

Judges' Committee Minutes
December 20, 2022, 7:00 PM EST 4:00 PST

1) Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Wayne Balsiger at 7:00 PM EDT, 4:00 PM PDT

2) Roll Call

- Wayne Balsiger, Chair
- RAJs: •Mary Pierce, Area A
- Bruce Cook, Area B
- Jim Walsh, Area C
- Edith Collins, Area D
- Nancy Zangerle, Area E
- Chris Luppens, Area F
- Don Wieneke, Area G
- Tom Pochereva, Area H
- Steve Schupak, Area J
- John Porter, Area K
- Craig Daniels, Area L

Members at Large

- Sarah Ashton, Judges' Committee Newsletter
- Bill Simon, Chair Judges Training and Testing Subcommittee
- Bruce Martinson, Chair Club Judge Program
- Matt Hill, Race Administration Director

3) Approval of Minutes

The October Minutes were approved as written.

4) Announcements – Wayne Balsiger

- INSURANCE: BOD met 12-5 and discussed the insurance issue. The insurance environment is not favorable yet to buy insurance according to brokers. None are willing to provide a quote because they cannot quantify the risk.
- RULES: Minor changes to World Sailing rules as of 1/1/23.
- EIGHT BELLS: Mary Savage passed as of 12/13/22. A Sailing judge and umpire and a trailblazer among women race officials, died at home on December 13 surrounded by her family. (<https://www.ussailing.org>)
- APPEALS: The Appeals PDF on the website now has Find/Search working.
- WORLD SAILING: WS has the Jan 1,2023 version of the RRS 2021 – 2024 up at: <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/racing-rules-of-sailing/>

5) New Applications/Upgrades

- Jennifer Leary, RJ – Bruce Cook Approved
- Barbara Belt, RJ – Craig Daniels Approved
- Sarah Quill, RJ – Craig Daniels Approved
- Jeff Snell, RJ – Craig Daniels Approved
- Jeff Borland NJ – Jim Walsh Approved

6) Review of 2022 Recertifications

The JC reviewed recertification requests

7) Sub-Committee Report on two complaints – Bruce Cook, chair: after review of available information provided to it regarding complaints against two US Sailing certified judges and determining that the two judges were not acting as US Sailing Judges at the times in question, that the group to which they belonged reversed the decisions it made and apologized for its actions, the sub-committee recommended that no further action be taken. Additionally, it was recommended that written notification be made to all parties including the two judges about these complaints and this result. Matt Hill agreed and will follow up. Appreciation to Bruce Cook, Bill Stump and Steve Wrigley for their work on the sub-committee to resolve the complaints.

8) Race Admin Director Report – Matt Hill

- Insurance: reviewed current efforts and status involving difficulties for resolution. Updates in the first quarter 2023 on progress and how to answer questions on US Sailing insurance.
- Fees for US Sailing Continuing Education events: to provide a significant incentive and appreciation to certified officials USS Board approved for any currently certified officials: no fees for continuing education events: Round Tables, Protest Day, and Clinics. This does not include Club Judge and Advance Judge Seminars; They still have a fee. If already signed up for future events fees will be refunded. This applies to any certification, including a different discipline, for someone already certified. Board also approved a 25% discount in annual membership fees.
- New Data Base: US Sailing is in conversations with several providers about how available systems might meet our needs within the budget. This is a long-term project – likely 2025 completion.
- SafeSport issue: Dec 3rd in public media there was a report on a certified USS NRO, who was charged with four felonies involving sexual solicitation of a minor. This did NOT occur at a sailing event. This official was immediately suspended by US Sailing pending resolution by SafeSport.

9) Newsletter – Sarah Ashton

The next issue deadline is December 28th, and the new issue will be released the first of January. We are currently working on an article on the history of the judging program, and if you have any ideas or would like to contribute, please send them in. We would like to thank the RAJs for sending the newsletters to their race official email lists, however we are still not seeing all RAJs sending out to their judges and copying Sarah and Wayne. We kindly ask for your help with this important communication effort. Wayne Balsiger and Bill Simon both expressed their appreciation for Sarah's hard work in editing and writing the Newsletter, and its success.

10) Judge Emeritus

- Ted Everingham approved as JE.

11) RAJ Guide – John Porter

- Approved and publication expected in new year.

12) Judges Manual Update – Wayne Balsiger

- Updated status on JM. Noted progress and expected publication in the new year.

13) Annual meeting February 10-12, 2023

- Schedule
 - Friday 10th: 6 PM – 9 PM EST, 3PM – 6 PM PST
 - Saturday 11th: 3 PM – 6 PM EST, Noon – 3 PM PST
 - a. Sunday 12th 3 PM – 6 PM EST, Noon – 3 PM PST
- Possible topics were discussed including
 - Need for consistency in certification process between different disciplines.
 - Table of Requirements, footnoting items that cross disciplines.
 - New ways to communicate to officials and the competitor community.
 - Ways for Clubs to involve USS in their efforts to improve officiating.

14) Adjournment

- Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 PM EST, 5:50 PM PST

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Wieneke, RAJ Area G
Wayne Balsiger, Chair