

Judges' Committee Minutes
December 9, 2025
Social Networking time
6:45 PM EST, 3:45 PST
7:00 PM EST, 4:00 PM PST

Come early and celebrate the holidays and the last meeting of the year.

0. 15 minutes of Social Networking time

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Wayne Balsiger at 7:00 EST, 4:00 PM PST

Attendees

Past Chair: Wayne Balsiger Y

Chair: Edith Collins Y

RAJs:

Mary Pierce, Area A Y

Bill Collins, New Area A Y

Giff Constable, Area B Y

Harry Foote, Area C Y

Jerry Thompson, Area Y

Clark Chapin, Area E N

Chris Luppens, Area F Y

Shannon Wood, New 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

Bruce Martinson, Chair Club Judge Program Y

Bruce Cook, Protest Days Coordinator Y

Nancy Glover, Round Table Coordinator

Craig Daniels, Rule 42 Coordinator

Sarah Ashton, RRS 68 Newsletter Y

Steve Schupak, Chair, Umpires Committee Y

Darryl Waskow, IJ Candidate Mentor Y

Matt Hill, Race Administration Director Y

I. Approval of Minutes

October minutes were approved as written.

II. Welcome and Announcements – Wayne Balsiger

- a. 2026 RAJ for Area A: I am happy to announce that Bill Collins is incoming 2026 Area A RAJ. Thanks to Mary for recruiting him. I and Vice Chair Edith Collins had a fine meeting with him weeks ago. Bill, please introduce yourself to us with a bit of your background and what kind of work you do. Bill sent out an email reply to everyone on 12/4.
- b. 2026 RAJ for Area F: I am happy to announce that Shannon Wood (Bush) is incoming Area F RAJ. Thanks to Chris for recruiting her. I and Vice Chair Edith Collins had a fine meeting with her several weeks ago. Shannon, please introduce yourself to us with a bit of your background related to sailing and what kind of work you do.
- c. Thanks to Chris Luppens and Mary Pierce for all your fine work as RAJs on the committee over the last six years. I for one have enjoyed working with you.

III. Race Admin Director Report – Matt Hill

- a. Update on Join the Protest Committee Brad has it to add cover, branding and post as a PDF on Judges' page on website. Any future update based on feedback.
- b. Race Officials numbers snapshot. Matt Covered the number of Race Officials as show below.
- c. Conversion from club judge course attendee → certified Club Judge remains low (~10–11%).
- d. Many participants want education but not formal certification or leadership roles.
- e. Goal remains: at least one Club Race Officer and one Club Judge in every club (recognizing 100% coverage is unlikely).
- f. RAJs encouraged to:
 - i. Identify “quiet pockets” and clubs with no local officials.
 - ii. Build
 - iii. small cohorts
 - iv. of new officials to move through training together.
 - v. Use
 - vi. personal outreach

Race Officials 2025 – Snapshot as of 12/8/25:

Judges

CJ	RJ	NJ	Total
128	52	109	289

Race Officers

CRO	RRO	NRO	Total
418	90	36	544

Umpires

RU	NU	Total
7	46	53

International

IJ	IRO	IU	Total
29	13	28	70

US Women Officials by Percentage

Judges	Race Officers	Umpires
23%	22%	25%

Total US Race Official Certifications: 886

Total US & International Race Official Certifications: 956

[JIT – 76]

[UIT – 23; Umpire Assessors – 14]

The US may have the most IJs.

g. Matt covered Education with the number of Courses and participants

Courses and Students 2025

Course	Winter-Spring	Fall	2025 Courses	Student Totals [avg]	PY – 2024 [avg]
CJS	3	5	8	89 [11]	17/142 [8]
AJS	1	1	2	28 [14]	2/36 [18]
Judge CE	15	5	20	389 [20]	27/383 [14]
BRMS	33	6	39	632 [16]	39/575 [15]
ARMS	9	1	10	145 [15]	11/128 [11]
Umpire	4	0	4	38 [10]	4/31 [8]
Totals	65	18	83	1331	96/1262

1330 members (not unique) education attendance.

For next year we want to make sure we are covering the right number and type of seminars and events.

IV. New Applications/upgrades

- a. George Dorsch, NJ - John Porter. Approved
- b. Steve Meyer, RJ – Steve Holmstrom. Approved
- c. Cesar Travado, RJ – Jerry Thompson. Approved
- d. Dwight LeBlanc, RJ – Jerry Thompson. Approved
- e. Stephanie Taylor, RJ – Jerry Thompson. Approved

V. IJ Candidate Mentor – Darryl Waskow:

Procedural note. Each Candidate is submitting all the materials that will be included in his/her World Sailing Application. The World Sailing portal does not open until January 1, so JC December approval needs to be based on what he/she will submit.

Timeline for international official applications:

By December 1 (for the World Sailing March 1 deadline) request approval from the certifying committee, in our case the JC.

Then in early February the Board of Directors considers the application. After BoD vote then candidate's MNA approval by US Sailing is sent to World Sailing.

March 1 applications due to World Sailing.

April 13 last date to submit some supplementary materials to World Sailing.

IJ Candidates – Darryl

The Judges' Committee recommends to the US Sailing Board of Directors that the following IJ candidates receive the MNA Endorsement for IJ.

John Fryer - Recommended

John Christman - Recommended

Amy Ferreira – Recommended

Upcoming IJ Seminars include one in the US in the Fall 2026. RAJs should let NJs know of the upcoming seminar and let Darryl know of any Judges' pursuing their IJ certification.

VI. Judge Certification Renewals for 2026

Action: Send your spreadsheet tracker to Wayne and Edith by December 7.

- a. For those RAJs recertifying this year. Do the normal in the tracker and then the Chair approves the recertification. (When the Chair is recertifying it is approved by the RAD, Matt.)

- b. RAJ note which RJs and NJs have met renewals requirements. Discussion is normally not needed.
- c. RAJ discuss their RJs and NJs with missing items, likely given a grace period.
- d. RAJ note those who are retiring and any judges that have died.
- e. Can mention status of CJs and JIT designations, especially if RAJ has any questions. CJ and JIT renewals are up to RAJ.

VII. Newsletter – Sarah Ashton

- a. The RRS 68 January issue deadline is December 28th.
- b. Area D is the featured Area.
- c. Start thinking about subjects for the RRS 68 Newsletter
- d. New Column: Mark’s Rule Quiz
- e. Need to send both the PDF and the link to the Canva to see the moving boats
- f. 3rd party protests
- g. Article on Join the Protest Committee by Giff Constable
- h. Protests after time limit for the insurance company by Wayne
- i. Three other articles a month
- j. Photos are always welcome

VIII. Umpire Committee – Steve Schupak

- a. Five Regional Area Umpires (RAU) are coming. Some Areas are under one RAU.
 - i. Similar to RAJs
 - ii. Thursday December 11, will lead a call with the new RAUs

Regional Administrative Umpires Working Group

Name	SA	Position	Phone
<u>Greene, Carrie Tank</u>		Area D & F	1 (813) 245-6966 Home
<u>Hickman, Jared J.</u>		Areas G & L	1 (206) 660-7003 Cell
<u>Sullivan, Richard P</u>		Areas E & K	1 (585) 233-7744 Cell
<u>Tagliamonte, John A.</u>		Areas A, B & C	1 (617) 834-2008 Cell
<u>Townsend, Mark</u>		Areas J & H	1 (562) 533-5909 Cell 1 (562) 433-4366 Home
<u>Hill, Matthew</u>		Staff Liaison	1 (401) 266-4102 Cell 1 (401) 342-7948 Work

- b. Insurance for Umpires, WS required \$500,000 euros for graded events

- c. Master list of umpired events for team and match race to help get umpers for them. Still to decide where to host it.

IX. Status of Retired National Judge proposal – Wayne Balsiger

- a. Because this concept is multi-discipline the Race Administration Committee looked at several options of Retired Race Officials showing up in SOARS and Find-a-Race-Official. For example, searching for “Retired Judge”. The RAC decided no. Retired Judges are retired. They can serve as they and OAs want, but not via Find-a-Race Official.

X. 15 minutes - Topic of conversation – John Porter: Timeline of Complaints and non-notification of the Race official in the Complaint

- a. Takes too much time
- b. Official may not know there is a complaint for a long time
- c. Frustrating complaints take way too long
- d. Delays harm due process (memories fade, witnesses unavailable) and erode trust.
- e. Use focus on how

XI. Update on Race Official Complaint Policy Work party – Wayne Balsiger – Matt Hill

- a. The work party has combined the Personal Attributes Policy and the Race Officials Complaints policy into one policy.
- b. Some of the timelines have changed to reflect realistic turn-around times.
- c. The work party is 95% done and waiting for advice on the ‘integrity’ question.
- d. Legal committee and comments back
- e. USOPC are supportive but some comments

XII. JETTS Education reports

- a. JC Teaching the Racing Rules of Sailing – Jerry Thompson
 - i. First offering in January, 2 evenings, 3 hours each, total of 6 hours
 - ii. Rules of part 2 and put up on Find a Seminar
 - iii. Both Zoom and In-person
 - iv. Jerry to send Link to slides to everyone on JC for their use in local teaching.
 - v. Also, Around the Race Course is available as well.
- b. SAYRA Appeals Committee Manual – Edith Collins, Jerry Thompson
 - i. It is available and was distributed to the JC

- c. Rule 42 Appendix P Clinic – Jerry Thompson
 - i. Course has been on Canvas
 - ii. In January we will offer the course
 - iii. One reference for Gif rule 42
 - iv. John Porter reference form created place for it
 - v. Instructors include Craig, John, Darryl, Bruce
 - vi. Note: The seminar has been renamed

- d. Club Judge - Bruce Martinson
 - i. 15 attendees 1 month ago via Zoom. A in-person with about 5 last weekend. A larger in-person is schedule this coming weekend.
 - ii. The study questions have been updated except for 5 of the 95 questions
 - iii. RAJs reminded to share feedback from participants so materials continue improving.

- e. Protest Days - Bruce Cook
 - i. Standard Protest Day
 - 1. Continues as 1-day workshop, typically 5 hearings plus debriefs, suitable for CJs, RJs and NJs.
 - ii. Advanced Protest day – intended for NJ and IJs (experienced PC members)
 - 1. Format
 - I. Two complex real-world cases, one per night.
 - II. 3 hours per case (deep dive into facts, rules, and writing decisions)
 - III. First program complete; second program mid-stream (concludes Thursday); feedback very positive.
 - IV. Uses actual protest situations emphasizes realistic complexity.
 - V. Very good feedback

- f. Round table –
 - i. Redress Round Table
 - 1. Focus on redress procedure, standards, and typical fact patterns
 - 2. Darryl Waskow and Jerry Thomson commented on the three on redress done recently were done well.

3. Two additional sessions coming because of demand

XIII. 2026 JC Annual meeting – Edith Collins

- a. Austin, TX on February 27, 28, 2026.
 - i. Hotel info sent out to everyone.
 - ii. Book your flight early
 - iii. Shannon is coordinating Saturday diner, likely Mexican.
 - iv. Please let Edith know your plans for attending in person or via Zoom.

XIV. Thanks from Wayne – Wayne Balsiger

- a. I have enjoyed working with each of you over the years. I became RAJ in 2013, in 2019 Secretary for two years, Vice-Chair for one and Chair for four for thirteen years total.
- b. As a committee, we have accomplished a good amount of progress and product including the RAJ Guide, multiple revisions to the Judges' Manual, created new policies and guidelines, created many new CEU events, and RAJ Guide updated. We Initiated improvements to Reg 15 and the Complaint policy process. We created and added several documents to the Guidelines and Documents section such as Difficult Conversations. The Racing Rules Committee handed us responsibility for revising the Hearing Decision form. We created the Rule 42 Endorsement, and now Racing Rules material for teaching them. These and others are among the good work we have done. Last but not least Sarah Ashton took the idea of a JC Newsletter to a wonderfully new level in the RRS-68 newsletter that we see every two months. This completes four years of editing and publishing it. Sarah, we again thank you for all your work on it.
- c. I think the Judges' Committee will be in good hands with Edith as Chair.

XV. Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 PM EST, 6:10 PM PST

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Balsiger