

# RRS 68

## The Latest News from the Judges' Committee

### *In This Newsletter:*

#### Chairman's Corner

Page 02

#### Jugdes'Training Evolution

Page 03

#### Thursday Nights!

Page 04

#### Motor Boat Safety

Page 05

#### Happenings in Area A

Page 06

#### Useful Links

Page 07



## WELCOME TO THE JUDGES' NEWSLETTER

**Sarah Ashton**

There is excellent news for Race Officials and Organizing Authorities. US Sailing has established a new page: [Race Official/Organizing Authority Connection Page](#).

The page aims to make connecting race officials and organizing authorities easier. The intended benefit is for race officials to find the type of events they want to participate in and to help OAs find the officials with the experience and level of certification they need for their events.

Both outcomes will support the development of officials who need higher-level and out-of-venue events to qualify for higher-level certifications.

Several judges have already signed up, as well as a few OAs.

I Would like to thank Joe Krolak for his excellent articles on the growth of Judges' training. We have come a long way and continue to expand educational opportunities for judges and future judges

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions for the RRS 68, do not hesitate to contact me.

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

# CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Wayne Balsiger

**Education:** Our Judge Education offerings tend to occur in the off-season as we all are busy sailing and Judging during the season. The Judges Seminar calendar has the largest number of offerings ever. We have both in-person and online. Many are one day or evening. These include Protest Day, Round Table, Misconduct, Intro to Rule 42, and Club Judge Seminars. Many are offered on Thursdays, so free up your Thursdays during the winter. See the article by Bill Simon for more details.

**This issue:** We return our Area news to Area A, as we completed all 11 Areas in the last issue. Joe Krolak continues his history of the Judges' Committee. Nancy Glover and team discuss small boat safety.

It is **renewal time** for those with their certification expiring this year. You need to fill out an application that you want to renew. Let your RAJ know that you are renewing. If you have decided to retire, let them know as well. Please complete your application by November 26 or sooner to ensure we get it. Most recertification requirements are noted in the [US Sailing Judge Certification Requirements](#). Ensure your dues are paid, Background check, and SafeSport are up to date, as well as your SOARS record of events and Edit my Annual Report.

**Connection Board:** The Race Administration created the page on the Race Official/Organizing Authority Connection Board. This page connects race officials and candidates seeking assignments with organizing authorities (OAs) needing officials.

To add your personal information or your organization's needs, click the red "Submit Your Information" button. Sign in today and enter your information as a Judge seeking events. It is a way to increase your visibility and that you are looking for events. You can see what other officials have posted already.

Encourage any OAs, clubs, or fleets to use it as well. And look at events posted there that are looking for officials. You may be the one they need.

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



# JUDGES' TRAINING EVOLUTION - PART 4

Joe Krolak

## JETTS swooshes in ....

In 2012, JC Chair Don Becker asked Joe Krolak to take over the JTTWP. Joe agreed but suggested to Don that there was a necessary expansion of education, training and testing approaches and materials and re-evaluation of their role within the certification of judges. With Don's support, during a US Sailing Board of Directors meeting held in Annapolis, Joe proposed that the working party evolve into a permanent subcommittee with equal JC membership for the Chair.

Joe also proposed that beyond the two seminars, US Sailing introduce a wider gamut of continuing education events (CEE). These CEEs would have commensurate continuing education units (CEUs) to replace the "seminar only" means to obtain and continue certification. The Board concurred with this proposal (and Joe's appointment by Don).

To make this new distinction vis-à-vis the working parties, Joe named this entity the Judges Education, Training and Testing Subcommittee (JETTS). The three components represent various aspects of how adults learn (and how this learning differs from youths). Education provides the learning materials that judges need to obtain knowledge in the desired subject matter (and is usually a longer-term activity). Training provides a means to apply that knowledge and develop specific skills (and usually a short-term activity). Testing serves to demonstrate proficiency in both those educational and training activities. To better manage these efforts, JETTS assigned leads (or Directors) for various components (e.g., Ric Crabbe became the Testing Director, Bruce Martinson became the One Day Judges Seminar Director, etc.)

## Increasing Education and Training Opportunities

The success of the roundtable concept during seminars begged the question, "Why not adopt these as an alternative means to obtain CEUs?" Then JC Chair Steve Wrigley proposed JETTS expand potential CEEs to include roundtables, clinics and other potential offerings. Joe and Steve also wanted to structure CEEs to allow a judge to decide to participate in their own specific relevant aspect of training and education. They envisioned CEEs would become much more local for each judge with substantial reduction in costs of dollars and time.

For roundtables, JETTS developed guidelines to meet to become a US Sailing-sanctioned event and able to offer CEUs. Bruce Martinson revamped the ODJS to better focus on the needs of newer judges - with a goal to increase the cadre of certified Club Judges. Bruce Cook and Bill Simon advanced the concept of "Protest Day" training, where participants would actively engage in roles and processes for hearings. Acknowledging their experiences, JETTS allowed Judges active in Association or the National Appeals Committee cases to obtain CEUs related to those efforts. This increased education and training, but what about testing?

## Online Testing

Recall that some judges had to travel hundreds of miles to take a seminar and test. To both alleviate this and facilitate testing when a renewing judge had sufficient CEUs, Steve, Joe, and Ric Crabbe explored online testing concepts and approaches. In April 2015 (in under six months of development), JETTS introduced the online test for renewing and first-time judge candidates. In the online test platform, a rules database allowed the selection of random test questions; with the result that no two tests are the same. The online testing platform also ensured that tests have the same degree of difficulty; while questions reflecting the level of certification for the person taking the test. A Club Judge would not see the level of rule complexity or the passing grade expected for Regional and National Judges. Finally, being online better-accommodated anyone who did not achieve a passing score would get a full debrief<sup>[1]</sup> on all the questions on their test.

## The Future

In 2019, Joe Krolak passed on the responsibilities of JETTS to Bill Simon. Bill brought additional ideas and approaches to ensure that JETTS and judges' education continues to evolve to meet future needs and challenges of US Sailing Judges.

[1] Yes - JETTS used Zoom and Webex even before Covid.

# GET READY FOR THURSDAY NIGHT, JUDGES!

**Bill Simon - Chair**

**Judge Education, Training and Testing Subcommittee**

We are approaching "seminar season," and your JETTS team has heard your feedback. We plan to expand last year's alternating Thursday night educational offerings to be weekly between November and the end of April. We will start the season with a Protest Day on November 2 and 9, followed by Round Tables on December 7 and 14. We will take a holiday break and return on January 4th. The above events are on the Seminar Calendar for current registration. The Protest Day is one offering over two nights and is one registration. We expect all participants to attend both days so the assignment rotation works appropriately. If you do not expect to be available both days, please sign up for a Protest Day later in the season. Round Tables are individual sign-ups and the topics will differ each night.

Most of your educational leaders are still in the middle of the sailing season, so we have not set the dates for specific offerings in the new year. Dates will follow in due course. We intend to include the Club Judge Seminar, Misconduct Clinic and Misconduct Day, Introduction to Rule 42, Better Written Decisions, and additional Protest Days and Round Tables.

New this year is an offering called an "Evening With" under the umbrella of Round Tables. I am thrilled to be able to announce the first two will be Pat Healy and Dave Perry. Pat Healy: Pushing the Art and Science of Judging will be on January 25, 2024. Dave Perry will be on an evening to be announced early next year. Both of these will be lively discussions of topics that will make even experienced judges think about the rules and their application.

JETTS is looking for volunteers to be leaders for offerings. If you feel sufficiently knowledgeable, please volunteer to assist with these and in preparing additional offerings or updates to what is currently available. If you have topics that you think are timely and appropriate for Round Tables, please reach out to me and Nancy Glover. You just might be asked to be the leader of this discussion.

On a separate subject, if you want an Advanced Judge Seminar either in person or online, please let me know of your interest with suggested dates and locations. Since a majority of attendees will be those desiring an increase in certification level, there are only a few seminars run each year. Please make the above suggestions so we can meet your scheduling needs. At least one will be online and likely on two back-to-back weekends.

Happy judging,

Bill

[foursimon@aol.com](mailto:foursimon@aol.com)



# SMALL BOAT SAFETY FOR JUDGES

**Kat Kulkoski, RJ Area D**  
**Nancy Glover, NJ Area A**  
**With the assistance of Dan Kulkoski,**  
**RJ Area D and US Sailing Power**  
**Boating Instructor**



Small boat safety is a critical issue for judges on the water, whether applying Appendix P or merely observing racing. Keeping racers and race officials safe is our top priority.

Let's start with the Engine Cut-Off Switch (ECOS) and its Link. The ECOS is a safety mechanism used to shut off propulsion machinery when the operator is displaced from the helm. The Link is the device that connects the ECOS to the operator. It must be "attached" to the operator either by a cable attached to the operator, their clothing or PFD OR a wireless electrical or Bluetooth Link. In this system, fobs or tags are connected to the operator or their clothing or PFD. Many of these devices have a "rescue mode," which allows restarting the engine after a short period. Some devices even function as a MOB. Note that "universal" cable Links can be acquired easily through Amazon and marine suppliers. The cost is minimal. Most judges and umpires now carry these in their sea bag.

Federal law and most states have ECOS LINK requirements. The federal law requires that boats under 26 feet in length that generate more than 115 lbs of static thrust (approximately 2-3 HP) built beginning in January 2020 unless the primary helm is in an enclosed cabin be equipped with an ECOS and Link. Note that all boats having an ECOS installed and fitting the above description must use the device even if the boat was built before 2020. For many years before 2020, most US-made small power boats have had ECOS installed.

Under federal and most state laws, the operator must use the ECOS when the boat is planing or traveling at greater than displacement speed. Use is not required when idling or docking. However, many NORs now require support persons to use the ECOS when on the water near the race course or at all times. We encourage judges and other race officials to use the ECOS even when not planing. It is easy to forget to reattach the Link!

Remember: a typical three-blade propeller running at 3200 RPM can inflict 160 impacts per second. A standard recreational propeller can travel from head to toe on an average person in less than one-tenth of a second.

# HAPPENINGS IN AREA A

Mary Pierce

Area A includes the states of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. We have over 5410 miles of coastline bordering the Atlantic Ocean and over 7100 lakes! The area is home to more than 300 yacht clubs and sailing clubs, 8 Regional Sailing Associations (Piscataqua Youth Sailing in Maine, Manchester Sailing Association, Southern Mass Sailing Association, Mass Bay Sailing Association, Hingham Bay Racing, RS Sailing Association, Marblehead Racing Association, and New England Multihulls Sailing Association in Massachusetts plus Narragansett Bay Sailing Association and Narragansett Bay Herreshoff "S" Boat Sailing Association in Rhode Island) and over 100 Community Sailing programs plus scores of camps and sailing schools. We pack a lot of fun into a relatively small space!

Area A currently has 42 certified judges: 2 International Judges (who are also NJs), 15 National Judges, 4 Regional Judges, 15 Club Judges and 6 Judges in Training. Most of our judges are concentrated on the coast between Marblehead, MA and Newport, RI, but we also have representation in VT, NH and ME. We have several "dual citizens" judges- snowbirds who fly south to join Areas D and F in the winter. But for most of us, the season is compressed into June, July and August, though May, September and October are also beginning to pick up events.

We are now scheduling continuing education events in person and on Zoom to keep us sharp in the off-season and bring in new judges. Keep an eye on the seminar schedule as new offerings are posted frequently. You can also sign up to be notified when new postings appear. Click the box above the seminar calendar that says "Notify Me."

Many of us are already planning events for next season. If you have an event that needs judges or race officers or are looking for events, try out the new Race Official/Organizing Authority Connection Board on the US Sailing website. You can post your availability and interest or the needs of your event.

Fair winds!



# USEFUL LINKS

- [US Sailing Judges' Page](#)
- [The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 with the corrections and updates for Jan 1, 2023](#)
- [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](#)
- [Race Official/Organizing Authority Connection Page](#)

