

June 22, 2018

RE: US1M Class Rule Interpretation on Telemetry

After my request for input regarding the use of First-Person Video (FPV) and related telemetry technology in the class "News & Tips" column in the last issue of Model Yachting, I have heard from the clubs who are, or may be, hosting upcoming RCR's and NCR's about this technology creating an "uneven playing field". To allow all members of the class to vote on the direction the class is headed, I intend to propose a rule change in the next AMYA class rule making cycle that would limit telemetry to only boat safety issues, not to help the skipper drive the boat. However, the next cycle begins in April of next year and it will be late into the year before the results are known, well after at least the next NCR and several RCR's. Since this issue is so important to the future of the class and has created such unease with some of the hosting clubs, as Class Secretary, I have issued a temporary rule interpretation as follows;

"Until such time as the class may vote to allow otherwise, Class Rule 5.1 - Radio Control, that states, "four functions maximum" is interpreted to mean the only radio communications permitted are from the skipper's transmitter to the skipper's boat, with the following exception. Transmissions from the boat to the skipper, for the safety of the skipper's boat and other other boats on the course, are permitted, but limited to only the state of the boat's battery charge, however derived, the presence of excessive water in the boat and the strength of the transmitter/receiver link. All other transmissions from the boat to the skipper, from any source or in any form, such as video, are expressly prohibited. This interpretation takes effect immediately and applies to all National Championship Regattas and Regional Championship Regattas, but may be waived at club level competitions at the organizing club's discretion."

With their local clubs approval, this will allow the proponents to continue to explore the technology, but maintains a level playing field at the regional and national level competitions until the class expresses its will on the issue.

Steve Vaczovsky
US1M Class Secretary