

RRS 68

The Latest News from
the Judges' Committee



In This Newsletter:

[Chairman's Corner](#)

Page 02

[Educational Offerings](#)

Page 03

[Continuing Ed Overview](#)

Page 04

[PC Composition](#)

Page 05

[Happenings in Area E](#)

Page 06

[Useful Links](#)

Page 07

WELCOME TO THE JUDGES' NEWSLETTER

Sarah Ashton

Fall is upon us. As the sailing winds down, the education ramps up! Check the calendar for the various offerings or consider hosting one at your Club. There is more information inside.

We are still soliciting tips for your fellow judges; please send me your ideas for preparing for an event, working with the OA and RC, organizing hearings, fantastic new equipment, etc.

If you have any topics you would like addressed or articles to include in the newsletter, please send them to your RAJ or me. Pertinent photos will also be appreciated.

Thanks to Priscilla Parker for the fabulous action shots.

ashtonsh@bellsouth.net

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Wayne Balsiger

Wow, Summer is quickly flying by. I am sure that for many Judges with events back-to-back, many of you feel the same. Thank you for all your events, so competitors have a better event. It takes Race Officials to hold an event.

So that is a reminder that we are always looking for new people interested in being Judges, Umpires and Race Officers. Make sure your RAJ knows of interested people so they may help mentor and support those who are interested.

Certification always helps make one a better Judge.

If your certification is expiring this year, now is a great time to look at the Certification Requirements document on the Judges page, and make sure you have the requisite number of events, continuing education hours and have passed the certification test since July 2021 (within 18 months of year-end and current rules).

Over the last several years, we have expanded the alternatives to the seminar to get your hours. That has been the vision goal you can recertify by methods other than retaking the seminar. Protest Day, Round tables and Clinics are available. The seminar can, of course, still be used.

The Seminar schedule now has two seminars: A Club Judge (On-Line) and Advanced Judge Seminar (In-Person). Both are in October as events slow down and we have time to run seminars.

Bill Simon, Head of the JETTS (Judges Education Training and Testing Subcommittee), wrote a great article about this progress in the RRS 68 March 2022 under "Achieving Steve Wrigley's Vision" (See Newsletters on Judges' page on the website.)

Make sure to read the articles below about Clinics by Steve Wrigley, PC composition by Bruce Martinson and Nancy Zangerle, and Area E happenings also by Nancy.

Edith Collins - RAJ area D is on the Race Officials "In the Spotlight" section of the Race Officials page. Congratulations Edith. If you know someone that should be featured, including yourself: Write up a short article and send it to Judie McCann in the Race Admin office (email at the bottom of the Judges' page). And younger officials are good to spotlight as well.

Last, you should be getting this RRS 68 Newsletter forwarded to you by your RAJ. If not, let them know to add you to their email list. I know email lists don't always get past spam filters. You can always get it from the Judge's page on the website under Newsletters.

Thanks for all you do as Judges.

JUDGE COMMITTEE EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

Judge Committee Educational Offerings				As of August 2022		
Offering Title		Days / hours	CEUs *	Online Option	In Person Option	Contact to Organize
Club Judge Seminar		1.5 Days	80	Yes	Yes	Bruce Martinson
Advanced Judge Seminar		2 Days	160	Yes	Yes	Bill Simon
Roundtables		Various	10 / hour	Yes	Yes	Nancy Glover
Protest Day		1 Day	80	Yes	Yes	Bruce Cook
Clinics						
	Holding an Online Hearing	3 Hours	30	Yes	Yes	Bill Simon
	Better Written Decisions	3 Hours	30	Yes	Yes	Bill Simon
	Misconduct Clinic	4 Hours	40	Yes	Yes	Steve Wrigley
	Misconduct Clinic & Case	1 Day	80	Yes	Yes	Steve Wrigley
	Introduction to Rule 42	4 Hours	40	Yes	Yes	Bill Simon
Around the Race Course				Yes	Yes	Link to Around the Race Course
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the Continuing Education Credits table on the US Sailing Judges web page is definitive for CEUs awarded. 						



JUDGES COMMITTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION OVERVIEW

Steve Wrigley

Our National Judge program is one of the more advanced programs seen throughout the sailing world. Our Judges Committee, through the Judges Education and Testing and Training (JETT's) group, has an impressive Continuing Education Program (CE) through which it designs, updates and renews certification seminars, Roundtables and Clinics.

Seminars, Roundtables and Clinics are held in person or through online sessions, and all are centered around the interactive participation of the attendees. Each discipline earns Continuing Education Units which will meet certification requirements. Although re-certification is once every four years, our judge corps can accumulate the necessary credits well ahead in the years between renewals, providing immediate and up-to-date changes in our rules and procedures. Please see the Continuing Education Events and CEU table on the [Judges' Resource page](#).

Add to this an online testing program and our judges can renew with little or no travel time/expense.

The best information spot for when and where CE is available is the [Calendar](#) on the judges' page at US Sailing. Forms to attend or host are offered so they can be filled out online. Our common denominator is our eleven Regional Area Judges (contact through the judges' site), who can assist all interested. The JC would like to see more clubs and associations support this effort and their local judge corps by scheduling in-person programs.

Here is a quick overview of each program.

Seminars: A very in-depth 1-2-day course led by certified instructor(s)

- Interactive, role-playing leans more to the instructional side

- Some pre-session home assignments

- Usually held on a weekend (2 days).

- Can be approved to be held over several days, 3-4 sessions in the evening.

- A test is offered (online), usually at the end of the session.

Roundtables: Usually held on a weekend, sessions can be approved to be done online or in person

- Led by approved sailors and/or judges

- Topics are approved by JETT's details found on the judges' page.

- Are geared to be organized for local or small regional areas/interclub.

- They are highly interactive and lean on the experience of the judges present, very reactive to current issues and trends.

Clinics: Are interactive modules, each about 3 hours each.

- Can have different modules on one day.

- Designed so that a host can have different subjects year to year.

- Clinics are done live or online.

- Some involve role playing.

- Subjects to date: Protest Day (2 sessions). Misconduct, Misconduct Day, Rule 42, Quad New Rules.

Another tool in the US Judges program currently not available in any other country is SOARS. It is a valuable tool for each judge or race official to keep in-depth information on their events, CEUs earned and courses taken. It is critical to keep this special tool up to date, which is also required for re-certification.

New hosts for these programs are not only welcome but essential to assisting in the growth of our judges in the US. Hosting these Continuing Education events helps further train local judges in the process of hearings and applying the RRS. This allows clubs to host events throughout the year while providing stronger, more knowledgeable judges to support their events. Hosting educational offerings supports the reputation and respect that the clubs earn as leaders in race official development.

PROTEST COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Bruce Martinson & Nancy Zangerle

Many judges are returning to the protest room this summer after a hiatus because of Covid. In their absence, the Judges Education, Training, and Testing sub-committee (JETTS) has worked diligently to update and improve the Club Judge Seminars and Advanced Judges Seminars. The new Club Judge Seminar, in particular, focuses on teaching a division of responsibilities for the members of the protest committee, dividing them between the chairman, procedural judge, and the scribe. This division mirrors what is promoted and taught by World Sailing.

During much of the Covid shutdown, online training seminars became increasingly popular, resulting in several new JITS and Club Judges joining the ranks. While the new judges are well-versed in this division of responsibilities, some of the seasoned, veteran judges are not. This creates confusion in the hearing room.

The chairman is responsible for running the hearing and maintaining the decorum.

The procedural judge makes sure the chairman is following the proper procedures.

Appeals committees find that they receive several appeals a year because of improper procedure. The third person is the scribe, quite possibly the most important person on the protest committee.

Designating a scribe as soon as the protest is delivered to the PC secretary will give the scribe time to set up an outline of the incident so they can just fill in the blanks based on the facts they hear. After the parties are excused for deliberations, the scribe can immediately read back what they have, allowing the panel to discuss the scribe's facts, and decide what the "facts found" will be shortly after the parties have left the room. Encouraging the scribe to utilize a computer will greatly reduce the amount of time needed to hear a protest, as editing on a computer is faster than writing on paper and has the benefit of allowing the scribe to ready a virtually-finished protest decision write up when the parties come back into the room.

When you have decided what rules were broken, if Racing Rules of Sailing.com is being used, you can click on a box with the preferred standard wording for that rule by just adding the appropriate boat numbers. There is an 18-page document that offers the preferred standard wording for downloading or printing. It can be found at <https://cdn.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/WS-Preferred-Standard-Wording-2021-01-01-Approved.pdf>.

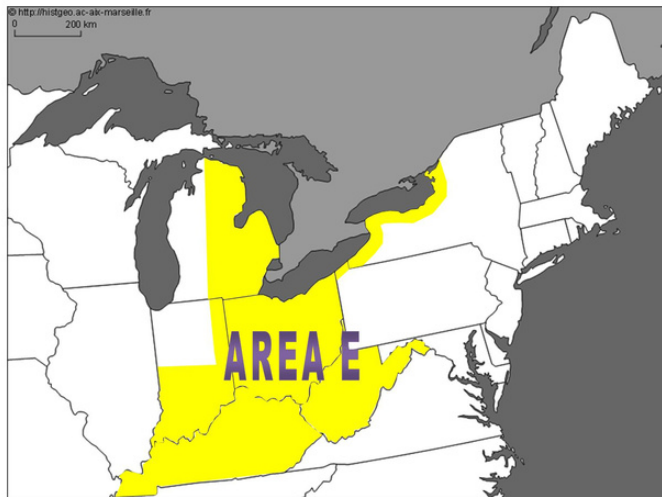
If you are at a venue with multiple PC panels, a good practice is to give your completed protest to another PC member that was not on the panel for them to read and see if you have enough facts to support your conclusions. With an efficient scribe and a hearing that follows proper procedures, there is much less risk of the hearing decision being appealed.

The Judges Committee encourages judges of all levels to participate in a Judges Seminar or a Protest Day for exposure and practice of this new division of responsibilities. The greatest efficiency is gained when everyone on the panel understands and follows the same practices.

Judges can obtain fillable PDF versions of the Hearing Request Form and Hearing Decision Form at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/judges/#guidelines>. Look for the heading "USEFUL PROTEST COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS."

HAPPENINGS IN AREA E

Nancy Zangerle



Area E is one of the nation's freshwater playgrounds. Incorporating portions of three Great Lakes (Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario) and a multitude of inland lakes, there are loads of opportunities for sailing and racing.

Most racing activities are organized by yacht clubs, community sailing and youth organizations within the five RSAs (Inter-Lake Yachting Association, Ohio Valley Sailing Association, Detroit Regional Yachting

Association, Lake Huron Yachting Association and Lake Yacht Racing Association) in Area E.

The seven states of Area E are eastern Michigan, eastern and southern Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, a sliver of Pennsylvania (Erie and the Lake Erie shoreline) and the Lake Ontario shoreline of New York, including the Niagara River. Because LYRA encompasses the American and Canadian shorelines, Area E, through the LYRA, also includes competitors and certain race officials from Canada.

Racing activities typically extend from late May through October. Still, the racing calendar and the demand for race officials have extended into the early spring and fall with the fast growth of high school racing programs. Dinghy frostbiting has also grown in popularity, sometimes running into December.

We have recently experienced some retirements of national judges but have also been rebuilding from the ground up. Currently, we have four JITs, nine club judges, one regional judge, eight nationals and two internationals (both of who reside in Canada). Happily, Matt Bounds from Michigan is an IJ Candidate. Sadly, only two female judges are on the list, but we hope to change this.

Being in the heart of America and with our seasonal climate – Area E is massively busy with events when there is no ice on the lakes. We do not have enough judges to cover all events at all levels. Area E frequently relies on our brethren in Area K.

Part of our recruitment efforts has been to provide articles about becoming a judge and finding a judge available to sailing newsletters. Newsletter editors are always looking for content. Also, we are looking to co-host workshops overwinter with the RC officials for writing NoRs and SIs. "Recycled" documents continue to crop up, sometimes causing real problems. This year's record was Sailing Instructions originally drafted four quads ago.

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

- [Find a Seminar](#)
- [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](#)
- [Race Officials Certification Forms](#)

SafeSport Training Tip

When taking SafeSport training, please access it via the USSailing.org site and not via the SafeSport site. This ensures you take the correct training and allows your results to flow back to US Sailing and SOARS automatically, saving you and the office time and headache.

