

RRS 68

The Latest News from the Judges' Committee

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WELCOME TO THE JUDGES' NEWSLETTER

Sarah Ashton

As we dive into the 2024 Sailing Season, let's ensure we're all on board!

It is an excellent time to check your 2023 events. Are they all logged into SOARS? And you set a goal to enter new events within a few weeks.

If you need to renew and take the dreaded test in '24, now is the time to review the pertinent documents. Also, check your CEUs. Do you need more or a seminar?

If you would like a Protest Day, Clinic, or Round Table in your locale, contact your RAJ. It would help your RAJ if you could suggest a club to host one.

If you are the chief Judge or Protest Chairperson, can you include a Club Judge or JIT?

As always, if you have any suggestions for RRS 68, please do not hesitate to contact me - ashtonsh@bellsouth.net

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Wayne Balsiger

As the weather slowly warms in the country's northern parts, boats, sailors and judges hit the water for 2024 events.

SafeSport: It was pointed out that some certified officials show up at events with an expired SafeSport certification. Please check that your SafeSport is current. You usually get an email reminder, but you know email: sometimes it does not reach your inbox. So check if you are current. When to do your annual training: Complete it a couple of weeks before your deadline. Your new cert is good for 12 months after completing that training. It does not add 12 months to your prior SafeSport expiration date.

Staying Informed on Rule Changes: The Rules undergo minor typo corrections each year, and new Appeals and Cases are released. There is also the Q&A service on World Sailing.

The current RRS version update is January 2023. The current US Appeals book is January 2024. The current WS Case book is January 2024. If you are in a VTS (Vessel Traffic Services) area and use Appendix TS, the latest version is January 2024. Links to these are on the last page under Useful Links.

The Q&A service is challenging to find. Go to [Race Officials Resource Centre](#), scroll down to Duties and Procedures, and open the Q&A Service. The latest Q&A, 2024-001, just came out and is on the meaning of "maybe" in rule 62.1. There were nine 2003 Q&As.

Other Articles in this Issue of RRS 68: Check out what is happening in Area D from RAJ Jerry Thompson, Rob Overton's informative article, and George Griswold, who is honored.

Feedback: Let Sarah Ashton and me know your thoughts on RRS 68, what you like and don't like, and suggestions for us. What do you think about publishing four times instead of six times yearly? We do this work for you. Let us know its value to you.

Remember, all issues of the RRS 68 newsletter are on the Judges' webpage.

Smooth sailing always,

Wayne Balsiger, Judges' Committee Chair webalsiger@gmail.com



GEORGE GRISWOLD, JUDGE EMERITUS

George Griswold is the living illustration of “lead by example”. For over 60 years, George with quiet determination has served the sport of sailing as a judge, race officer, administrator, teacher and more. He is responsible for exposing thousands to the sport of sailing and mentored hundreds to follow his lead in service to the sport.



George learned to sail and race his freshman year while attending the College of Wooster in Ohio (1957 to 1961). Sailing MIT Tech dinghies, and Flying Juniors, he found success on the race course. By his junior year he was the chair of Midwest Collegiate Sailing Association. The year after graduation, George became the Graduate Secretary of the Midwest Collegiate Sailing Association (MCSA) and held the position until 1994. George gave up his position on the MCSA Board of Directors to create and lead the MCSA Foundation. His current term will end in January 2025.

He heard his first protest hearings in September 1966. In 1982, then US Sailing President Dick Latham called George about joining a new certified judges program. As requested, George sent Dick a letter outlining his experience and a letter came back appointing him as a judge. The first Collegiate Procedural Rules were very much oriented to the east coast varsity sailing teams. George, having sailed in the Midwest where most sailing teams were club sports contributed to the redrafting that became the heart of the Procedural Rules we have today. By the 1980s, George became the Chair of the ICSA Rules Committee, updating the Rules and Bylaws. He also chaired the All-American Selection Committee. He contributed to the re-writing of the ICSA Safety Guide in the 1960s. He is the current Chair of the ICSA Eligibility Committee, a position he has held since 1972.

George has always been devoted to Midwestern Collegiate Sailing. He has said that helping the 30 college teams in the Midwest has been his “biggest mission”.

When asked to run the Area E O’Day eliminations requiring a certified race officer, he obtained his Club Race Officer certification. He became a Regional Race Officer in 2015.

George met his wife while they were teaching. George finished his Master in Chemistry and started teaching chemistry at Washtenaw Community College in 1966 becoming its Professor of Chemistry and retiring in 2000.

The two of them built their own house in Milan, Michigan that includes an extensive wood working shop for George. The wood working shop has fostered one of George’s other talents: hand-carved perpetual trophies for Sears Cup, Notre Dame, Wisconsin, Ohio State, Bayview Race to Mackinac, Match Race Midwest, Iowa, Area E O’Day Trophy, and Michigan .

The ICSA and MCSA have recognized George’s contributions by dedicating perpetual trophies for the ICSA Open Singlehanded Second Place and the MCSA Team Race Championship Trophy in his honor.

He received the 1973 ICSA Hall of Fame Award for Meritorious Service and the 2000 ICSA Campbell Family Award for Lifetime Service. George still attends every MCSA Executive Board meeting.

Before Covid, George was attending in excess of 40 events per year. At 84 years old, he has promised his wife to cut back. He had 30 events in 2023.

On February 10, 2024, the U.S. Sailing Judges Committee awarded Judge Emeritus status to George Griswold in recognition of his exceptional service to the sport of sailing.

Nancy Zangerle, Area E RAJ

ROB OVERTON

The 2023 Harman Hawkins Trophy Winner



Each year, the Harman Hawkins Trophy is presented by the Race Administration Committee to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the sport in the field of Race Administration. This year's winner is Rob Overton (Alameda, CA).

Rob has raced and cruised sailboats with his wife Andi for over 65 years, including campaigning a 470 in the 1976 Olympic Trials. They have won various regional, national, and North American championships in Lasers and J/24s, sailed over 30,000 miles, and crossed the Atlantic three times in their 50' sloop.

In 1990, Dick Rose published an article soliciting suggestions to simplify the racing rules. Rob Overton responded with a 19-page, single-spaced document of suggested revisions, leading quickly to his membership on the US Sailing Racing Rules Committee. He served on the rules committee for 34 years, and in that time, he oversaw the publication of eight rulebooks and was the original author of more than a dozen rules now in The Racing Rules of Sailing.

Rob has also served on multiple World Sailing working parties to improve the mark room rule, the World Sailing Team Race Rules working party, the Team Race Call Book working party, and the Rapid Response Call working party. He is a National Judge and an International Umpire, and, as one friend wrote, he "always answers the phone and is never too busy to talk about the rules, do hearings, or go racing."

HAPPENINGS IN AREA D

Jerry Thompson

An introduction to Area D. Area D covers nine states (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee). It includes three Regional Sailing Associations (Florida Sailing Association (FSA), Gulf Yachting Association (GYA) and the South Atlantic Yacht Racing Associations (SAYRA)) and at least 213 sailing clubs! Area D has 14 National judges, 15 Regional Judges, 29 Club Judges and 7 Judges in Training to serve this large geographic area.

Florida has the largest number of certified judges of any Area D state, with 31. This makes sense, as Florida has the largest number of sailing clubs in Area D at 115! Florida clubs host a wide variety of events during December, January, February and March as sailboat racing in much of the country pauses for winter.

We need to work to increase the number of judges in Arkansas, which currently has no certified judges; Alabama, which has one Regional Judge; Mississippi, which has one Club Judge; and Tennessee, which has one Club Judge. Two candidates in Arkansas should be appointed Judges in Training in the near future, along with one in Tennessee, which is a start. Please encourage and mentor judge candidates in your club and local area. We need to recruit and train the next generation of judges to serve the needs of our clubs and sailors.

Congratulations to:

Jim Hunter, who was certified National Judge in April.

Ted McGee, who was certified Regional Judge in April.

Carter Little, who was appointed Judge in Training in March.

John Farris, who was certified Club Judge again in February after a break in service.

John Carter, who was certified Club Judge in January.

Nancy Parson, who renewed as Club Judge in January.

Requesting recommendations for certification. Ask for a recommendation for certification before the event in which you will serve with the person making the recommendation. This alerts them to pay attention to your performance. You may request a recommendation even though you have not met all of the requirements for certification, for example, before attending a seminar or taking and passing the exam. It is good to share the link to US Sailing's online recommendation form with the person you have asked to make the recommendation for. Here is the link:

<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/resources/certification-forms/recommend-a-candidate-to-be-a-race-official/>

Keeping the lines of communication open. Warren Collier, RJ, Chair of the SAYRA Judges Committee, holds quarterly Zoom meetings with SAYRA judges. Topics of discussion include recent and upcoming events, Rule 42, US Sailing Judges Manual and more. Attendees are welcome to bring topics for discussion. The quarterly meetings serve to keep lines of communication and learning open within SAYRA.

Judges with Rule 42 experience. The demand for judges to enforce Rule 42 on the water continues to increase. High school, college, Opti and ILCA events often fall short of the optimum number of judges needed to enforce Rule 42 on the water. We are working to train more judges for Rule 42 work, which includes seminars and on-the-water mentoring.

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](#) **Latest version 02/2024**
- [Guidelines for Online Hearings](#)
- [Continuing Education Events and CEUs Table](#)
- [Race Officials Certification Forms](#)
- [Race Officials Insurance Information](#)
- [Race Official/Organizing Authority Connection Page](#)

