

**THE INTERNATIONAL**  
**SEARCH AND RESCUE COMPETITION**  
**RULES AND GUIDELINES**

**AGREED TO BY THE**  
**CANADIAN COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**  
**AND**  
**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

**EFFECTIVE**  
**April 2007**

**THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE COMPETITION**  
**RULES AND GUIDELINES**

**The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) do hereby agree to the following rules and guidelines to be followed during the annual International Search and Rescue Competition between the two organizations:**

1. **GENERAL:** Each year there shall be an International SAR Competition (ISAR) held among teams from the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary involving events containing common SAR tasks to determine an International and two National Champions. Additionally during the Annual ISAR Competition, Can-Am Games will be held and a Winner, Can-Am Games determined.

2. **SELECTION OF THE ANNUAL SITE AND DATES:**

a. **SITE:** The site of the Annual ISAR Competition shall be alternated between Canada and the United States with the CCGA hosting during the odd numbered years and the USCGAUX hosting during the even numbered years. The actual site selection will be at the discretion of the host organization; i.e., CCGA or USCGAUX.

b. **RESPONSIBILITY:**

(1) General: The organization designated by the USCGAUX or CCGA; either the USCGAUX ISAR Committee or CCGA Region, as the Annual Host shall be fully responsible for all matters pertaining to the planning, staffing, funding, selection of the competition events, except for the Mystery events (See below in paragraph 3.d), and conduct of that year's ISAR Competition unless prior arrangements are established between the USCGAUX and CCGA; such as, joint fundraising, maintaining a joint ISAR website, etc. Coordination and consultation with the other organization's ISAR representatives should be accomplished as necessary and on an on-going basis.

(2) Competition Events: The Annual Host organization of the CCGA or the USCGAUX will be responsible for designating and providing the Chief, Competition Events in those ISAR Competitions in which they are designated as the Annual Host. The other organization, CCGA or USCGAUX, will be responsible for designating and providing the Deputy Chief, Competition Events. The persons designated may be either a member of the CCGA, CCG, USCGAUX, or USCG.

(3) Safety: The Annual Host is responsible for the safety of all competitors and shall take due care to ensure their safety.

c. **DATES:** The date of ISAR will normally be during the period 1 October to 15 November.

- d. **UTILIZATION OF CONFERENCE HOTEL:** In order to take advantage of the discounts negotiated through contracts with the selected ISAR hotel and to ensure these contracts are not breached, all participants living outside the ISAR host city, including judges and event coordinators in the ISAR Competition will be required to stay at the hotel(s) that is (are) designated as “Official” or “Overflow” hotel by the organizers. In addition, all CCGA/USCGA and CCG/USCG personnel on approved travel orders must stay at the “Official” or “Overflow” hotel to be reimbursed for hotel accommodations.

3. **ISAR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:**

a. **TEAM SELECTION:**

- 1.) Six US and six Canadian teams will compete. The twelve teams will consist of the following:
  - a.) CCGA — One team from each region and one team (Team Canada) composed of one member each from four of the CCGA regional associations (each year one region will not send an additional competitor)
  - b.) USCGAUX — Two teams from each of the three USCGAUX areas.
- 2.) Each team shall consist of four members, one of which shall be designated as Team Captain. For the USCGAUX, all members must be at least currently crew qualified.
- 3.) For the ISAR Championship Events, each team shall compete with three team members. One member shall be selected from each team by the ISAR Host to participate in the Can-Am Games.
- 4.) Four Can-Am teams will be selected during the Team Briefing prior to the competition. The teams shall be chosen at random from the members of the six CCGA teams and six USCGAUX teams. One member (the designated Team Captain) from each team shall be excluded from selection for the Can-Am teams. From these twelve Auxiliarists, four Can Am Teams of three participants each will be created. Each Can-Am team shall consist of no more than two Auxiliarists from the USCGAUX or CCGA.
- 5.) The rosters, including the identification of the Team Captain and full contact information on each member, to include full names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e mail addresses as well as jacket and shirt sizes, shall be provided to the Host Chairman and Chief, Competition Events, not later than 30 July for that year’s ISAR competition. Team member substitutions shall be allowed after that date, but they should be held to a minimum and timely notice given to the Host Chairman and Chief, Competition Events.
- 6.) Final team rosters shall be provided to the Chief, Competition Events, prior to the start of the Team Briefing. This roster shall serve as the official listing of who competed and shall be utilized for determination of eligibility for future ISAR Competition (See Two Year Rule below).

**b. ELIGIBILITY FOR TEAM MEMBERS:**

- 1.) All team members shall meet any and all requirements established by their Auxiliary (USCGAUX or CCGA).
- 2.) “Two Year Rule.” No team member shall compete in two or more ISAR Competitions or Can-Am Games within three consecutive competitions either as one of the 3 members in the International Championship or Can-Am Games Competition. You must sit out 2 years before you are eligible again to compete. (This means that for the 2005 competition, all team members shall have not competed as a team member at either the 2003 Newfoundland or Portsmouth 2004 ISAR competitions.) Competing in regional or area competitions do not count as competing in “ISAR Competition.”
- 3.) Any team that is found to have a member who is in violation of the “Two Year Rule” shall forfeit any points accrued in the events in which the ineligible member participated.
- 4.) A team member who is a current member in good standing of the USCGAUX or CCGA and who is also a member/employee of the Coast Guard, active or Reserve, or who is a member of the armed forces shall be able to compete as long as they meet all other ISAR requirements. A maximum of one member/employee of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces can be on any team.

**c. TEAMS REQUIRING SPARES:**

- 1.) In the event of injury or illness of an ISAR district/regional team member competing in the ISAR Championship, that team’s member shall be recalled from the Can-Am team to participate as the replacement.
- 2.) Once the competition begins, any team member may only be replaced due to injury or illness at the discretion of the Chief, Competition Events and Vice Chief, Competition Events.

**d. ISAR CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS:**

- 1.) The Annual ISAR Championship competition shall consist of six to nine separate events for the six USCGAUX and six CCGA teams. These events, except for the Mystery Event, shall be selected from SAR related tasks that are common to both organizations.
- 2.) Emphasis shall be placed to avoid unique procedures, terms, or tasks in any event that are common to only one organization. To achieve this, the procedures, terms, and scenarios used for each event shall be coordinated and agreed upon well in advance of the competition by the Chief and Vice Chief, Competition Events.
- 3.) In cases where equipment to be used is not common to both organizations, i.e., SAR pump, operating instructions shall be disseminated well in advance and an opportunity, if feasible, made to allow the equipment to be operated the day prior to the competition by any teams upon their request.
- 4.) At least one event will be selected as “The Mystery Event” and held in secrecy by the National Commodore, Chief Executive Officer, ISAR Host

Chairman, and Chief, Competition Events until the Team Briefing at the ISAR Competition each year. The Mystery Event may be a SAR related task or otherwise as the National Commodore and Chief Executive agree.

- 5.) Written and verbal instructions used for each event shall be in both English and French. French speaking interpreters will be provided for all French speaking teams.

e. **SCORING OF EVENTS:**

- 1.) Each of the ISAR Championship Events shall be scored using a Thirteen Point System. First place shall receive one extra point and shall be worth 13 points, second place 11 points, third place 10 points, descending until the twelfth place team receives one point. All points scored by a team on the various events shall count toward selection of the National Champion and International Champion.
- 2.) If an event is cancelled for any reason, the selection shall be made from the results of the events held.
- 3.) Individual team scores shall not be divulged or made public.

f. **SELECTION OF THE ISAR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION:**

- 1.) The National Champions shall be selected by totaling up the scores achieved on the six to nine events by the USCGAUX or CCGA teams. The team from each country with the highest score will be declared the National Champion of their respective country.
- 2.) The International Champion shall be the National Champion with the highest total score.
- 3.) In the event of a tie for National and/or International Champion, the team with the highest score on the Mystery Event will be declared the National and/or International Champion.

g. **AWARDS:**

- 1.) Members of the USCGAUX and CCGA teams that achieve the highest score on each event shall each be awarded a trophy, plaque or other appropriate award.
- 2.) All four members of the USCGAUX and CCGA team, including the alternate team member even if they competed in the Can-Am Games, declared the National Champion and/or International Champion shall each be awarded a “keeper” trophy, plaque or other appropriate award.
- 3.) The district/regional team declared the International and/or National Champion shall have their name inscribed on the perpetual trophy. The names of all four team members shall be inscribed on the trophy.

4. **CAN-AM GAMES:**

a. **SELECTION OF TEAM MEMBERS:**

- 1.) See paragraph 3.a. 4.) above for procedures to be used in selecting Can-Am teams.
- 2.) The provisions of paragraph 3. b above shall apply for eligibility rules.
- 3.) See paragraph 3.c above for recall of a Can-Am team member to fill a vacancy in the regional/district team in the ISAR Championship competition.
- 4.) When a vacancy occurs in a Can-Am team for any reason, a replacement shall be chosen by a random drawing by the Chief, Competition Events, from any volunteers that may be present. The Games Chairman shall give priority to respective District/Region members that are present and who volunteer as a replacement.

b. **CAN-AM GAMES EVENTS:**

- 1.) The Can/Am Teams shall compete in five to seven separate events and return to their ISAR Teams to compete with them in the “Mystery Event”
- 2.) The provisions of paragraph 3. d. 2-4.) above shall be followed.

c. **SCORING OF CAN-AM EVENTS:** Each of the Can-Am Games events shall be scored using a Nine Point System. First place shall receive one extra point and shall be worth 9 points, second place 6 points, third place 4 points, and fourth place 2 points. All points shall count toward the selection of the “Winner Can-Am Games.” Results of the Can-Am Games competition shall not be included in the selection of the ISAR International Champion or National Champions.

d. **SELECTION OF THE WINNER OF THE CAN-AM GAMES:** The winning team shall be selected by totaling up the team scores achieved on the Can-Am events. The team with the highest total score shall be declared the Winner of the Can-Am Games.

In the event of a tie for Can/Am Champion, the team with the highest team score on the combined score of SAR Ex #1 and SAR Ex #2 events will be declared the Can/Am Champions.

e. **AWARDS:**

- 1.) All members of the Can-Am team declared the Can-Am Champion shall have their names inscribed on the perpetual trophy.
- 2.) All members of the Can-Am team that achieves the highest score on each event shall each be awarded a trophy, plaque, or other appropriate award.
- 3.) All members on the team that is declared the “Winner Can-Am Games” shall each be presented a “keeper” trophy, plaque, or other appropriate award.

5. **EVENT JUDGES:**

a. Each event of the ISAR Championship competition and Can-Am Games shall be judged by agreed upon standards by the USCGAUX and CCGA using a team of two judges for each ISAR Competition Event and Can-Am Event; one judge nominated by the USCGAUX and one judge nominated by the CCGA. Emphasis shall be placed on obtaining qualified Coast Guard personnel to judge the competition. Any individual who serves as a judge is under no circumstances eligible to serve as a participant during that year's competition.

b. Judges should be assigned to an event well ahead of the competition and provided a complete scenario along with any other pertinent information of the event they are to judge. This will allow the judges to become familiar with the event and develop how the event will be scored plus ensure the scenario and tasks employ common language and procedures for both CCGA and USCGAUX competitors.

c. Emphasis should be placed on having the same judges to judge/score all teams in their assigned event. Substitutions of judging personnel should be done when it's absolutely unavoidable.

d. At the Judges Briefing prior to the competition emphasis should be placed on the scoring procedures to be followed, to include whether or not partial credit is to be scored.

e. At the conclusion of each event, the judges should provide a summarized 5-10 minute training evaluation to each team covering tasks the team did well and those requiring additional training by the team.

f. At the conclusion of the last event of the ISAR Competition on Saturday, each judge should distribute the Post Competition Survey to each team member.



**6. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS:** Any dispute or protest shall be made by the Team Captain to the judges either during or immediately following a competition event. If the protest or dispute can not be solved by the event judges, it shall be referred to the Chief and Vice Chief, Competition Events with the event judge's recommendation. The Chief Competition Events assigned by the Host ISAR Committee and the Vice Chief, Competition Events shall have final authority where disputes and/or protests arise.

**7. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION:**

a) All information regarding the conduct or procedures to be followed shall be expeditiously disseminated to both organizations, to include down to team members. The ISAR Website shall be used to disseminate instructions, schedules, or other information on a timely basis.

b) The participant's handbook should be available on the ISAR website and should be disseminated in both English & French to all participating teams no later than 30 days prior to the ISAR competition.

**8. USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO MATERIAL**

a. **AUTHORIZATION.** ISAR registered attendees and participants may be requested to take part in promotional activities. The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (National) and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary reserve the right to use the names of competitors, their photographs and audio or visual recordings of them in any publicity.

All ISAR registered attendees and participants permit the CCGA and USCG Auxiliary to record, own and publish photos and videos of themselves for educational, marketing and publicity purposes through any media. Pictures and recordings taken by the organizers during the Competition become the joint property of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (National) and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Participants release the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary from any and all claims that might arise from use of the images and recordings. Participants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by them when entering and/or participating in the ISAR Competition and events.

**9. USE OF SAR EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- a. Team members must use the Personal Protective Equipment and SAR equipment provided by the ISAR organizers. Use of additional equipment, gear or tools is prohibited.
- b. Team members are required to wear the official ISAR Gear (Jackets, Ball Caps, Shirts, etc.) that is provided by the ISAR Organization.

**10. POST ISAR COMPETITION FEEDBACK**

- a. A Post Competition Survey should be developed by that year’s host organization and provided to all competitors and judges. The Survey should solicit input on the viability of competition events and scenarios, judging, applicability of events to SAR training and the need for additional SAR task training, etc.
- b. Results of the Post Competition Survey should be posted on the ISAR website so that they are available to all competitors, judges, and members of the Joint ISAR Committee from that year and the next year.
- c. Instructions on how to complete the Post Competition Survey and where they are to be delivered should accompany the survey.

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Mr. Robert Petitpas  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary

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Commodore Gene Seibert  
National Commodore  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Agreed this day, \_\_\_\_\_

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