



Regional Race Officer Certification Requirements

A Regional Race Officer (RRO) is expected to be able to go anywhere in their Area and serve as the race officer with any race committee to properly run any race or regatta normally conducted in that Area, including regional championships. This includes organizing the event and the race committee, writing correct sailing instructions, and doing the scoring.

A US Sailing Regional Race Officer must:

- be a member of US Sailing and at least 21 years old
- be a person of good character and integrity as described in the [US Sailing Race Official Personal Attributes](#) document
- be an experienced racing sailor (no time limit)
- maintain current [SafeSport training and background screening](#)
- possess or have access to physical or digital editions of the current US Sailing *Racing Rules of Sailing*, *Race Management Handbook*, *US Sailing Appeals Book*, and *World Sailing Case Book*

To qualify as a Regional Race Officer, you must:

- meet at least one of the following requirements in the last four years:
 - Pass the US Sailing Advanced Race Management Seminar at 85% or higher
 - Pass the World Sailing IRO test
- submit an [application](#) for certification or recertification that includes the name of an officer or race committee leader at a local sailing organization who is familiar with race management and has observed your work on the water
- for initial certification only, be [recommended](#) by both:
 - a competitor at an event where you were the course race officer (the person in charge on the water) of their race area, and
 - a US Sailing Regional or National Race Officer, Regional or National Judge, Regional or National Umpire, or a World Sailing Race Official, who has observed your work as a course race officer

(These recommendations may not be provided by a member of your local sailing organization, your ARO, or a member of the Race Management Committee (RMC).)
- be recommended without reservation by your [Area Race Officer](#)

An up-to-date SOARS log is required, showing that you:

- have been a course race officer at a minimum of five events in the last four years, including at least one regional or higher-level event (a major regatta with competitors from a broad geographic area or that determines a regional or higher-level championship)
- have been a course race officer at two or more events in waters other than those in which you customarily work, including one where current is a factor. See “Out-of-Venue Events” below.
- have the breadth of experience necessary to properly run races for the types of boats, competitors, racing formats and events run anywhere in your Area

Additional Recommended Qualifications (not required):

- maintain current first aid and CPR training
- take a US Powerboating class or equivalent
- attend a US Sailing judge seminar, roundtable or Protest Day
- have experience with race management technology such as autonomous marks, automated starting systems, and tracking or course management apps

Notes:

Experience: All the experience except racing must take place during the four-year period ending when US Sailing receives your complete application. A majority of the qualifying events must have originated in the United States.

Out-of-Venue Events demonstrate a race officer's ability to work with a variety of volunteers, organizing authorities and classes in unfamiliar locations, with varied sailing formats, boat types and competitors, and in wind, sea and geographic conditions that are different from their customary experience.

You should list events that show varied experiences, including at least one, but preferably more, of the following:

- Varied organizing authorities and race management teams
- Different groups of competitors and/or boat classes
- Wind, sea and geographic conditions different from those of your customary waters
- Varied race formats
- An out-of-venue event should be in a different part of your Area or beyond

A candidate for RRO certification or recertification who lives in and serves on race committees in separate areas at different times of the year, or who belongs to multiple, geographically separate clubs, may consider events at one of these areas or clubs as out-of-venue. However, candidates are strongly encouraged to gather experience working in new venues with unfamiliar race committees.

The intent of this requirement is to ensure that a race officer candidate has the technical and interpersonal skills to work successfully with a variety of volunteers, organizing authorities, competitors, boats, other officials, and coaches in varied conditions and form a high-performing team that can deliver quality race management.

The Race Management Committee shall have discretion to determine which of an applicant's events meet the out-of-venue requirement.

SafeSport training and background screening: You must renew [SafeSport training](#) annually and [background screening](#) every two years. US Sailing covers the cost. If your SafeSport training lapses, your race official certification will be suspended until you renew your training.

Recommendations: Recommendations are required only for initial certification at the RRO level unless the RMC requires new recommendations for renewal.

Deadlines: The Area Race Officer Working Group (AROWG) and the Race Management Committee (RMC) consider applications for Regional and National Race Officer certification and renewal in March, June, September, and December. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please ensure that all application materials, including references, are submitted at

least six weeks before the meeting. (See the [table of meeting dates.](#))

Applications and Certification Renewal: All candidates for initial or renewal certification must submit an application. Race officials are certified for a four-year term ending on December 31 of the fourth year. To ensure uninterrupted certification, US Sailing must receive renewal applications by November 1 of the expiration year. Certifications expire on December 31 of that year.

Applications received after November 1 but by May 1 of the following year will be treated as renewals and will be reviewed by the AROWG and RMC at their next meetings. Certification will be restored upon approval. Applications submitted after May 1 may be required to meet all requirements for initial certification, at the discretion of the Race Management Committee.

Membership: You must maintain your [US Sailing membership](#) to keep your race official certification current.

[Apply to be a race officer](#)

(Rev. 4/10/2026)