
SMALL BOAT SAFETY REGULATIONS

On 1 January 2008 ISAF introduced Category 6 Special Regulations for Inshore Races. As is the case with all special regulations, Category 6 will apply only when specified in the notice of race for an event. Competitors should be aware that the regulations may be invoked for events for all sizes of dinghy, from an Optimist upwards, and for day racing and similar keelboats.

Amongst other things, these regulations require boats to carry the following:

- A personal flotation device (PFD) for each person aboard to ISO 12402-5 -Level 50 or equivalent.
- A knife.
- If the hull is not self-draining or is able to carry more than 150 litres of free water, a bucket or bailer of not less than 1 litre capacity.
- If a trapeze harness is carried it shall be to ISO DIS 10862. DIS means Draft International Standard. It is hoped that the standard will be finalised during 2009.
- A paddle or means of propelling the boat when not under sail.

There are two associated changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing for 2009-2012:

- All references to 'personal buoyancy' are replaced by 'personal flotation device' so that the terminology complies with the ISO standard quoted above, and
- 2005 rule 40.2 is deleted. The specification for a trapeze or hiking harness to have a quick release device is now in the quoted standard.

The full Category 6 Special Regulations can be downloaded at <http://www.sailing.org/21782.php>
