that the broadcast may be delayed by 5 minutes, but we are yet to confirm that.

We have seen there are now chart plotters and phone apps on the market that will allow you to set the start line and then it will show you where the start line is, how far away it is and how long you need to get there! Which is bad enough but apparently RaceQ's can show competitors your data as well.

[Question 1](#)

How do we define "outside help"?

[Answer 1](#)

We refer you to World Sailing Case 120 which discusses rule 41 and, in particular, rule 41(c).

<https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/cases/120>

[Question 2](#)

Our Club sailing instructions include the following:

"23.2 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 available to all boats"

Would the use of an app such as described in Question 1 breach this sailing instruction?

[Answer 2](#)

Yes.

All such apps rely on the transmission of data which, unless all boats are using the same system, is specifically prohibited by the wording of the SI.

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The RSG notes that, as this SI is a change to a rule, such changes need to be carried out in accordance with rule 85 and more correct wording would be:

"23.2 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 available to all boats. This changes rule 41."

John Standley

Chair

On behalf of Australian Sailing Rules Specialist Group

9th February 2021