

Judges' Committee Annual Meeting
February 10, 11, 12, 2023

Schedule

I. Zoom meetings (Link in body of email)

Friday to Sunday, February 10, 11, 12, 2023

Friday 2/10 6 – 9 PM EST 3 – 6 PM PST

Saturday 2/11 3 PM – 6 PM EST 12 PM – 3 PM PST

Sunday 2/12 3 PM – 6 PM EST 12 PM – 3 PM PST

Thanks to note takers

Friday – Bill Simon

Saturday – Donald Wieneke

Sunday – Nancy Glover

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Wayne Balsiger at 6:04 PM EST, 3:04 PM PST

II. Roll Call (default 'here' makes it easier for tracking)

Attendees	F = Friday	SA = Saturday	SU=Sunday			
Chair Wayne Balsiger	F	SA	SU			
RAJs: Mary Pierce, Area A	F	SA	SU			
Bruce Cook, Area B	F	SA	SU			
Jim Walsh, Area C	F	SA	SU			
Harry Foote, Area C	F	SA	SU			
Edith Collins, Area D	F	SA	SU			
Nancy Zangerle, Area E	F	SA	SU			
Chris Luppens, Area F	F	SA	SU			
Don Wieneke, Area G	F	SA	SU			
Tom Pochereva, Area H	F	SA	SU			
Steve Schupak, Area J	F	SA				
John Porter, Area K	F	SA	SU			
Craig Daniels, Area L	F	SA	SU			
Members at Large				FRI	SAT	SUN
Sarah Ashton – Judges' Committee Newsletter	F	SA	SU			
Bill Simon, Chair Judges Training and Testing Subcommittee	F	SA	SU			
Bruce Martinson, Chair Club Judge Program			SU			
Nancy Glover, Round Table Coordinator	F	SA	SU			
David Pyron, Chair, Umpire Committee			SU			
Darryl Waskow, IJ Candidate Mentor	F					
Ric Crabbe, Testing Coordinator		SA				
Steve Wrigley, Chair, Clinics Program			SU			
Matt Hill, Race Administration Director	F	SA	SU			
Guests						
Rich Jepson, US Sailing President	F					
Sandy Grosvenor, Chair Race Administration Committee		SA				
Kevin Hawkins, US Rep. to WS Judges Committee	F					

III. Approval of December 2022 Minutes
The December Minutes were approved as written.

IV. Greetings – Wayne
a. Greetings
b. Announcing New RAJ for Area C – Harry Foote

I am pleased to announce that Harry Foote has accepted his appointment as RAJ for Area C and is starting his new role. Harry is a National Judge and former Club Race Officer and past RSA Chair. I think Harry will do a fine job and we welcome him to the Judges' Committee. Thank you to Jim Walsh for recommending and recruiting Harry and to Jim for his service as RAJ. As you know Jim continues on as Chair of the Review board at US Sailing.

V. US Sailing and Race Officials – Rich Jepsen

Rich talked about the future direction that he, CEO Alan Ostfield and BOD are working towards. Rich agreed that Judges can have access to the US Sailing membership to promote entry level seminars.

Rich will work with the organization to have race officials travel paid to the US Sailing Championships and towards all the events around the country.

Also discussed was SafeSport. Funding of the US Sailing departments.

VI. Ways to grow certified judges – Wayne Balsiger and all

- a. Concerns about retirements and low number of new certified judges coming onboard.
- b. Brainstorming ideas and approaches
(Can denote in State of the Area reports as well)

We also discussed attracting new judges. The consensus was mentoring and direct communication with racers is key.

Many motivated (long ago in many cases) to increase rules knowledge.

Giving back to the sport was also critical.

Many mentioned the satisfaction in making good friends in judging.

Idea: Develop flyer/ article on advantages of becoming a Judge or Umpire

General agreement with the idea of greater direct marketing for Club Judge. See above.

Discussed RAJs taking more of an active role in scheduling offerings and promoting any judge offering to the judges in the RAJ's area.

Rich and Matt will try to use Lift and Quarterdeck and marketing to promote being a race official.

Need to train OAs that they need Judges and why. Goes along with events covering travel expenses.

VII. IJ Candidate Mentor – Darryl Waskow

- a. My Role as mentor - education role and disseminate information.
- b. Review of IJ Candidates process and deadlines. June 1st deadline at US Sailing Judges Committee. World Sailing have MNA recommendation by September 1. Application is due by middle of October. 4 Year look back for events and seminar and test.
- c. What RAJs should expect and how to counsel applicants.
- d. What forms to fill out and the deadlines. All forms need to be submitted into the WS Portal in a timely manner.

- e. The applicant must get their application documents from WS and then submit to US Sailing.
- f. Are there limits to how many people US Sailing will endorse? If so, how will that decision be made?
- g. There is no limit of the number of judges that will go to the board for endorsement for IJ. As long as the applicant meets all of the requirements.

VIII. WS Judges – Kevin Hawkins

US Sailing has one of the best and vibrant pipeline of applicants for IJ.

3 IJ Seminar scheduled. Chile and Switzerland next month. Korea in October. Maybe a 4th in Europe.

Mandate to improve education process and offerings for all race officials from WS.

IJ Manual - New chapter on windsurfing slalom; foiling events is coming soon.

Portal opens up in late February or March. Anyone interested in becoming an IJ should get a WS ID and get recommendation in the online portal. Each year, WS updates the requirements manual for becoming certified.

An incomplete or not standard IJ reference does not reset the requirement. Does not require that the event applies RRS 42 but there are other events where the applicant can show that they can handle a small powerboat and position correctly.

IX. The Review Board – Jim Walsh

A discussion on how reports of misconduct are handled at US Sailing and the Review Board. Issues with RRS 69 hearings: The committee must issue a decision, not pass to Review board to make the decision.

X. US Race Admin Director Report – Matt Hill

Tracking Misconduct hearing results: There have been some submittals for the results of RRS 69 hearings.

Starting to plan for the new version of RRS January 1 at 2025. Stu is working with World Sailing. There will still be a paper version and the App.

IT updates, JC wants to be consulted on use cases for IT changes.

Working with marketing and education to make the case of why to become a race official and judge.

Trying to do a better job of recognizing race officials.

XI. Review of the state of the Areas. Counts, issues, what is working well – RAJs

Area A - Mary Pierce

46 judges

2 IJ

13 NJ – 1 a dual citizen

3 RJ – 1 a dual citizen

22 CJ – 1 dual citizen

6 JIT

9 JIT's became CJ's in 2022/early 2023
4 new JIT's
4 potential upgrades CJ to RJ
7 recertifications due in 2023
 3 NJ, 1 RJ (could be from area D), 3 CJ

What works:

- Getting notifications out about upcoming events
- Mentoring – I have half a dozen good mentors
- Zoom area meetings to touch base – and the fall 2022 one is way overdue.
- Out of Area needs for candidates upgrading.

Area B - Bruce Cook

In 2022, Area B had 2 IJs, 7 NJs, 7 RJs, 7CJs [21 certified judges] and 4 JITS. The Area was stable in that regard. The +1 Program where OAs offer an extra spot on their hearing panels was helpful enough to pursue the program again in 2023 with the hope that more people will take advantage of the nice judging opportunities available. The Area B mailing list includes 54 people. The Judge's newsletter RRS 68 is circulated to that list along with notification of available educational programs as they come up. The RAJ serves as an available resource to the Area.

Area C - Jim Walsh & Harry Foote

We have a change in Area C RAJ, It is time for me to pass the torch. It has been a pleasure to be a part of this committee and to work with so many great judges. As of this meeting Harry Foote will become the new RAJ. Please welcome Harry his contact information is hfoote@verizon.net and his phone is 609 841-5112.

Area C includes New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Northern Virginia We have five sailing associations (NJYRA, BBYRA, CBYRA and DCLSA) 28 Judges, 4 International Judges, 14 National Judges, 4 Regional Judges, and 6 Club Judges along with judges in training.

The educational offerings provided by the Judges Committee in Area C as of today are 1) Online Judge Roundtable and February 16, 2023 and an in person Club Judge Seminar at Eastport Yacht Club 2/18/2023 - 2/18/2023. There was a very well attended club judge seminar held at AYC in January. More programs are being added to the calendar soon.

In an effort to help promote new judges in Area C, I have asked Organizing Authorities to try to offer one extra spot on their hearing panels to people seeking to become certified judges or upgrade their certification.

Yacht clubs are finishing up finalizing their season schedules and events. Judges are reviewing event documents for Organizing Authorities. Yacht clubs in southern Area C are actively racing and the northern sections of Area C will begin racing in May.

Area D - Edith Collins

Area D includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. We have 3 RSA's: South Atlantic RYA, Florida Sailing Association, and The Gulf Yachting Association. We lost Dixie YRA formally. It had been inactive for many years.

As of 2/10/2023, Area D had 65 Judges. This is broken down as follows:

3 International Judges.

15 National Judges (including the IJ's)

19 Regional Judges

23 Club Judges

8 Judges in training

In the last renewal cycle, we had 1 club judge retire and 1 IJ, 2 club judges not renew, (one of them should probably never have been a judge to begin with, and the other is a National Judge in another Country) and 2 club judges who were nonresponsive. We have 2 judges on extension. Carl Owens, Jr., a National Judge, passed away in April.

Since the last annual meeting, we added 6 new club judges, and 2 Judges in training. I am waiting on 4 applications for new Judges in training. I have been focusing on adding judges in "underserved" areas.

We now have a judge in Tennessee again, and there are 3 incoming JIT's in the Jacksonville area as well as a pending JIT in the Florida Keys. We should have a National Judge in Alabama by the end of the year.

I have an upgrade to National Judge presented this meeting; I am currently working with several folks who are working on their upgrades.

We had a special Area D only roundtable on misconduct, and many of our judges have been very active in protest days, seminars, and other continuing education programs. SAYRA does a zoom meeting for their judges on a regular basis which is very well attended. I have personally visited each of the RSA's in the past year and attended the SAYRA annual meeting. FSA does not really have an annual meeting. I was scheduled to go to the GYA meeting in conjunction with the Seminar (see below), but that did not happen.

I tried to host an in-person Club Judge seminar in conjunction with the GYA annual meeting, but it did not get enough attendance. I truly think that was because of the host location. A planned seminar at Davis Island was also canceled. I think that folks have gotten used to the convenience of the virtual meetings.

Focusing on underserved areas.
Zoom seminars are working great.

Area E - Nancy Zangerle

Head Count

International Judges 1

National Judges 5

Regional Judges *

Club Judges 7

JIT Judges 5

I have one potential new JIT from Michigan that I'm waiting on his application. And I have two recommendations on Canadian judges who have not applied for certification in the US. At least one is at least a certified Canadian judge.

NEW INITIATIVE A SUCCESS

Last November I did a report to one of the RSAs on the state of judges in Area E. Somehow it got published somewhere. In early January I got a call from a club who read about one of the ideas in the report – a NoR & SI Workshop. They wanted to know if they could host such a workshop. With very little effort, other than getting Matt Bounds to come to Cleveland, we had the workshop yesterday with about 25 people. Among the group was one JIT, one club judge and 2 club race officers. The majority were volunteers whose clubs were hosting major OD championships this summer. One club brought their entire RC team. Many were involved in a specific OD class. I think there were 9 YCs in total, plus the local women sailing group.

This was a true working workshop. Matt had a brief PowerPoint, starting with NoRs. All the tables were setup with power strips. All participants were instructed to bring their laptops, rulebook, and one project (either updating documents for this year's race program, or a new regatta or event that needed docs). We had emailed the US Sailing NoR and SIs templates in advance. After a brief presentation and instruction, we had everyone get to work drafting NoRs. Matt and I were able to wander between tables answering questions.

After a lunch break, we moved onto SIs in the same format and concluded about 3:30 pm. This is one of the nicer clubs on the south shore and surprisingly they did not charge a facility fee. They provided an expansive continental breakfast and luncheon for \$20 per participant. The bonus result was finding at least 5 people who would be interested in an in-person club judge seminar and finding a yacht club who wants to host the seminar this spring.

Area F - Chris Luppens – February 10, 2023

There are Currently 17 certified judges and 14 JITs in Area F. 9 Club Judges, 2 Regional Judges and 5 National Judges, one of whom is an International Judge. Combine this with the 14 JITs, we have a total of 31 "recognized" people helping with judging activities in the area.

In Comparison to the previous year,

	JITs	Club Judges	Regional Judges	National Judges	Total
Feb. 2022	13	8	2	6	30
Feb. 2023	14	9	2	6	31

Actively supporting judges, especially JITs and CJs is starting to pay off. This past year we lost a few Club Judges but had some JITs take their places, while gaining some more JITs. At least one CJ will shortly be moving up to RJ and one JIT is just waiting on one recommendation to move up to CJ. Getting proper recommendations in this physically big an area is a real problem at times.

There is one CJ expiring in 2023, but they are already in in process of renewing. Three JITs are expiring and I do not expect them to renew. All are coaches and have physically moved on. One NJ is expiring but all that has to be done is to take the test. He is well qualified.

Will be glad to discuss how all this is working, but would like to discuss JIT requirements again and getting requirements listed like the judge certification document or made a part of that document. Renewing as a JIT should be considered also.

Area G – Don Wieneke

Currently 14 certified Judges total. 1 IJ, 8 NJ, 3 RJ, 2 CJ. Four Certifications are expiring this year.

Aggressively recruiting candidates for seminars and pathway for certification.

Need more Zoom Seminars as biggest deterrent for participation is commitment of time for in-person seminars.

Area H - Tom Pochereva

The HYRA Member clubs have committed to sponsoring and paying training fees for interested sailors to take either race management or judge courses.

We are planning both club judge and advanced judge courses in person for our members and are agreeing on locations and dates at this time. (The same goes for our race management.

Sailors find it easier to start with race management introduction and then to progress onto judge training... they are often surprised at the nuances of the rules and how valuable the seminars and courses can be.

Hawaii – Area H

IJ	0	
NJ	2	
RJ	1	*Soars update, and background checks pending
CJ	3	*Soars update, and background checks pending
JITs	0	

Area J - Steve Schupak

CJ 12, IJ 6, NJ 11 (excluding dual IJ/NJ), RJ 8, JIT 2

-Insurance is a major issue in securing participation from judges especially for misconduct hearings due to liability issues.

Suggest USS take the lead in providing a list of coverage for all Clubs on coverage if there is no coverage from USS.

US Sailing may explore what guidance can be provided to OAs about what they should offer to Race Officers who are considering accepting event invitations.

Area K - John Porter

Judge Counts

- JIT 8 plus 6 active that aren't in the database.
- Club Judge 13 (3 are great RJ candidates with references) plus a few snowbirds
- Regional Judge 2 (plus 1 snowbird)
- National Judge 10 (2 are NJ/IJ)
- International Judge 2

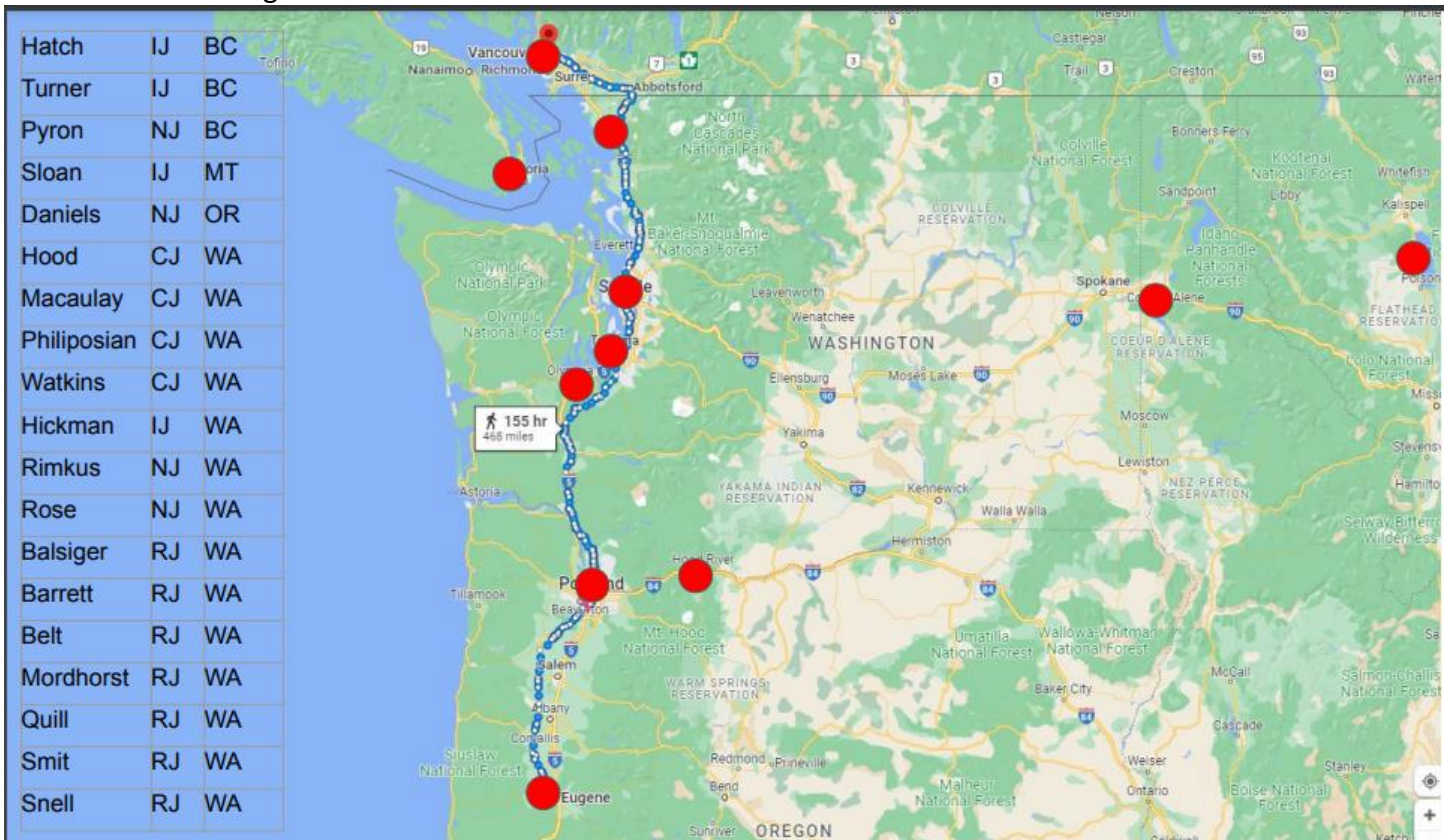
Challenges

- Overlapping schedules for HS/College racing
- Wide geography
- Inability to advance if you don't travel to Chicago

Strengths

- The “Chicago Mafia” has disbanded and is now leading the charge with education
- Embracing Technology
 - Remote Hearings with multiple Owl Cameras around the area
 - Digital Protest Submissions
 - Strong Notice boards when using Clubspot and Yachtscoring
- Major event organization
 - Strong NJs and IJs create great learning opportunities for JIT/CJ/RJ to get hearings and advance at major events
 - Efficient scheduling and tracking of hearing process
 - Usually, the chief judge is a teacher and organizer, not taking hearings
- Education
 - Good mentorship
 - Fantastic sense of community
 - Two live CJS this spring
 - Chicago Roundtable

Area L – Craig Daniels



We need more JITs and CJs.

- Train folks that want to help, even those with no experience.
- Club Judge seminar(s) IN-PERSON

- 19 Certified, 27 on email list
- Umpire shortage is bigger issue than more judges
- However, more JITs and CJs needed, especially in Portland (which includes CGRA).

- o Club Judge seminar(s)in-person
- o Portland: Two rule seminars and ask for volunteers
- o Portland: Train folks that want to help, even those with no experience.

XII. Race Administration Committee Report – Sandy Grosvenor

- a. A range of updates from the National Faculty and Sailing Leadership Forum emphasizing making USS seminar products and training software more productive through coordination of various expert groups; judges, umpires, and race officers.
- b. Training software will change over the next couple of years.
- c. Task force recommendations were discussed involving what USS does well and what can be done better.
- d. Can we make these programs more similar and, in the process, more productive?
- e. Cert Programs
 - i. Why are the certification programs for the various disciplines different?
 - ii. Is there a way to make them more similar and productive to reduce confusion for Race Officials with multiple certifications?
 - iii. CEU offerings for each program were discussed involving simplification and integration.
- f. Training of Instructors was discussed.
 - i. Selection process, requirements.
 - ii. Train the trainer issues.
 - iii. Training materials could be more similar and intuitive.
- g. Candidates for International positions; policy reviewed.
- h. Better information and process flow for candidates.
- i. Matt Hill commented there was a great deal more participation with 22 plus race officials.
- j. Mary Pierce commented on the success and excellence of the presentations at the NFSLF (National Faculty and Sailing Leadership Forum).
- k. One of the important issues was consistency of educational materials. Necessity of more instructors with consistent training. Necessity of attendee feedback. And necessity of testing materials reflecting what is being taught.
- l. Bill Simon commented that a big part of our testing is rules-based while emphasizing the RRS Part 5 requirements. Round the Course is rules based and available in the seminars as a free-standing self-run module for rules instructions. In addition, specific Rules Clinic seminar is being developed for a possible June debut.
- m. Matt Hill reviewed the US Sailing obligations on the subject noting the successful contributions of Perry and Dellenbaugh.
- n. General discussion on how rules-based seminars should be used and who should be responsible for them.

XIII. Sarah Ashton newsletter Articles need to be submitted on time with 600-700 word lengths.

- a. Next deadline is February 20 for the March issue.
- b. RAJs remember to forward to your judges.
- c. Soon going to Scuttlebutt.

XIV. Chair's Report – Wayne Balsiger

- a. Updated RAJ Checklist coming

XV. JM Manual Update 2023 – Wayne Balsiger

- a. JM Draft soon to JC to review near final draft
- b. Remaining steps to complete update

c. Table of JC Chair History

Matt and I are making good progress on creating an accurate JC Chair History table

XVI. RAJ Guide — John Porter

John has updated guide ready to go.

XVII. Judges Renewal Tracking Spreadsheet - John Porter, Wayne Balsiger

- a. Any changes needed?
- b. Short discussion on using it both full year for all judges and for renewals - Wayne

XVIII. Education: Bill Simon and others

- a. US Sailing National Faculty Meeting Report – Mary Pierce, Bill Simon.

Bill has a number of topics he may cover under education. These may include:

- b. Marketing Judges Seminars was discussed. Are listed seminars notifications reaching the target audience.
- c. More Judges in the pipeline are necessary and a goal.
- d. Misconduct Clinic and Day is a good way to generate interest and involvement.
- e. Thursday night Judges Series are just starting and should be a great vehicle to address our goals.
- f. Balance in person versus Online offerings is a great way to approach this issue. If you know a Club has interest in-person might be the solution. Online can also work to solve other issues that prohibit interest and attendance.

XIX. Club Judge Program – Bruce Martinson

XX. Continuing Education

- a. Protest Day – Bruce Cook now has 55 cases and 5 arbitrations that can be used for various seminars.
- b. Round Tables – Nancy Glover are going great. People like getting back to an in-person meeting but on-line is a productive option too. Need to ask RAJs to either setup or run Round Tables in their areas. We have instructors that can help if necessary. Easy for an experienced facilitator to provide help.
- c. Clinics – Steve Wrigley (presented by Bill Simon)
Bill noted the expectation that RAJs would be organizing seminars in their Areas was not being met. The idea is to have a Club Judge seminar in every club every other year. Covid has been an issue but at least a Protest Day in attempt to keep in touch with the Area needs. RAJ doesn't have to run it but stage it.

The Misconduct Clinic is complete. The next session, by Zoom, will be March 4.

Steve Wrigley will complete a New Rules Clinic before the beginning of the 2025 Quadrennial

- d. Rule 42 Clinic – Craig Daniels, Bill Simon
There have been two Clinics so far. Craig Daniels has taken feedback. A beta test session will be held March 7-9.
There has been no progress on the Advanced Rule 42 Clinic.
- e. Webinars – Wayne Balsiger

Looking for volunteers to lead this area. Suggestions?

Last year we noted “We need the software”

Many interesting topics were discussed, and Bill Simon will accept additional suggestions by email. We cannot move forward without “journey based” webinar software. Matt Hill stated that 2025 is the likely software acquisition date. Until then topics can be in Clinic form.

f. Training issues in General

We will be moving away from Canvas. Any new software product must be easier for instructors to use.

We need more instructors.

g. Seminar creation: RAJ should be involved. Make sure jotform Seminar calendar request form is filled out correctly. Often too much back and forth before the seminar can be added to calendar with correct information.

h. Testing – Ric Crabbe report on testing. Ric noted program is successful and had no big issues. A spreadsheet was reviewed for kinds of tests and success rates for Club and Advanced seminars.

A few perennial missed questions.

No closure on testing at yearend rollover now days. Just load in the 2023 recerts and rename.

Bill Simon noted appreciation for Ric’s work in this area.

< 2022 Testing

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		Club Judge					
2		Taken	Passed	Failed			
3	seminar	45	37	8	82.22222222		
4	recert	9	4	5	44.44444444		
5		Advanced					
6	seminar	16	11	5	68.75		
7	retest	5	5	0	100		
8	recert	22	18	4	81.81818182		
9							

Testing anxiety was discussed in the possibility of establishing specific policies for dealing with this issue. Several options but gist is the ad hoc policy should be written down by the RAC.

XXI. Instructor Qualifications policy /application – Bill Simon, Matt Hill

Mary Pierce attended the Faculty meeting in St Petersburg. Work is to be coordinated between all Race Official training, including evaluations. This should be the same across the disciplines as much as possible, acknowledging that content differs.

XXII. Instructor Evaluations – Bill Simon, Matt Hill

Need better metrics

Bill prefers differentiated rubrics per offering

Need effective statistical analysis of evaluations

Need instructors teaching more regularly to maintain skills

Crucial to have one test in one place

Need a way to get instructor slash facilitator evaluations from CEE's in place of seminars

- XXIII. Umpire Committee Update – David Pyron
The Umpire Committee met and approved all candidates and upgrades in certification. Four seminars in 2022. Three umpire training sessions are scheduled, with one additional session possible. Training materials getting updated. More umpires are needed.
- XXIV. New Applications/upgrades
- a. Skip Ryan, NJ – Edith Collins APPROVED
 - b. Mary Savage, Judge Emeritus – Bruce Cook APPROVED
 - c. John Palizza, RJ – John Porter APPROVED
 - d. Marty Ottenheimer – Judge Emeritus – Edith Collins APPROVED
- XXV. Other Business
Annual meeting in 2024. The preference of the JC was for a hybrid meeting, with in person and Zoom participation available.
John Porter will explore holding a Milwaukee based meeting and report back to the JC before the next meeting.
- XXVI. 2023 Meeting Schedule
- a. 2023 JC Meeting schedule plans– Wayne Balsiger
BOD meetings: only possible conflicts are April 10, and December 4
RO 2nd Tuesday of March, June, September, December
Race Mgmt. 3rd Tuesday of March, June, September, December
Judges’ Committee every two months: February, April, June, August, October, November or December.
Looking at likely reducing one meeting, say August.

I plan to send a spreadsheet for Days of week preferences and then try to pick dates for most or all of the meeting early for the year.
- XXVII. Adjournment
Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 EST, 3:30 PST

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Simon, (Friday)
Donald Wieneke (Saturday)
Nancy J Glover (Sunday)