

RRS 68

The Latest News from
the Judges' Committee



WELCOME TO THE JUDGES' NEWSLETTER

Sarah Ashton

The Judges' Committee is pleased to roll out a new newsletter. We will keep you up to date on all that is happening in the Judging world and your area.

Our goal is an edition every other month. It will depend on the information we receive from WS, US Sailing, and our Judges.

This is your Newsletter. If you have any topics you would like addressed or articles to include in the newsletter, feel free to send them to your RA or me. Pertinent photos will also be appreciated.

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Wayne Balsiger

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Judges' Newsletter and our efforts to improve communication of what is happening at the JC level to all Judges.

Thank you, Sarah Ashton, for offering to create this newsletter so the Judges' Committee can communicate better with the Judging corps. As outgoing JC Chair, Sarah is knowledgeable on what is happening. I appointed Sarah as a Member-At-Large, so she continues on the Judges' Committee.

Two new RAJs: The Judges' Committee welcomes John Porter, Area K, and Thomas Pochereva, Area H, as new members of the JC. John has already shown he is willing to jump into writing tasks for the committee. We welcome Tom back as RAJ, having served previously.

I joined the Judges' Committee as RAJ, Area L in 2013. After two terms as RAJ, I became Secretary in 2019 and Vice Chair in 2020.

As incoming Chair, I looked at our Judges corps. I am pleased to report that we have 307 Judges. The 307 comprises 26 International Judges (who are NJs), plus an additional 84 National Judges, 53 Regional Judges, 98 Club Judges, and 60 Judges-In-Training.

As Judges, our goals include encouraging more sailors to become Judges. I hope you are encouraging others to become involved in Judging and mentoring. Make sure your RAJ knows about them. We are here to support you.

I agree with what Rich Jepsen writes about you, our Judges, and all the efforts each of you put into becoming a Judge, working as a judge, recertifying as a Judge, and attaining higher certification.

For all you do as Judges and service to sailors in the sport of Sailing, THANK YOU.

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Chairman's Corner Continued

The Judges' Committee has been hard at work for many years and continues to work on improving processes and knowledge of and for Judges.

- The Advanced Judges Seminars and Club Judge Seminars were revamped with improved layouts, and instruction materials were moved to a new platform to allow online training. We are now moving materials to hold either in-person, hybrid, or Zoom seminars. This was and is a colossal project ably done by the Judges Education Training and Testing Subcommittee (JETTS). Bill Simon, Chair and Bruce Martinson, Chair of Club Judge program, and others spent many hours on this.
- Protest Days (Bruce Cook) and Roundtables (Nancy Glover) have Improved formats and content. Thanks to Bruce and Nancy.
- Besides the seminars, we offer several ways to earn Continuing Education Units for recertification. The CEUs table is under Resources on the website.
- We are working on improving processes for handling Misconduct issues. Our following Newsletter will provide more details.
- The Judges' Manual is updated every four years when the rules change. The RAJs and I, as Editor, updated the manual published early last year. A refresh is in the works to incorporate changes in SafeSport and incorporate the new US Sailing Personal Attributes policy and review board changes and other improvements.
- Work on Revising the RAJ-Guide first written in 2020.
- In 2021 the JC led by Craig Daniels updated the Judges Certification Requirements, and they are now in a newly formatted two-page pdf separated from Chapter 12 of the Judges' Manual. See helpful links at the end of the Newsletter.
- Rule 42 enforcement via Appendix P is no longer a requirement for National Judge. The JC is working on several options on Rule 42 related to certification and training.
- We have an IJ Seminar filled to capacity in February.
- Minutes of the Judges' Committee meetings are all on the Judges page. See the link at the end of the newsletter.
- If you have any feedback, let your RAJ or me know how you think we can improve US Sailing Judging.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rich Jepsen

Esteemed Colleagues;

Welcome to US Sailing's newest newsletter to the Judge Community to inform and entertain you with everything associated with sailing, the sport for which we all share a passion.

I know many of you personally and others of you through your good works helping organize and support the sport of sailboat racing. I do appreciate and stand in a bit of awe at the knowledge you have gained and the expertise you have exhibited to meet such a high standard of performance as judges.

My most educational experiences at US Sailing have come from conversations on the sport from a judge's perspective. They've made me a much more competitive sailor but also a more respectful and grateful one. Thanks for everything you do to allow us to enjoy our sport.

To wit; here are some things everyone, from the sailor on the start line to our board and staff leadership, appreciate about you and the entire judge corps:

- You, as judges, along with classifiers, measurers, race officers and umpires, play a significant role in ensuring a level playing field and the integrity of competition.
- All of us are amazed at the time you each invest to become a judge.
- Many of you are serious about mentoring and guiding younger judges and judge candidates as well as take opportunity to educate your competitors so that they can improve and enjoy our sport more.
- Judges who work with junior sailors are a special breed - We often observe, at youth regattas, judges take a kid who's worried and upset about being in a hearing and walk her/him carefully and gently through the process. Parents often remark, the young sailors leave feeling heard, more confident and better prepared for next time - in other words, better sailors and competitors.

Finally, those of you newer to judging and more often mentees than mentors, thank you for joining this august body and choosing to give of your time and talent to make the sport better and more enjoyable for its competitors. Sailing is richer for having you.

With Respect and Appreciation,

Rich Jepsen

Board President, US Sailing

JETTS (JUDGE EDUCATION TRAINING AND TESTING)

Bill Simon

Hello judges and potential judges.

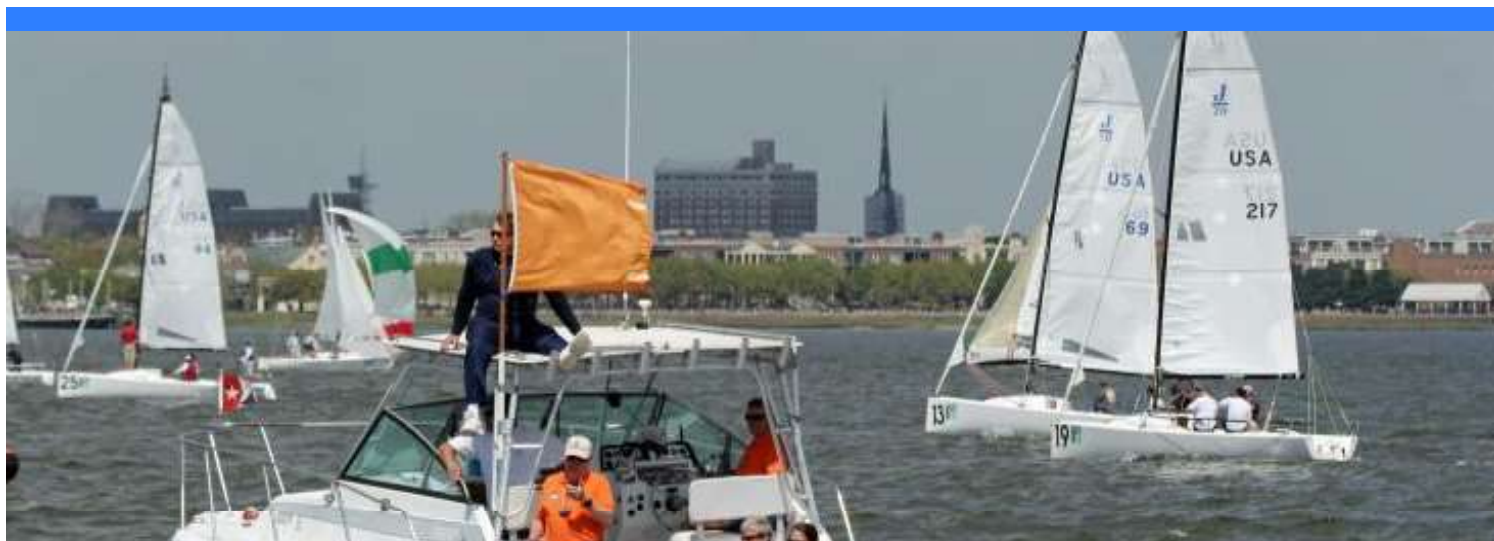
While parts of the country are lucky enough to sail all year round, significant parts of the country have put most of our boats away for the winter season. This season is also thought of as the seminar season, and it starts annually in October and runs into March.

We have a second Advanced Judge Seminar (AJS) in the week of February 22. There are a few spots left.

Judges who want to increase their certification to Regional Judge or National Judge will need to take the AJS. Judges of all certification levels can renew simply by taking CEUs earned through protest Days and Clinics, the AJS and Roundtables, P Club Judges the Club Judge Seminar.

All of these offerings are available from the Judge Seminar Calendar <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/resources/find-a-seminar/judge-seminar-calendar/>.

Talk to your RAJ about adding offerings in your area as we get back to a mix of online and in-person seminars.



HAPPENINGS IN AREA A

Mary Pierce

Happy New Year Area A Judges!! I hope this finds you and your families well and looking forward to summer 2022.

First of all, congratulations to our recertifying judges – Patty O'Donnell, John Pratt, Leo Berendes, Susan Mead and Win Minot. Thank you for your continued service to our sport. We welcomed to 7 new Club Judges and 14 JIT's to Area A. Contact information for all of these folks are in "Find a Race Official" on the US Sailing website. Please keep them in mind as you are putting together committees for your 2022 events. We all know that we hone and improve our skills through experience. Let me know if you'd like to mentor any of our JIT's or new Club Judges. Thanks to Amy Ferreira and Fred Hagedorn who have already volunteered to help with this.

We also have some judges who are working to upgrade their certifications. Please let me know if you are hosting a regional or national event this summer so I can give you names of people who are looking for opportunities. It takes all of us to advance any of us.

This is a good time to make sure all of your contact information is correct on the US Sailing website as well so people can find you. Take a look at your SOAR. You must be current in both Safe Sport certification and your background check to remain certified.

Safe Sport training and a request for a background check if yours is or has expired are found here. While you're in SOARS, fill in any missing events for last year (and previous years if you are a champion procrastinator!) List the people you worked with in the Comments box under the Days Worked entry on the second page.

If you are a candidate for renewal this year, this is a great time to review the requirements for renewal and to make a plan to meet them if you are missing any. There are 4 requirements: you must meet the Personal Attributes Standards for Race Officials, you must meet the experience requirements, you must pass the recertification test for your certification level and you must fill out an application for renewal of certification.

While you're on the Judges page scroll down to "Find a Seminar". This calendar changes frequently so bookmark it and check back often if you are looking for seminars. All seminars are still happening online. I am soliciting organizers for at least 2 roundtables and at least one protest day. All of these seminars give you CEU's which you need to recertify (see the experience requirements above). In addition, we'll try to host at least 1 Club Judge Online class this winter and another next fall so send me names of candidates. If you are wondering how to give back to your own community of sailors, consider teaching a rules refresher training. There is a powerpoint on the US Sailing website called "Around the Race Course" which can be used as a rules review with your fleets. Nancy Glover and I used it last spring and found it to be a good review for people. It sparked good conversations and rules questions. It runs a bit long for zoom so you might want to break it up into 2 sessions

Stay tuned for an April-ish Area A pre-season zoom meeting or two. In the meantime, stay warm and healthy and daydream of sunny days with crowded starting lines, placid protest hearings and riveting rules discussions.

USEFUL LINKS

- [US Sailing Judges' Page](#)
- [The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 with the corrections and updates for Jan 1, 2022](#)
- [SOARS](#)
- [Safesport](#)
- [World Sailing](#)

RESOURCES

- [US Sailing Judge Certification Requirements](#)
- [2021-2024 US Prescriptions to The Racing Rules of Sailing](#)
- [Appendices KG & LG - NoR and SI Guides & Templates](#)
- [The Judges' Manual for 2021-2024](#)
- [Guidelines for Online Hearings](#)
- [Continuing Education Events and CEUs Table](#)

[SafeSport recertification](#) is for one year from the time you take the review.

So wait until a couple weeks before your current cert expiration date.

Sign in through US Sailing.org so it links correctly and updates your SOARS.

