

Special Regulations Interpretation

2017-2021 Special Regulations – Incident Reporting Criteria

Issued 17 July 2020

1. Question:

What are the criteria of an incident that should be reported to Australian Sailing under [Special Regulation 2.02.5](#)?

2. Answer:

Any accident or serious boat or equipment failure that results in any of the following, and when the report may improve safety and reduce the likelihood of a recurrence:

- A fatality or serious injury. A serious injury may be a person needing resuscitation at the time, or hospitalisation for treatment.
- Catastrophic failure of or damage to the boat such as loss of keel, the hull breaking apart or the boat sinking.
- A significant failure of safety and risk management systems at the club which results in worsening the impact of the accident.
- Significant reputational damage to the club, class or sport. This usually means the public or media are aware of and critical of the accident.
- Search and Rescue (SAR) authorities' response to emergency beacon activation or mayday radio call.
- A near miss of any of the above. A near miss is considered as an incident where no property was damaged and no personal injury was sustained, but where given a slight shift in time or position catastrophic damage and/or serious injury easily could have occurred.

Each of these criteria are the considerations that will help the organising authority determine whether to report an incident, but they are not exhaustive. The criteria presented can still result in uncertainty as to whether an incident should be reported, and an organising authority will need to use its judgement.

3. Issue:

Clubs are motivated to review and learn from significant incidents when it is reasonable that they do so because it benefits the club and the sailing community.

There are no prescribed criteria that invoke the application of SR 2.02.5. Clubs have asked what sort of incident should be reported.

4. Background:

There has been variation in what incidents are reported. Clubs have sought advice on the issue.

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