Question 1:
If a competitor has become separated from their boat, would the boat risk being in breach of RRS 41 if a safety or coach boat intervened either by recovering the competitor from the water and returning them to their boat or by placing themselves between incoming boats and the competitor.

Answer 1:
A competitor in the water is in danger, and therefore help to remove the competitor from danger is permitted under RRS 41(a).

Question 2:
RRS 41 states that a competitor who receives a significant advantage from help received under RRS 41(a) may be protested and penalised. How would the IJ consider if a boat had gained a significant advantage?

Answer 2:
If the help given continues after the sailor is no longer in danger, this continuing help would break RRS 41, and would result in a penalty if there is a protest.

For example, if a sailor has been rescued from the water by the safety RIB, and the sailor’s boat is able to return to where the safety RIB is, but instead the safety RIB progresses forwards along the leg to catch up with the sailor’s boat, this would be outside help that is more than what is permitted under RRS 41(a).

Question 3:
Are there any other rules that the IJ would require to consider for the scenario outlined in Question 1.

Answer 3:
Yes. SI 25.1 and the SBR require team leaders, coaches and other support personnel to be at least 100m from a boat racing. However these rules do not apply during rescue operations. A sailor who has become separated from his boat is in danger and intervening to protect him would be considered a rescue operation.

Yoann Peronneau
Chair, International Jury