

Minutes of US Sailing Race Management Committee Meeting (Conference Call)  
March 17, 2020

Called to order by Taran Teague at 1930 E

RMC: Wayne Coulon, Tom Duggan, Mark Murphy, Taran Teague, Jeff Johnson, Bill Stump, Chris Luppens, Lynn Lynch and Matt Hill (Race Admin Director).

Special guest Becky Ashburn – ROT&C / National Faculty

AROs: Mary Ellen DeFrias (A), Cynthia Parthemos (B), Sharon Hadsell (C), JD Rosser (D), Steve Harris (E), Jack Yoes (F), Jeff Zarwell (G), Steven Kuritz (J), Rich Reichelsdorfer (K), Eric Rimkus (L)

Chair RMC - Taran Teague called the meeting to order and welcomed the AROs to the RMC meeting. The AROs are the face of US Sailing and Race Officers throughout the country. Each were thanked for their commitment to being an ARO. The number of Race Officers in the country exceed 600, which is a 40% increase over the past 5 years. Well done to ALL – and we continue to have more to do as we work to raise the bar for race management excellence!

US Sailing Staff – Matt Hill: Due to COVID US Sailing is encouraging seminar hosts to postpone seminars scheduled to include One Day and Advanced Race Management Seminars. On line courses are under development to include the One Day Race Management and Club Judge Seminars. More to follow!

The vast majority of background checks have been completed. Results are posted on SOARS within 2 days. There is no report to the individual from the background check company, unless specifically requested. US Sailing is working to get Officials through the process.

ROT&C / National Faculty – Jeff Johnson/ Lynn Lynch/Mary Ellen DeFrias: A One Day RM Seminar on line is under development. New technologies, learning methodologies, plus race administration coordination will be included. Nat Fac is brainstorming new ideas for learning opportunities and recertification requirements. Lynn Lynch mentioned ideas about transparency, plus areas of objectivity around certification.

There are 3 individuals in the pipeline to take the PST. A grading rubric for the PST is being developed.

RMH status – great information in the RMH. Going forward information will look like or be aligned with the educational classes / seminar curriculum. The timeline may be 2 years away.

World Sailing – Tom Duggan: WS is ready to go with preparations for the Olympics! IOC just held a meeting on all Olympic sports. There are a ton of issues with the pandemic situation. (Update: as we know the Olympics have been postponed until summer 2021.) SWC events going forward may present more of an issue as the Race Officials may be unable or unwilling to attend.

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WS is reviewing challenges with 2020 official renewals due to events being postponed /cancelled. WS is short of RO seminars due to budget issues. They will be relooking at seminars in the Fall. Office is effectively closed; all are working from home.

RRS 2021-2024 – Bill Stump: With the new RRS expect a few rule changes: the definition of start and finish for the hull, new definition for sailing the course, new score NSC – Did Not Sail the Course, among others. Matt Hill mentioned new RRS app with considerable improvements. The traditional printed rule book will be sent to Officials. If a printed rule book is requested from others, there will be a fee. Roll out date – October.

Other: John Strassman mentioned time in grade. There has been no mention of time in grade since inception 25 years ago for RO certification. Mark Murphy was there 25 years ago at the initial meeting discussing time in grade. Tom mentioned the only time in grade is for IRO, which is 2 years as an NRO. Jeff mentioned experience in grade as the most important. Jeff mentioned the new more sophisticated certification system will give us objectivity we need which is a rubric vs “OBN”. Mark indicated he thinks we may have been moving past the old thinking. Tom stated the further up the ranks you go the harder it gets and it is it’s all about how you get along with people - competitors, the RC team and the OA. The new Advanced course teaches the importance of getting along with people and how to work together.

Taran thanked the special guest and AROs for all they do and thanked each for joining us.

Certifications Approved in Executive Session:

Bill Adams - Area C RRO Renewal Approved

Paul White - Area E RRO Initial Approved

Craig Daniels - Area L RRO Initial Approved

Respectfully Submitted,

Taran Teague

Chair RMC

June 10, 2020