

# RRS 68

The Latest News from  
the Judges' Committee

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## **WELCOME TO THE JUDGES' NEWSLETTER**

**Sarah Ashton**



## **So what is really in your Judging Bag?**

*Please send me your additions,  
your secrets, or tips.*

Any other Judge Tricks, Observations  
or Words of Wisdom?

send to [ashtonsh@bellsouth.net](mailto:ashtonsh@bellsouth.net)

# CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Wayne Balsiger

**Education:** The Judge's Education team is currently considering plans for the upcoming education season, November through April. Please send us your thoughts and requests for offerings in your local area or online. If you don't tell us what you want, it is hard to know what to schedule.

We need more in-person Club Judge Seminars, so if you or judges you know need one, please work with your RAJ to get it on the calendar. Seattle on November 5 and Seabrook, TX (Houston) on February 3 are in the works and will be on the calendar shortly for interested judges.

Last year's trial of Thursday Night Judges was a success, and we plan on running offerings weekly. Protest Days, Round Tables, Better Written Decisions, and Intro to 42 are in the planning stages. Please send ideas to [Bill Simon](#).

**Judging:** We all love sailing and racing, seeing boats and water in picturesque scenes. Sometimes we travel to new to us events or locations and meet new people and see friends. We enjoy giving back to the sport as judges. It isn't all easy, we have a critical job to do, and sometimes we get into higher numbered rules and carefully thread the required processes. Competitors do appreciate the work we do to keep the game fair. I'm at a regatta this week, enjoying the event and time in the area. And with a need to review several areas that may arise. Question: What do you enjoy and see as the benefits and joys of a Judge? Let us know.

**Grow new Judges:** Do you know someone who may be interested in learning more about judging or becoming a judge? Encourage them to do so and let your RAJ know about them so we can include them in judging opportunities and grow their skills. We have a Judge-In-Training (JIT) designation for those that meet the criteria. This enables their listing on the Find a Race Official tool.

**Race Officials in the Spotlight:** Do you know a race officer whose work is exemplary and should be celebrated? Don't be bashful. We'd love to learn more about you. We love Edith Collins, but Edith has been at the top long enough. We need your story. Please get in touch with your Regional Administrative Judge to nominate one or more officials, including you. Insurance for Race Officials: Still no changes in place. US Sailing does continue to work on improving the coverage.

**Elvstrom boats available:** A reminder that the Elvstrom boats are again being made. US Sailing has a great price on them. I replaced my worn-out set. See US Sailing Store, Race officials.

Smooth sailing, Wayne Balsiger, Chair. [webalsiger@gmail.com](mailto:webalsiger@gmail.com).



# JUDGES' TRAINING EVOLUTION - PART 2

## Joe Krolak

The US Sailing Judges' Committee (JC) has an internationally recognized education, training and testing program that seeks to set consistent standards for judges at all levels of the sport and across the entire USA. The article describes the program's history, noting the ongoing evolution with contributions by many talented judges and spanning multiple decades.

### A (Hard) Working Party

At the Spring 2004 annual meeting in Mobile, Alabama, (then) Judges Chair Ted Everingham formed an ad hoc working party (WP) to establish standards and processes to ensure a consistent and high level of quality in the instructors at our US SAILING Judges Workshop. The working party consisted of Judges Committee members Means Davis, Bruce Cook, Tom Roberts, and Sandy Grosvenor.

The WP's goal was to propose a process that would ensure that the instructors of the Workshop are knowledgeable in rules and jury processes, good presenters, well-organized as seminar leaders, and familiar with and faithful to the seminar materials.

The WP presented a proposal for approval at a JC Teleconference on August 3, 2004. There were three elements of the proposal:

- A. Create the new Judges Training and Testing Working Party (JTTWP)
- B. Implement Standards for Instructors
- C. Transition to this new system

To formalize the Program, the Judges Committee formed the Judges Testing and Training Working Party (JTTWP). Means Davis became the first JTTWP Chair.

### JTTWP Workshop

Means and Sandy led the new JTTWP to create consistent sets of the materials and content of training materials AND establish the credentials of those who would lead workshops.

After a lot of hard work and producing several hundred slides, they unveiled the updated JTTWP judges' workshop. The instructor cadre increased to provide more opportunities for workshops in more locations. A JC goal was to have each Area have a workshop within that Area's geographic boundary each year.

The JTTWP increased the number of test questions (to about 600) and the characteristics of those questions (adding scenarios and multiple-choice questions). The JTTWP also improved the quality of the study questions. In doing so, Means and the hard-working JTTWP team helped implement Ted's vision of a truly national and consistent educational opportunity.

But was that workshop format all that judges needed?

### Here Come the Roundtables!

During a 2003 JC open meeting, Art Engel (observer) asked to jump in with an idea for Workshops. He described holding a "round table seminar" with about 25 certified judges in his area. Taking about 50 items, they spent the day talking about rules, procedures, etc., and held mock protests. The topics discussed were about two-thirds procedural and one-third Part 2. He described very exciting and positive feedback on the event.

However, moving forward on this roundtable concept would take several years to accomplish, and it took an evolution of approaches to realize the potential Art envisioned. A review of JC meeting minutes over this timeframe revealed a consistent discussion of looking at workshop alternatives.

### Another Vision Fulfilled ...

In 2007, JTTWP Chair Means Davis proposed adding roundtables as a part of an overall improvement of the workshops/seminars. In his vision, participants would write down questions, and the workshop format would change to using three roundtables to answer them. Participants wrote the questions early in the first few hours of the workshop. While another session was underway (by other instructors), the lead instructor grouped questions into rules, procedures, techniques, and others (corresponding to three separate roundtables). The Lead Instructor would also have some "seed" questions to ensure that important got covered. Participants gets (someone else's) question and answer. Then another participant gave an answer. Then the entire group. The Lead instructor served as moderator, not a lecturer.

Responses of these new roundtables were positive and enthusiastic. While still in the early stages, this dynamic form of adult education interactions was a milestone for the program.

**Next Issue: Unlike Certain Rings, One Workshop Does Not Serve Them All!**



# DEALING WITH PARENTS AND COACHES

## Rick Mallinson

Almost all judges end up working at junior and dinghy events where parents are around. Many of these will also have coaches. These people don't always follow the rules for managing safety and support. What to do with them? How to manage their behaviors is not an uncommon situation. This has become easier to do in recent rule books under the rules.

The rules define a Support Person as any person who provides physical or advisory support; see the definition. So this includes parents and relatives on a support boat or on shore, as well as paid coaches, advisors, trainers, etc. Many of these people may not have made themselves aware of this, and it could be good to do so at competitors' and coaches' meetings and perhaps in pre-regatta communications, particularly if support/coach registration is required and/or restrictions on who may be in the racing area and when and where. Most of such Notices of Race and/or Sailing Instructions limit these under safety or support boat/person rules.

What are your options when these people do not follow the rules? If the behavior is not too egregious, simply talking to them and warning them may be a good first approach. Many SIs state that reasonable requests from race officials must be obeyed. Parents are often unaware of their responsibilities under the rules, even at higher-level events.

If these behaviors are not under control, then the PC may call a hearing to consider whether a Support Person has broken a rule under RRS 60.3(d) with information from any source. The procedures for such a hearing are contained in RRS 63.9, a new rule in this rulebook. The OA or a class organization may want to handle these off the books, and that may work up to a point, but the rules govern and are not preempted by those efforts. The goal is to get compliance.

RRS 64.5, a new rule, suggests potential decisions from such hearings. Common options for penalties would be exclusion from going afloat for one or more days or allowing them to go afloat, tow the competitors but not have contact/communication with their competitors while on the water during the racing day, except for emergency/safety reasons under RRS 37. The competitors may not be penalized for the first incident, covered under RRS 64.5(b), but at a high-level event, this might be changed to allow for competitor penalties even for the first breach.

How to decide on a penalty for the support person? The World Sailing Jury Policy document, found at: [https://d7qh6ksdplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/26101247/Jury\\_Policies\\_2023.pdf](https://d7qh6ksdplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/26101247/Jury_Policies_2023.pdf) provides a very useful process for deciding on penalties for support persons in section D. One problem with these penalties is that keeping the support person from being in the racing area can be a safety issue. So some caution about how to formulate the penalty is warranted.

For bigger problems and repeated violations, the protest committee may move on to RRS 69. RRS 69.1(a) makes clear that support persons are covered. The procedures to manage a potential RRS 69 case are very explicitly covered in the World Sailing Misconduct guide. The document makes clear the precise procedures as well as gives guidance. Section 5 states that support persons are covered under this document and its procedures, and Appendix B suggests possible penalties that may be considered, with a guide to making the decision. That document may be found here: [https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingMisconductGuidanceJuly2021-\[22804\].pdf](https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingMisconductGuidanceJuly2021-[22804].pdf)

While no one wants to go to these official "hearing" routes, it is generally better to deal with the problems early. Once violations of the rules start and no action is taken, they can easily spiral out of control. When participants see others breaking the rules and nothing is done, this lowers their respect for the rules and encourages others to misbehave. Handling such issues fairly and consistently from the beginning should help with compliance and a better regatta experience for all.



# HAPPENINGS IN AREA K

## John Porter

Summer is in full swing in Area K. With many major events happening between June 15 and September 15, Judges in the Midwest are working hard to squeeze in events and help our sport. With technology by our side, many judges are working multiple events per weekend.

Some great people are working their way toward new or upgraded certifications by learning and doing great work on behalf of sailors. Seeing great sailors embracing judging and looking for training and committee opportunities is fantastic. Kudos to Mike Kaspar and Clifford Black for creating opportunities for Judges and Judges in Training to get experience at major events.

Around the Midwest, we've seen a shift in what it means to be a chief judge at major events. With so many people learning, chiefs have taken on the role of trainer, leader, and organizer. It is rare for a chief to take a hearing at a major event. Instead, they are facilitating great teams, working with the OA and Race Management teams, interfacing with competitors, and ensuring fairness across events. Many hearings at major events are chaired by Judges in Training or Club Judges, while experienced National and International Judges are scribing and helping build team confidence.

Early this season, I've seen some amazing things from our protest committees and competitors. First and foremost, I witnessed a competitor jump in the water to help another sailor in real trouble. That competitor is being considered for a Hansen medal. I've been involved in a couple of hearings as a party and watched one of our relatively young club judges manage complex hearings exceptionally well. I've been on a committee with a prospect to become a Judge in Training, where we had a remote hearing for GL52s while at a Sunfish regatta. That recruit added great judgment to a complex hearing involving GPS tracking, video, and the specifics of ORC. He held his own with two international judges on the committee and was invaluable to a fair result.

I'm proud of our group and excited for all the great sailing coming to the Midwest this summer.



## USEFUL LINKS

- [US Sailing Judges' Page](#)
- [The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 with the corrections and updates for Jan 1, 2022](#)
- [US Sailing Appeals](#)
- [World Sailing Cases](#)
- [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](#)
- [Race Officials Insurance Information](#)



Club Judge Seminar