



Questions and Answers about NOR 14.3, as amended, and rule 41(c)

Rule 41(c), Outside Help

Amendment No. 3 to the Notice of Race for 2025 Transpacific Yacht Race interprets ‘*Information freely available*’ in rule 41(c) to be information that may be easily obtained by all boats in a race even though there may be a cost, such as a monthly or annual or per use subscription fee, associated with obtaining that information.

Rule 41(c) allows “information freely available to all boats” but this does not include specific weather or routing advice customized for a particular boat or a group of boats. The NOR amendment allows this information provided it is also “easily obtained by all boats” meaning “the information is available from a source the competitors can be reasonably expected to be aware of and can locate with little effort.” An example of information located with little effort is information found near the top of an internet search using a widely-used internet search program. Information is not “freely available” if it becomes available so close to the start of a race that competitors do not have a reasonable time to find and familiarize themselves with it. For example, a competitor cannot arrange for data to be posted just before a race, with other competitors not having the time to find and familiarize themselves with the data.

Question 1: Does a boat break rule 41(c), as amended by the Transpac 2025 NOR, including Amendment No. 3, if they use:

- a) A mobile phone or satellite communications system to access the internet for which they pay a communications fee and,
- b) A weather analysis and routing program purchased for use onboard during the race and,
- c) Weather data that is downloaded during the race from a for-fee subscription service. The weather data is available to any boat which has purchased the weather data subscription.

Answer to Question 1: No, the boat does not break rule 41(c). The data used is freely available.

Question 2: Does a boat break rule 41(c), as amended by the Transpac 2025 NOR, including Amendment No. 3, if they use:

- a) A mobile phone or satellite communications system to access the internet for which they pay a communications fee and,
- b) A service via the internet that provides routes for the boat which are customized for the boat’s location and the boat’s characteristics or performance capability. The routing service is available to any boat in the race, customized for the location and characteristics or performance capability of any boat.

Answer to Question 2: Yes, the boat breaks 41(c). The boat downloads and uses weather or routing advice customized for that boat.

Question 3: Does a boat break rule 41(c), as amended by the Transpac 2025 NOR, including Amendment No. 3, if they use:

- a) A mobile phone or satellite communications system to access the internet for which they pay a communications fee.
- b) A \$15,000 per race subscription to a service which provides very high-quality weather data, including high-resolution satellite imagery on which every squall can be seen and tracked. The subscription is available to any boat which wishes to subscribe and the information and imagery is not customized for the particular boat.

Answer to Question 3: No, the boat does not break rule 41(c). The data they use is freely available, although expensive. If other boats subscribed to the service, they would receive the same data.

Question 4: Does a boat break rule 41(c), as amended by the Transpac 2025 NOR, including Amendment No. 3, if they use:

- a) A mobile phone or satellite communications system to access the internet for which they pay a communications fee and,
- b) A weather analysis and charting program purchased for use onboard during the race and,
- c) AIS data received by satellites from vessels, including other competitors in the race, forwarded by a for-fee subscription service. The AIS data may include position, course, speed, and time the AIS data was received by the satellite. The AIS data is available to any boat which has purchased the AIS data subscription.

Answer to Question 4: No, the boat does not break rule 41(c). The data used is freely available.