



RS Feva (UK) Association Code of Conduct (Revised January 2017)

It is the policy of the RS Feva (UK) Association that all participants, coaches, instructors, officials, parents and volunteers show respect and understanding of each other, treat everyone equally within the context of the sport and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club/class. The aim for all participants to enjoy their sport and to improve performance.

Abusive language, swearing, intimidation, aggressive behaviour, or lack of respect for other and their property will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action.

Participants (sailors) will:

- Listen to and accept what you are asked to do to improve your performance and keep you safe.
- Respect other participants, coaches, instructors, officials and volunteers.
- Abide by the rules and play fairly.
- Do your best at all times.
- Never bully others in person, by phone, text or online.
- Take care of all property belonging to others.

Parents will:

- Support your child's involvement in the sport.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force your child to participate.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Encourage and guide your child to accept responsibility for their own conduct and performance.
- Respect and support the coach.
- Accept officials' judgements and recognise good performance by all individuals.
- Use established procedures when there is a genuine concern or dispute.
- Inform the Association or event organisers of relevant medical information.
- Ensure your child wears suitable clothing and has appropriate food and drink.
- Provide contact details and be available when required.
- Take responsibility for your child's safety and conduct at all times.
- Lead by example and behave appropriately.
- Abide by the RYA Racing Rules Guidance for Support Persons (see Appendix A).

Coaches, Instructors, Officials and volunteers will:

- Consider the welfare and safety of participants before the development of performance.
- Encourage participants to value their performance and not just results.
- Promote fair play and never condone cheating.
- Ensure that all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part.
- Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect.
- Work in an open environment.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with young people.
- Be an excellent role model and display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Not drink alcohol or smoke when working directly with young people.
- Communicate clearly with parents and participants.
- Avoid one-to-one situations with a child.
- Be aware of any relevant medical information.
- Follow RYA and RS Feva (UK) Association guidelines and policies.
- Always report any concerns about the welfare of a child to the RS Feva Welfare Officer.
- Holders of RYA Instructor and Coach qualifications must also comply with the RYA Code of Conduct.
- Holders of RYA Race Official appointments must also comply with the RYA Race Officials Code of Conduct.

If you are concerned that someone is not following the Code of Conduct, you should inform the RS Feva (UK) Welfare Officer or the person in charge of the activity.

Appendix A:

RYA RACING RULES GUIDANCE

SUPPORT PERSONS

'*Support person*' has been introduced as a defined term in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020 (RRS). This definition includes a parent or guardian, a coach, a medical or paramedical practitioner, a boat maintainer, a personal assistant to a disabled competitor or any other person working with or assisting the sailor to prepare for or compete in a race.

Rule 3 requires a *support person*, including a parent or guardian of a competitor that is racing, to accept the rules. It requires also that the competitors agree that any *support person* is bound by the rules. Acceptance of the rules includes acceptance by a *support person* of any penalty imposed or other action taken under the rules, as well as of the protest, appeal and review systems provided for in the rules.

Additionally, the RYA has prescribed that 'Each competitor and boat owner shall ensure that their *support persons* comply with the *rules*.'

A support person is not permitted to protest, nor will the race committee or protest committee consider protesting a boat as a result of information from a support person, unless there was serious damage or injury as a result of the alleged incident.

While racing, a boat is generally not permitted to receive help from an outside source, including from any *support person*.

As well as providing a set of rules that apply on the water, the RRS requires every competitor and *support person*, at all times, not to breach good manners, good sportsmanship or indulge in unethical behaviour, and to avoid conduct that may bring the sport into disrepute.

The Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions (SIs) for a particular series of races may also place specific restrictions and requirements on the actions of both competitor and *support person*, on and off the water.

If the protest committee learns of a possible breach of a rule by a *support person* through any source, including the Race Committee, it may call a hearing under rule 60.3(d).

If the protest committee finds that a rule has been broken, it can issue a warning, remove any privileges or exclude the *support person* from the event or club. It could also penalise a competitor by time or scoring penalties or a race disqualification if the competitor has gained an advantage or has been previously warned that a repeat of the *support person's* actions may result in a penalty.

Examples of actions of a support person that could lead to a hearing are:

- Abusing or pressurising race officials, volunteers or other competitors or support persons (rule 69 and/or SIs)
- Assisting a competitor (unless ill, injured or in danger) in any way after the preparatory signal (rule 41)
- Failing to follow support boat regulations (SIs)