

Judges' Committee Agenda and Minutes template

June 9, 2025

7:00 PM EDT, 4:00 PM PDT

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Wayne Balsiger at 7:08 PM EDT, 4:08 PM PDT

Attendees

Chair Wayne Balsiger Yes

Vice Chair: Edith Collins Y

RAJs:

Mary Pierce, Area A Y

Giff Constable, Area B Y

Harry Foote, Area C Y

Jerry Thompson, Area D Y

Clark Chapin, Area E Y

Chris Luppens, Area F No

Don Wieneke, Area G Y

Tom Pochereva, Area H N

Steve Holmstrom, Area J Y

John Porter, Area K Y

Barbara Belt, Area L N

Members at Large

Mark Townsend, Chair Judges Training and Testing Subcommittee Y

Bruce Martinson, Chair Club Judge Program N

Bruce Cook, Protest Days Coordinator Y

Nancy Glover, Round Table Coordinator Y

Craig Daniels, Rule 42 Coordinator Y

Sarah Ashton, RRS 68 Newsletter Y

Steve Schupak, Chair, Umpires Committee Y

Darryl Waskow, IJ Candidate Mentor Y

Matt Hill, Race Administration Director Y

II. Approval of Minutes

The April minutes were approved as written

III. Welcome – Wayne Balsiger

IV. Race Admin Director Report – Matt Hill

- a. The Race Official reference forms have been split out, recreated and moved to a new platform. CJ applications go to RAJ; RJ and NJ applications go to RAJ and to the Chair as well.
- b. Matt's Race Administration presentation to the May 6 BoD meeting
 - i. Matt walked through it and it explains much of Race Administrations organization and responsibilities. One notable is developing training for Equipment Inspectors to support 2028 Olympics.

V. New Applications/upgrades

- a. Zoltan Katinsky, RJ – Steve Holmstrom - Approved
- b. George Dorsch, RJ – John Porter - Approved

The JC requested the Chair to review the Judge Certification Requirements document about if CJ or RJ is required before NJ certification and make several other clarifying changes.

VI. Renewals for 2025

- a. RJs and NJs: New Spreadsheet with email added. It is a needed column now when I submit the certification. If you need help moving your data, just add column E (Email), and copy data to the new sheet.

VII. IJ Candidate Mentor – Darryl Waskow:

- a. Amy Ferreira, IJ - Darryl Waskow – Approved to send to BoD for MNA endorsement, pending successful reference from a needed event scheduled in September.

VIII. Newsletter – Sarah Ashton

- a. The RRS 68 July issue deadline is June 27.
- b. Wayne, 3 min justice with Giff, Clark Q&A; Barbara Area L. Bruce for hosting a CJS seminar at your club
- c. Start thinking about subjects for the September issue.
- d. 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 more online AJS planned for 2025. Likely in the next month or so.
- b. Judges Test Rules Questions: - Bruce Martinson checking on getting study questions updated to 2025 rules. Mark will check if they have been updated.
- 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.
New RT coming soon looking at AI tool developed to answer Racing Rules Q&A.
A side discussion reached a general consensus: Use of AI for hearing decisions is inappropriate and unsupported at this stage.
Mark Townsend may do a popup Round Table at an event.
- e. Protest Days - Bruce Cook – There have been a few this spring season. Good rules discussions. More coming in the fall.
- f. Advanced Rule 42 Endorsement– Jerry Thompson, Craig Daniels, Mark Townsend, Darryl Waskow, John Porter.

Rule 42 Endorsement requirements for consideration and approval. Here are the requirements we propose: **MOTION APPROVED**

1. Be certified as a race official at any level.
2. Attended an Advanced Rule 42 Seminar with positive references from the instructors.
3. Pass the Rule 42 examination.
4. Have served as an on-the-water judge for Rule 42 / Appendix P for at least four events of which two shall be regional or national events during the past four years.
5. Receive two references from a Rule 42 event Chief Judge or their designated representative.

Renewal is not required.

All are required to meet the above requirements with the exceptions of International Judges and International Umpires.

We held an Advanced Rule 42 Pilot Seminar on May 20th. In addition to the sub-committee members, the following judges with extensive Rule 42 experience attended: Rick Mallinson, John Christman, Jared Hickman, and Pete Fanta. Version 9 of the slide deck was presented. A number of good suggestions were made and are being incorporated into Version 10.

John Porter created the evaluation checklist (attached).

Our goal is to be ready to start presenting Advanced Rule 42 Seminars in late fall 2025.

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.
- e. **JC Decided to Publish now, with a note that the Case book cases refer to 2021-2025 cases.**

XI. Umpire Committee – Steve Schupak

- a. Steve had to leave before he had a chance to report.

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.
 - i. Do like as pop-up protest hearing if no action at a regatta
- 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.” Wayne said he would draft an update to get the process moving forward.
- 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.”

- i. Mark is working on the third draft.
- 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.
 - i. Get to next steps, no progress.
- 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.
 - i. Wayne will draw attention to this new document in RRS 68.
- 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.
 - i. Will get Sandy Grosvenor involved and Matt. Resource constraints as well.

XIII. Hearing Decision Form – John Porter

- a. Update status on forms. John needs to apply three more hours to update version 2. The recording of the Round Table on how to use the forms was sent to members of the JC.

XIV. National Judge – Retired

- a. John, Wayne, Sandy, Nancy, Matt have been working on this proposal. Will send current thinking in several days.
- b. Tabled until a later meeting pending more input from Sandy Grosvenor.

XV. 2026 JC Annual meeting – Edith Collins

- a. Location? Hawaii, but likely not for this meeting. Long travel times and cost.
 - i. Atlanta? Other spots suggested via email after the meeting include Phoenix, San Francisco and Austin, with Austin in the lead.
- b. When? Via email after the meeting the date has been set to February 27, 28, 2026.

XVI. Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 PM EDT, 6:30 PM PDT

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Balsiger