

Judges' Committee Minutes  
April 9, 2024  
7:00 PM EDT 4:00 PM PDT

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Wayne Balsiger at 7:04 PM EDT, 4:04 PM PDT

II. Roll Call

Attendees

Chair Wayne Balsiger

RAJs:

Bruce Cook, Area B  
Harry Foote, Area C  
Jerry Thompson, Area D  
Nancy Zangerle, Area E  
Chris Luppens, Area F  
Don Wieneke, Area G  
Tom Pochereva, Area H  
Steve Holmstrom, Area J  
John Porter, Area K

Members at Large

Bill Simon, Chair Judges Training and Testing Subcommittee  
Bruce Martinson, Chair Club Judge Program  
Nancy Glover, Round Table Coordinator  
Steve Schupak, Chair Umpires Committee  
Darryl Waskow, IJ Candidate Mentor  
Matt Hill, Race Administration Director

III. Approval of Minutes

The February Minutes were approved as written.

IV. Welcome and Announcements – Wayne Balsiger

- a. Thanks to Nancy Glover for helping with meeting notes.
- b. Credit to the IT department. The issue of Regional Judge not showing the expire date on the SOARS Admin report results has been fixed. This was quick as I pointed it out on Tuesday and several hours later it was fixed. It was like helped by having been submitted several times before.

OK, thanks to Andrew Ewing in our IT department, this small mystery is resolved and fixed:

Person	Area	Judge	Race Mgt	Umpire	Training	Classifier
<a href="#">Annual Report</a>	A	Expire Yr:	2026	2024	2025	
		2024:		1	2	
		2023:	4	7		
		2022:	7	8	1	
		2021:	1	9	1	
		<a href="#">Last 4 Years:</a>	<a href="#">12</a>	<a href="#">25</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	
		<a href="#">All Years:</a>	<a href="#">62</a>	<a href="#">137</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">34</a>

The issue was that when we changed the cert name from “Judge” to “Regional Judge” (a new cert), we did not update the admin search in SOARS to reflect that. It was working for CJ and NJ. We have just made the same changes for IC, IJ, IRO and IU.

Thanks, Wayne. Matt

- c. The BoD approved the Rule 69 Task Force Bylaw Amendment for Reg 15 update we requested and worked on. Matt sent today a copy of the update.
- d. I forwarded the US Sailing Volunteer Committee Review Task Force report.
  - i. In it you can see what the input was including mine and Bill Simon as committee Chairs. You can see the recommendations made by the Task Force. A ‘Summit’ coming later this year with Chairs to gather more granular feedback.

#### V. Race Admin Director Report – Matt Hill

- a. Update on LMS (Learning Management System) platform in late 2024: New Start Global and USSA have a draft contract. Approval is expected later this week. It is a three year contract (Matt to verify). The new build out of courses will begin in the fall of 2024. All courses must be “authored” again. Courses cannot be migrated. The Club Judge Seminar will be the first of the judge training to be updated.
- b. Update on insurance from National Association of Sports Officials: USSA is in productive discussions with the National Association of Sports Officials and their underwriter American Specialty Insurance regarding group pricing. Activities on land and on the water will be covered. Participants must be certified Race Officials. The current cost estimate is less than \$80 per year per person. This cost will likely be borne directly by the Race Officials. The JC wants at least some of the insurance cost covered by US Sailing.
- c. Matt gave an update on Review Board action status.
- d. Matt requested we all fill out the Conflict-of-Interest form recently sent to all Race Officials.

#### VI. IJ Candidate Mentor – Darryl Waskow: Arrangements for a US based IJ Seminar are currently being discussed with World Sailing. The location is still open. Darryl has a yacht club that may host the seminar in NY.

#### VII. Newsletter – Sarah Ashton

The May issue deadline is April 23.

- a. RRS 68; Chair report, Area D—Jerry, Rob Overton—Wayne, George Griswold—Nancy Z. There have been some complaints that the newsletter is too long, with 5+ articles. So, I will go with four unless there is a burning issue that is short and to the point. I am open to articles for next month.
- b. Someone mentioned having a “Judges’ Town Hall.” I would like to recommend we have another State of the Area Zoom meeting. A few years ago, it went very well for those RAJs who organized/ran one. Several areas had two to cover more people, which was more manageable. I, as chair, attended them. Chris Luppens and Mary Pierce are already moving ahead with this concept.

VIII. Certification Requirements – Craig Daniels

- a. Minor update of February on Test period requirements. This topic was tabled until next session when Craig is able to attend.

IX. Terms of Reference – Wayne Balsiger

- a. Any edits? Are we ready to approve? Wayne states that this documents the JC functions and operating practices. Voted to APPROVE with yearly reviews at annual meeting for any updates needed.

X. Guidelines for Using RO Reports and Complaints Policy

- a. This is designed as a guideline to help Race Officials understand and use the RO Reports and Complaints Policy, including tips for handling difficult conversations. JC voted to APPROVE. The document will be sent to Justin Sterk and the Race Administration Committee for consideration as guidance for all Race Officials.

XI. Judges at events without SafeSport – Craig Daniels

- a. In particular, I have noticed that at some events we have JITs (or UITs) that have no certifications. In fact, it is common at local events but I also saw it last year at the Opti Nationals. What should we do? The JC decided that current SafeSport policy is fine. WE REQUIRE SafeSport of all Race Officials, JITs and UITs. No further action.

XII. RAJ recommendations for club judge

- a. John Porter's proposed a RAJ may be a reference for a Club Judge. Motion APPROVED that a RAJ May act as a reference for CJ.
- b. The Second paragraph, that a RAJ could provide a recommendation for RJs was TABLED.

XIII. Recommendation when someone has worked multiple events together vs a single-event recommendation.

- a. John Porter's proposal: APPROVED Multiple events may be taken into consideration. The 30-day deadline is desired but may be extended for good reason by the JC. These notes will be added as a couple of sentences to the certification requirements document.

XIV. New Applications/upgrades

- a. Ted McGee, RJ – Jerry Thompson APPROVED
- b. Jim Hunter, NJ – Jerry Thompson APPROVED

XV. Education – Bill Simon, Bruce Martinson and JETTS team: Bill stated that Bruce Martinson will provide information through Dropbox until the new software is implemented. The materials in Canvas should not be printed by students.

AJS – Bill Simon  
CJS - Bruce Martinson  
Round Tables - Nancy Glover  
Protest Days - Bruce Cook  
Rule 42 – Craig Daniels

XVI. Annual Meeting 2025 – Wayne Balsiger: Wayne suggested we begin to consider our location for next year.

- a. Look at 2025 Annual Meeting Thoughts on location?
  - i. In-Person and Zoom
  - ii. Location
    - 1. History is St. Louis, Atlanta x 3 or 4, Pewaukee.
    - 2. St. Louis is center, nice hotel, but lack of flights. Atlanta, nice airport Hilton.
    - 3. In past we looked at Denver, Dallas,
    - 4. Bring your ideas
  - iii. Dates: February
    - 1. Feb 8, 2025. Feb
    - 2. Conflicts Sailing Leadership Forum 2025 Feb 6-8, 2025 Coronado, CA

February 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

iv.

Annual meeting Schedule

Friday	Time
Pre-Dinner social hour	6:00 PM
Dinner for in-person	7:00 PM

Saturday meeting 8:30 AM

Meeting End 4:00 PM

Saturday Dinner 6:00 PM

Sunday depart, if not before

Several proposals came in via email after the meeting. Send more if you want.

XVII. Judges Manual Update – Wayne Balsiger

- a. Just a reminder to be reviewing your assigned chapters.
- b. Can comment on other chapters as well.
- c. Timeline: Rules are final 6/30/24  
Submit changes by Aug 30  
Manual in great shape by 10/1

- d. Discuss in the Judges' Manual: John Porter thinks we should add that it is bad practice to deny video evidence. Many juries deny all video and GPS evidence. I think our group should take a stand on this and list what we believe to be best practice. (P. 44 in JM)

XVIII. Racing Rules training tools - Jerry Thompson

- a. As you may or may not know, Jerry has a Rules Presentation that anyone can use or alter. It is all ready to go. Link in Agenda but will not be in Minutes. Instead, Jerry has sent the link to all members of the JC.

XIX. Meeting Adjourned at 9:14 PM EDT, 6:14 PM PDT

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J Glover