

Special Regulations Interpretation 2

2013-2016 Special Regulations - Tethers

Issued 16 December 2013

Question:

Can Yachting Australia please confirm the intention and interpretation of Special Regulation 5.02 with respect to the requirement in 5.02.2 for Categories 1 and 2?

Answer:

The intent of SR 5.02.2 is to ensure at least 30% of the crew have tethers that provide the extra requirement of being able to hook on with a tether not longer than 1 metre. The intent of SR 5.02.2 is not for a boat to carry extra tethers exceeding the number of crew members onboard.

Issue:

In response to the example and specific questions raised by Yachting NSW, when considering a crew of 10, and subject to the tethers meeting all the other requirements of SR 5.02:

- a. 10 x '2-hook' (not more than 2 metre tethers) plus 3 x '3-hook' mid-point tethers – Satisfies and Exceeds SR 5.02
- b. 7 x '2-hook' (not more than 2 metre tethers) plus 3 x '3-hook' mid-point tethers – Satisfies SR 5.02
- c. 7 x '2-hook' (not more than 2 metre tethers) plus 3 x 'twin' tethers – Satisfies SR 5.02
- d. 7 x '2-hook' (not more than 2 metre tethers) plus 3 x tethers not more than 1 metre – Does not Satisfy SR 5.02
- e. 10 x '2-hook' (not more than 2 metre tethers) plus 3 x tethers not more than 1 metre – Satisfies SR 5.02
- f. 10 x '3-hook' mid-point tethers – Satisfies and Exceeds SR 5.02
- g. 10 x 'twin' tethers – Satisfies and Exceeds SR 5.02
- h. 10 x '3-hook' tethers plus 3 x any other tethers – Satisfies and Exceeds SR 5.02
- i. 10 x 'twin' tethers plus 3 x any other tethers – Satisfies and Exceeds SR 5.02

Background:

The tether and harness are essential pieces of safety equipment for prevention of man overboard (MOB). It is mandatory that tethers and harnesses be manufactured to comply with AS2227 or equivalent international standard.

An additional tether or snap hook makes it possible to move about the boat whilst keeping a constant point of attachment to the yacht. People, who regularly move about the yacht, such as to the foredeck and mast areas, use this type of tether. The 1 metre line is also preferred by some helms people to keep them close to the helm-station.

The Special Regulations require that for Category 1 and 2 races 30% of crew has an ability to be attached to the boat with two tethers not exceeding 1 metre and 2 metre. A list of allowable ways to meet the two tether requirement is included at SR 5.02.2.

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