

SUPPORT PERSON

Any person who

- (a) provides, or may provide, physical or advisory support to a competitor, including any coach, trainer, manager, team staff, medic, paramedic or any other person working with, treating or assisting a competitor in or preparing for the competition, or
- (b) is the parent or guardian of a competitor.

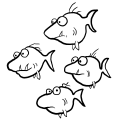
This definition, along with several other rules, brings a *support person* under the jurisdiction of the *rules*. This permits protest committees to call a hearing to consider whether a *support person* has broken a *rule* (see rule 62.1, Support Persons), and to penalize a *support person* as well as the boat being supported (see rules 62.3 and 62.4).

Furthermore, rule 4.1(b) (Acceptance of the Rules) states, “(b) A *support person* by providing support, or a parent or guardian by permitting their child to enter an event, agrees to accept the *rules*.” And rule 4.3(d) states, “Acceptance of the *rules* includes agreement by each competitor and boat owner to ensure that their *support persons* are aware of the *rules*.”

Note that rule 1.1 (Helping Those in Danger) states, “A boat, competitor or *support person* shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.” Furthermore, *support persons* must comply with applicable World Sailing Regulations (see rule 6, World Sailing Regulations).

The primary misconduct rule is Rule 69.1(a) (Misconduct: Obligation not to Commit Misconduct; Resolution). It states, “(a) A competitor, boat owner or *support person* shall not commit an act of misconduct. (b) Misconduct is: (1) conduct that is a breach of good manners, a breach of good sportsmanship, or unethical behaviour; or (2) conduct that may bring, or has brought, the sport into disrepute.”

“Does that mean that if I am racing, I am responsible for making sure my parents and coaches know the rules; and I can be disqualified if someone supporting me breaks a rule?”



Yes and Yes! You are in effect an “agent” for your support people, as well as your crew and boat owner (see rule 4.4, Acceptance of the Rules), and as such you are required to not only make sure they know the *rules*, but that they follow the *rules*. Rule 62.4 (Support Persons) states, “In addition, if the protest committee decides that (a) a boat may have gained a competitive advantage as the result of the breach by the *support person*, or (2) the *support person* committed a further breach after the protest committee warned the boat in writing, following a previous hearing, that a penalty may be imposed, then the protest committee may also penalize a boat that is a *party* to a hearing for the breach of a *rule* by a *support person* by changing the boat’s score in a single race, up to and including disqualification.”