

Gulf Yachting Association Multihull Council

Safety Recommendations

revised 08.31.2012 from 10.26.11AR

Preface:

These recommendations are meant to serve as a planning guide for race organizers and are not requirements for eligibility except as deemed by an Organizing Authority for a particular event or by a Class Association. These recommendations include applications for both catamarans and trimarans, and are not meant to conflict with United States Coast Guard Regulations for any size vessel.

1 Responsibility

1.01 The Safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the owner, or owner's representative who must do his/her best to ensure that the yacht is fully sound, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate training and are physically fit to face bad weather. He/She must be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. He/She must ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used.

1.02 Neither the establishment of these Special Recommendations, their use by race organizers, nor the inspection of a yacht under these Recommendations in any way limits or reduces the complete and unlimited responsibility of the owner or owner's representative.

2 Classification

2.01 Category 2 (*Port to Port Racing along or across coastal waters at night*)

Races of extended duration along or not far removed from shorelines, from island to island, or in large unprotected bays or lakes, where a high degree of self-sufficiency is required of the yachts

2.02 Category 3 (*Distance Bay Racing into open waters and back during daylight*)

Races across open water, most of which is relatively protected or close to shorelines, including races for small yachts

2.03 Category 4 (*Inshore Racing or closed course Buoy Racing*)

Short races, close to shore, normally using drop marks or government marks

3 Inspection

A yacht may be inspected in accordance with the Notice of Race published by the Organizing Authority for that event or by the USCG.

4 General Requirements

All equipment should...

- a) function properly
- b) be regularly checked, cleaned, and serviced
- c) when not in use be stowed in conditions in which deterioration is minimised
- d) be readily accessible
- e) be of a type, size, and capacity suitable and adequate for the intended use and size of the yacht

5 Category Requirements

In addition to required USCG safety equipment, the owner **should** provide, but not be limited to...

5.01 Category 2 (*Port to Port Racing along or across coastal waters at night*)

5.01 (b) Synthetic trapeze wires are allowed.

5.01 (c) The yacht **should** have on board the following...

Marine Compass	Righting Line at least 8 mm in diameter - beach cats
Adequate drinking water	Navigational charts and devices for safe piloting
Adequate food, energy bars, and snacks to maintain crew stamina	Tools and spare parts including a knife for each crewmember
First Aid kit	VHF radio receiver (2 suggested) rated submersible and floats
GPS - rated submersible	Water resistant flashlights with spare batteries
Cell phone or satellite phone (sealed)	One hand held flare and PLB for each crewmember
EPIRB or Personal Locator Beacon	Tether for each crewmember *

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* Tether specific recommendation:

Each crewmember shall have a tether that attaches them to the boat while sailing including while on the trapeze. These tethers shall have quick disconnect hardware that can be operated with one hand to release the tether from the crew's trapeze harness or dedicated harness.

5.03 Category 4 (*Inshore Racing or closed course Buoy Racing*)

The yacht shall be sailed in accordance with Class Rules, and the crew should be prepared for extended and rigorous, competitive sailing.