

Judges' Committee Minutes

April 29 2025

7:00 PM EDT, 4:00 PM PDT

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Wayne Balsiger at 7:03 PM EDT, 4:03 PM PDT

Attendees

Chair Wayne Balsiger Present

Vice Chair: Edith Collins Present

RAJs:

Mary Pierce, Area A Present

Giff Constable, Area B Absent

Harry Foote, Area C Present

Jerry Thompson, Area D Present

Clark Chapin, Area E Present

Chris Luppens, Area F Present

Don Wieneke, Area G Present

Tom Pochereva, Area H Present

Steve Holmstrom, Area J Present

John Porter, Area K Present

Barbara Belt, Area L Present

Members at Large

Mark Townsend, Chair Judges Training and Testing Subcommittee Absent

Bruce Martinson, Chair Club Judge Program Present

Nancy Glover, Round Table Coordinator Present

Craig Daniels, Rule 42 Coordinator Present

Sarah Ashton, RRS 68 Newsletter Present

Steve Schupak, Chair, Umpires Committee Absent

Darryl Waskow, IJ Candidate Mentor Present

Matt Hill, Race Administration Director Present

II. Approval of Minutes

The February minutes were approved as written and submitted.

III. Welcome and Announcements – Wayne Balsiger

- a. You should have received your free rulebook if you ordered one. They shipped around April 1.
- b. Thanks to all the responded to the Racing Rules Committee proposed rules changes.
- c. The updated February 2025 Judges' Certification Requirements are on the website. [US Sailing Judge Certification Requirements - US Sailing](#) (Some changes were announced and discussed later.)
- d. New Hearing decision forms are on the website. The forms and instructions and ancillary files are in section Useful Protest Committee Documents. John Porter presented "how to use it" at a Judges' Roundtable, recorded it as a You Tube video (with permission from all participants) and provided a link. https://youtu.be/_WTKcn4aGs?si=D_0LDR3YIRS-CxXm
A big Thank You to John!

- e. You received an email from Tom Duggans (via Judie McCann) last week about non-contrasting sail numbers becoming a growing problem. Tom suggests reminding sailors in the NoR, giving them some time to fix numbers, and then protesting them if necessary.
- f. Please check on your 6-month grace period renewals.
 - i. If they have completed missing requirements and now meet all the requirements, please let me know. Wayne will then certify them. We do not review these at a meeting.
 - ii. If they have not met the requirements yet, remind them it is time to get going as the grace period does not last forever.
- g. World Sailing Work parties. You all saw the emails from Fred Hagedorn and Sandy Grosvenor about applying for any you are interested in.

IV. Race Admin Director Report – Matt Hill

- a. New US Sailing CEO Charlie Enright started work Monday, April 21, with a formal start date of May 1.
- b. US Sailing Board will meet May 6 and the Race Administration and Offshore committees will present recent activities. Members can watch the board meeting via Zoom.
- c. The Team Race call book for 2025-2028 from World Sailing is now available as a pdf file.

V. New Applications/upgrades

- a. Charles Tripp, NJ – Steve Holmstrom – accepted, unanimously.
- b. Peter Morrill – Emeritus – Chris Luppens – accepted, unanimously. Peter has passed away and the award will be presented to his home yacht club, Bay Waveland.

VI. Renewals for 2025

- a. RJs and NJs:
 - i. RAJ should note which RJ and NJs have met their renewal requirements and discusses any missing items with the judge.
 - ii. The Judges' Committee then reviews candidates for renewal of RJ and NJ.
- b. CJs:
 - i. RAJ should note which CJs have met their renewal requirements and discusses any missing items with the judge.
 - ii. The RAJ approves renewals when all requirements are met.
- c. Remind all renewing judges to check that their contact information in the US Sailing data base is correct.

VII. IJ Candidate Mentor – Darryl Waskow:

- a. Fred Hagedorn application was completed with his Argentina reference. His application was sent for US Sailing endorsement and approved. We are awaiting World Sailing's approval.
- b. Two track time, fall and Spring. June 1 is the next deadline. Dec 1 is the Spring deadline. Make sure you really meet first deadline
- c. Some ins and outs on application. Mentor is suggested but not mandatory.

VIII. Newsletter – Sarah Ashton

- a. The RRS 68 January issue deadline is April 30.
- b. Start thinking about subjects for the June issue.
- c. Discussion on ways to increase feedback and relevance of the newsletter content.

IX. Education – Mark Townsend, Bruce Martinson and JETTS team

- a. AJS – Mark Townsend: One Advanced Judge seminar presented in March at American Yacht Club. One more online AJS planned for 2025.
- b. Judges Test Rules Questions: Discussions centered on the test focusing on rules and the seminars focusing on how to be a judge. Discussion on enforcing pre-seminar homework. Maybe credit incentives for completing quizzes is under review. Seems like a disconnect between course material and test material. All agree judges need both kinds of knowledge. Bruce Martinson checking on getting study questions updated to 2025 rules.
- c. CJS - Bruce Martinson: All planned Club Judge Seminars for 2025 are completed.
- d. Round Tables - Nancy Glover: All planned Roundtables for 2025 are completed, including the final one on how to use the new hearing decision form.
- e. Protest Days - Bruce Cook – no report
- f. Rule 42 – Craig Daniels, Mark Townsend, Jerry Thompson: action items in progress; working group trying to reach consensus on several points, not ready to present seminar yet. Still to come: testing process, recertification requirements, appointment of assessors, identification of Rule 42 endorsement judges in “Find a Race Official”.

X. Judges Manual Update – Wayne Balsiger

- a. 2025-2028 Case Book from World Sailing is expected by the end of June.
- b. Then the Judges’ Manual needs to have its references updated to match the Case Book.
- c. And the US Sailing Appeals Book needs to have its references updated.
- d. All 3 documents will be available as pdf files. Printing will be permitted for private and instructional use. If you want a hard copy you can have a printing service make you one.

XI. Umpire Committee – Steve Schupak

- a. Planning on 5 or 6 Umpire Regional Administrator Umpires (RAU)
- b. Adding more people to the Umpire assessor team

XII. Work Parties from Annual Meeting – Status Updates

- a. Lack of Hearings for Judge Certification Requirements: Edith Collins will chair the team of Wayne Balsiger, Giff Constable, Chris Luppens, Mark Townsend, Bruce Cook, Nancy Glover, and Bruce Martinson.
- b. RAJ Guide: Clark Chapin, Giff Constable, and Darryl Waskow will review and update the Guide. Don Wieneke added to the group. Giff: “on RAJ Guide, I want a little more time in the seat before I go back and examine that doc.”
- c. Join the Protest Committee online document – Mark Townsend, Giff Constable, Edith Collins: The current draft is complicated and intimidating – needs to be made more accessible. Barbara suggests emphasizing the prevention part of judging (reviewing NoR

and Sis to help reduce redress requests, discussing Rule 42 with a fleet before the regatta begins) in addition to the correction part (protest hearings). Giff: “on the “around the protest committee” doc that Mark T started, I began a separate draft but it's in beginning stages and I need to pick it back up again.”

- d. Expedited Hearings: Giff Constable, Jerry Thompson, and Barbara Belt reviewed several NoR and SI documents that specify how to do expedited hearings. The RRS allow all the modifications needed and there are several good examples of language to do it. Training the judges and the sailors to accept, use, and hopefully prefer expedited hearings will be the bigger challenge. Good examples include RRS Appendix E for radio controlled boats, the Sis for the 2023 Championship of Champions held in RC boats, Appendix T for arbitration, Appendix C for match racing, and Intercollegiate Sailing team racing procedural rules.
- e. Minimum US Sailing Prescriptions – Wayne: Sandy Grosvenor has prepared a list of the US Sailing Prescriptions that cannot be changed. These should be provided to the Organizing Authority for international events held in the United States, along with a short explanation of why they cannot be changed. This information is available under Judges’ Guidelines and Document.
- f. Technology Used by Race Officials: Matt Hill, John Porter, Darryl Waskow, and Sandy Grosvenor still working on what is feasible in the near term and using the current database. The group will ultimately require participation by the balance of Race Administration.

XIII. General discussion of some Internal policies – Wayne Balsiger

- a. Changes to certification/ recertification requirements as noted by John’s email of April 24: We try to get the certification packages out at least 10 days before the meeting so everyone has time to review and can inquire further if they want input from judges about a person. We should do the same on proposals, so they are not first presented in the several days before a meeting. It may make sense to make changes at monthly meetings, say that make certification easier and those that make it harder, only at the annual meeting. It also makes sense to me to get some feedback on a proposal to improve the initial version. Often several minds make a better proposal. I have felt for some time that we tend to bring up a topic and sometimes make the change on the fly at the same meeting. I am one that likes to sleep over night on a topic and muse on it a bit.

XIV. Proposal for removing test requirement for NJ after serving twelve years as NJ – Chris Luppens

a. Proposal

The following change is proposed to the requirements for renewal as a National Judge:

Under National Judge Renewal, add under Test Score Required:

Note: After serving as a National Judge for three full four-year terms, the requirement to take a test is waived. All other renewal requirements, including renewal application and approval by the Judges’ Committee are still in effect.

b. Discussion

This proposal was amended to add “Effective starting with the 2025 renewal year” and “This is also applicable to National Judges in the January 2025-June 2025 renewal grace period”.

- c. Approved with 9 votes for and 2 against.
- d. Additional Recommendation: add a rules seminar and a rules seminar requirement to ensure that judges exempt from testing participate in rules training.

XV. Hearing Decision Form – John Porter

- a. Review of forms, questions and feedback provided for John before he works on version 2.

XVI.

XVII. Meeting Adjourned at 9:47 PM EDT, 6:47 PDT

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Balsiger