US Sailing Umpire Committee Minutes

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Present: Kathy Lindgren, Chair; Peter Wilson; Glenn Oliver; Bruce Cook; Charlie Arms; Greg Kiely; David Pyron

Excused: Sarah Ashton

Guest: Kirk Brown

Call to order: 2000 EST

Agenda Items:

1. Test Proctoring
   1. Kirk and David recently held an umpire seminar in San Diego and it was noted there are no test proctors located in the city to facilitate future test taking for the participants.
   2. Discussion was held that the test proctoring had been set up to replicate the WS proctoring process. Currently, there are 24 individuals throughout the US and Canada who can proctor the umpire tests, including 4 in Southern California. Pros and cons of adding more proctors was discussed as well as discontinuing need to have the test proctored. Pros include having someone immediately available to review any questions that may have been answered incorrectly. Cons are the constraints it adds to the test taking process.
   3. Consensus was to keep the current number of test proctors. If this proves to be a roadblock for individuals to take their tests, the committee will re-visit the testing process and the need for proctors.
   4. The seminar participants will be told test proctors will be available in San Diego during the USYMRC June 27-30.
   5. If proctoring was to be discontinued, the testing parameters may need to be revised. E.g., higher passing grades, shorter time frames, etc. This will require more discussion before implementation.
2. Test Question Review
   1. Discussion was held regarding establishing a regular review of the test questions. This would be consistent with the reviews other committees do.
   2. Peter and Dave volunteered to review the Team Racing Questions. Bruce will meet with Peter at Baldwin to discuss best way to have the questions reviewed.
   3. Kirk volunteered to review Match Racing Questions.
   4. Need to add fleet race umpire questions as more seminars and events are held.
3. Seminars
   1. Kirk and David provided a recap of the San Diego seminar and felt having the seminar in partnership with Dave Perry’s clinic worked extremely well.
   2. Discussion was held regarding document control for the content of the Match, Team and Fleet Racing Seminars.
   3. Kathy is requesting the latest versions of each discipline’s content. Kathy with review with the committee and then have the education committee of US Sailing add their formatting and branding and keep as the master.
4. CEU’s
   1. Discussion was held regarding the establishment of CEU’s in a similar manner as the Judge’s program. The current seminar requirement is the equivalent of 80 hours if we use the same 10 CEU’s / hour that the Judge’s program uses.
   2. There are opportunities at events to provide scheduled, focused umpire development.
   3. Need a list of topics, talking points and suggested number of hours it would take to cover. Perhaps develop a 4 year cycle rotation.
   4. Will schedule a separate meeting just to discuss this topic.
   5. Peter is giving a half day Advanced Team Race Umpire Seminar before the Baldwin Cup. Seminar participants will earn 10 CUE credits/hour.
5. Applications
   1. Eric Johnson, NU recertification – Approved
   2. Kelsey Wheeler, RU application – Approved
   3. Gary Hendrickson, UIT application – the committee discussed whether approval to become a UIT is necessary. Consensus was to bring their application forward to the group for informational purposes and potential mentoring opportunities. Gary lives in Bristol, CT, is a member of Corinthian Yacht Club and has taken an umpire seminar.
   4. Priscilla Gettis, UIT application – Priscilla is from West Long Branch, NJ and has taken an umpire seminar and passed the test.
   5. J Paul Gilman, UIT application – J Paul is from Mendham, NJ, a member of NYYC and has taken an umpire seminar and passed the test.
   6. Britt Hall, UIT application – Britt is from Darien, CT, a member of both Noroton and NYYC, has taken an umpire seminar and passed the test.
6. Mentoring
   1. A suggestion was made to develop mentoring in conjunction with the CEU program; create mentoring topics and goals and also provide CEU’s for the mentor.
   2. Will discuss options along with CEU.
7. Filling events – A primary purpose of getting the UIT program established was to identify people who have an interest and/or some experience in umpiring and being able to find them when filling events to help them through the certification process. Greg stated the goal of filling the USMRC umpire team has been to include 2-3 IU’s, 2-3 NU’s who may be working towards IU certification and 2-3 UIT’s/RU’s who are working toward further certification. This format helps successfully train people to further their learning and work towards higher certification.
8. Judge’s Committee Update – The Judge’s committee had a one day meeting in Atlanta February 16th. Notable outcomes were the renaming of the Judge Certification to Regional Judge to align with other race official certifications and the Judge’s manual has been revised and will soon be posted on the website.

Old Business:

None

Round table:

None

Adjourn: 2150 EST

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Lindgren

Chair US Sailing Umpire’s Committee