

US Sailing Judge Certification Requirements

Last Updated June 2025

To be considered for initial or renewal certification, a candidate must meet all the requirements for that level as well as those listed in section 12 of the Judges Manual. For initial certification a Club Judge Seminar for Club Judge or Advanced Judge Seminar for Regional or National is required.

For certification, the following defined terms apply to all levels:

a) *References* -- A statement from another individual as required commenting on your competency, ability, and character for the requested certification. References shall be submitted electronically.

1) References submitted by a Judge (all levels) or Instructor shall be done via the reference form found here:

<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/resources/certification-forms/>

Applicants are advised to review the recommendation form so that they know the evaluation criteria.

2) References MAY be submitted by the RAJ from your area, but NOT for National Judge.

3) References must be submitted by the Chief Judge or their designee at the event, including a Protest day. The applicant must request a reference with the person referring before the *event*. It is encouraged that the reference is turned in within 30 days of the event.

b) *Event* – One or more races treated together by a Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.

c) *Hearing* – a convened panel of one or more judges under part 5 of the RRS following the submission of a form described in RRS 60.3, 61.1, 61.2, or 62.1. Also, a convened panel acting under RRS 60.4(c) or 69.2. To count as a hearing, the request for a hearing must be found valid, facts shall be found, a decision shall be rendered, and both shall be communicated to the parties.

d) *Protest Committees* – attendance at an event as a Club, Regional, or National Judge or working towards initial certification.

e) *Retaking Tests* – If a test is failed three times, approval of the JC is required before further testing. Approval may be conditional on completion of an improvement plan.

f) *Veteran NJ no-test policy* - 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.

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