

## Judges' Committee Minutes

October 6, 2025

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

#### Attendees

Chair Wayne Balsiger Y

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 Y

Don Wieneke, Area G Y

Tom Pochereva, Area H Y

Steve Holmstrom, Area J Y

John Porter, Area K Y

Barbara Belt, Area L Y

#### Members at Large

Mark Townsend, Chair Judges Training and Testing Subcommittee Y

Bruce Martinson, Chair Club Judge Program

Bruce Cook, Protest Days Coordinator

Nancy Glover, Round Table Coordinator Y

Craig Daniels, Rule 42 Coordinator

Sarah Ashton, RRS 68 Newsletter

Steve Schupak, Chair, Umpires Committee

Darryl Waskow, IJ Candidate Mentor Y

Matt Hill, Race Administration Director Y

### II. Approval of Minutes

The August minutes were approved as written.

### III. Welcome and Announcements – Wayne Balsiger

- a. 2026 RAJ for Area A: I am happy to announce that Bill Collins will become Area A RAJ after December 2025. Thanks to Mary for recruiting him. Edith commented no family relations to Bill Collins.
- b. “Major” Race Committee Roles for Certification.  
The Judge Certification Requirements September update is posted on the website. This clarifies what is required for Race Management experience.
- c. Status on Race Official Complaint Policy Update Work Party. Combining Personal Attribute Policy with Race Complaint Policy for clarity and efficiency. Better procedural clarity and timelines. WP has met about five times and nearing completion.
- d. [WS IJ Resource Centre](#), then click on International Judges Documents
  - i. WS has issued a Discretionary Penalty Guidelines – July 2025

- ii. WS issued Protest Committee Guidelines – July 2025
- iii. WS issued Preferred Standard Wording – August 2025

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

- a. The JC received an email explaining how background checks work
- b. Check your SOARS and make sure your Background Check is current. Email reminders are NOT sent out.
- c. Background Checks and SafeSport Compliance
  - i. Matt clarified: System does not automatically remind officials of background check renewals.
  - ii. Background check expirations do not currently remove officials from “Find a Race Official.”
  - iii. SafeSport expiration should suspend certification due to compliance requirements and audits.
  - iv. SafeSport expiration does not require restarting from scratch. Officials retake only refresher material.
  - v. Wayne emphasized using personal calendar reminders for your renewals.
  - vi. Email reminders are now being sent out for your SafeSport expiring soon.
- d. Awaiting final international certification approval for Todd Finn (IRO).
- e. WS now allows IJ applications twice a year. The WS portal to apply timeline does not fit with the spring deadlines. Matt will work to resolve this issue.

#### V. New Applications/upgrades

- a. None
- b. December is meeting for renewals. You have the tracker spreadsheet. Any questions? RAJs are reminded to use the tracker and verify requirements have been met. After the meeting), it was noted to Matt that the renewal application needs the NJ test exemption added to it.
- c. Outdated links for certification references, or applications. The current links are on the certification page.
- d. Discussion: Excessive data entry requirements (e.g., listing 8 events) considered burdensome — committee may revisit process.

#### VI. IJ Candidate Mentor – Darryl Waskow:

- a. Upcoming IJ seminars. We expect additional seminars to be announced in Europe or Asia.
- b. We know of one IJ application forthcoming next year.

#### VII. Newsletter – Sarah Ashton

- a. The RRS 68 November issue deadline is October 26th.
- b. Area C, I suspect
- c. Start thinking about subjects for the November issue.

## VIII. Education – Mark Townsend, Bruce Martinson and JETTS team

- a. AJS – Mark Townsend
  - i. 44,000 CEUs every four years. Discuss Mark’s 10/3 email on Judges’ education offerings.
  - ii. Suggestions on what to do. Put a calendar various instructors and step up to plate
  - iii. About 2 -3 AJS per year, about 6 CJS per year.
  - iv. CJS in busy sailing season does make sense as that is when potential judges are thinking of taking a seminar.
- b. CJS - Bruce Martinson
- c. Round Tables - Nancy Glover
  - i. Monthly Protest days, Round tables season is January to March one a week. Round tables will not all be on Tuesdays. Topic specific Round tables such as Redress. Women Teaching Women seminar returning with Nancy, Mary, and peers.
- d. Protest Days - Bruce Cook Some coming soon.
- e. Advanced Rule 42 Endorsement Implementation Status– Jerry Thompson, Craig Daniels, Mark Townsend, Darryl Waskow, John Porter. Initial Beta course for JC and UC is on October 22. Blueprint is completed and ready in Canvas. First will be for the JC and UC members and set a date of Oct 22 1900 EDT on zoom. Our goal is to be ready to start presenting Advanced Rule 42 Seminars in late fall 2025. In Dec or Jan will be available to rank and file judges.

Adding endorsements should be created at the Race Administration Committee level into SOARS. Endorsements may be used by other disciplines in the future.

## IX. Judges Manual Update – Wayne Balsiger

- a. WS Case review completed. Hearing procedures updated. Adding paragraph on discretionary penalties, as WS just published guide.
- b. Will be released soon.

## X. Umpire Committee – Steve Schupak

- a. Having RAU’s is starting up.
- b. Nothing of substance from the Umpires committee, other than there was a memorial for Jeff Woodard in Charleston and moment of silence in Newport Beach in Jeff’s honor.

## XI. Work Parties from Annual Meeting – Status Updates

- a. Lack of Hearings for Judge Certification Requirements: Edith Collins chairing
- b. Edith chairing. Seeking sample cases or guidelines for “pop-up protest days.”
- c. Bruce to provide de-identified cases for exercises.
- d. Balance of team is Giff Constable, Chris Luppens, Mark Townsend, Bruce Cook, Nancy Glover and Bruce Martinson.
  - i. The idea of “pop up” protest days is being fleshed out.
  - ii. Do like as pop-up protest hearing if no action at a regatta

- iii. Talked about what should be in the hearing
- iv. Good discussion on sailing the course
- v. What we want to have
  - 1. Similar to protest day
  - 2. I saw this should have been a protest
  - 3. What credits should they get
  - 4. Flush this out.
- e. RAJ Guide: Giff Constable, Clark Chapin and Darryl Waskow will review and update the Guide. Don Wieneke added to the group.
  - i. Giff: is ready to draft changes in the coming weeks.
- f. Join the Protest Committee online document – Mark Townsend, Giff Constable, Edith Collins:
  - i. The final version is complete.
  - ii. Will be included in the US Sailing Rules App and available free online.
  - iii. Recognition for contributors; official version to include US Sailing credits.
- g. 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. This is “on Hold”.

## XII. Hearing Decision Form – John Porter

- a. Proposal to remove editable PDF form – Giff
  - i. I believe we do a disservice to judges by offering it.
  - ii. Instead, I propose that we offer two versions: (1) a MS Word “Smart form” which is John Porters, and (2) a simplified design form with no dropdowns or built-in intelligence that can be opened in any word processor.
  - iii. Giff proposed eliminating editable PDF due to usability issues.
  - iv. Consensus: Retain Word version and add a simplified “rich text” RTF version for broader compatibility.
  - v. John and Giff to coordinate draft revisions.
- b. Status on forms, John is tweaking
  - i. Some ideas on procedure boxes
  - ii. Another box to validity for other validity comments
  - iii. Tweaking coming

## XIII. Emeritus and National Judge – Retired proposal Discussion

This is Matt and Wayne's draft for discussion and input.

- a. Emeritus Proposal
  - i. Proposal by Matt Hill to extend Emeritus recognition across all disciplines.
  - ii. To be presented to Race Administration Committee (RAC).
  - iii. Proposal is approved unanimously.
  - iv. Emphasis: small, selective group ( $\approx 2-3$  per year), lifetime recognition, listed publicly, may be posthumous.
- b. Retired Judge proposal
  - i. Discussion between Wayne, John, Matt, Sandy, and committee.
  - ii. Mixed opinions: Half support creating a "Retired Judge" designation; others prefer current system with thank-you letter only.
  - iii. Concerns about SafeSport compliance and public listing risks.
  - iv. Straw poll favored continued exploration of formal retirement recognition but not public listing in Find a Race Official.
  - v. Action: Subcommittee (Wayne, John, Sandy, Matt) to refine language and present at next meeting.

#### XIV. JC and teaching the Racing Rules of Sailing – Jerry Thompson

- a. Proposal that the JC offer Racing Rules instructor training and materials.  
See proposal sent Sunday 9/28 via forwarded email.
- b. Jerry Thompson proposed structured curriculum for Teaching the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- c. Consensus: Support expanding rule education but no new certification requirement.
- d. Use and adapt existing resources (e.g., "Around the Race Course," RYA online materials, Dave Perry seminars).
- e. Working Group Formed: Jerry (lead), Jerry is lead, Nancy, Giff, Mark, Tom.
- f. Purpose: Gather materials, create unified curriculum, and recommend web-based resource plan.
- g. Matt will:
  - i. path creates unified package and that's available for impromptu as well as scheduled
  - ii. links to already published material (with approval)
- h. The suggestion for certified rules instructors is withdrawn.

#### XV. Harmon Hawkins Nominees – Wayne Balsiger

- a. Start thinking of who we would like to nominate. You are welcome to make suggestions now. The Race Administration Committee voting takes place before our next meeting.  
[Harman Hawkins award](#)
- b. Discussion and list of names discussed and who will write the nomination forms.
- c. JC will vote on our nominee via email in early -mid November.

XVI. 2026 JC Annual meeting – Edith Collins

- a. Austin, TX was selected as the Location.
- b. Date set to February 27, 28, 2026.
  - i. Edith and Harry are working on the Hotel.
  - ii. If you are interested in going, I suggest you book your flights now. For Denver, my flight was much less booked early, than those who waited for 6 weeks out, and then zoomed to save the cost.

XVII. December Meeting is set for Tuesday Dec 9th.

- a. December meeting to include 15-minute informal social time.

XVIII. Meeting Adjourned at 9:33 PM EDT, 6:33 PM PDT

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne Balsiger