US SAILING JUDGES' COMMETTEE MEETING

June 8, 2026, 7:00 PM EDT, 4:00 PM PDT

Meeting was called to order by Edith Collins at 7:03 PM EDT 4:03 PM PDT

Attendees:

Edith Collins, Chair

RAJs: Bill Collins, Area A; Giff Constable, Area B; Harry Foote, Area C; Jerry Thompson, Area D;, Clark Chapin, Area E; Shannon Wood Bush, Area F; Don Wieneke, Area G; Tom Pochereva, Area H; John Porter, Area K; Barbara Belt, Area L

Members at large:

Mark Townsend, Chair Judges' Training and Testing Subcommittee; Bruce Martinson, Chair Club Judge Program; Bruce Cook, Protest Days Coordinator; Nancy Glover, Round Table Coordinator; Sarah Ashton, RRS 68 Newsletter; Darryl Waskow, IJ Candidate Mentor; Matt Hill, Race Administration Director

Absent:

Steve Holmstrom, Area J; Steve Schupak, Umpires' Committee Chair; Craig Daniels, Member at large

1) Approval of April Minutes: Approved as updated.

2) Welcome and Announcements: Edith Collins

3) Race Admin Director Report: Matt Hill
   a) US Sailing is wrapping up the winter/spring training season since it's now sailing season. Matt taught basic race management yesterday at Lake Sunapee.
   b) US Sailing is continuing its relationship with NASO to provide insurance for race officials. Watch for your reminder email.

4) New Applications/Upgrades
   a) Harry Foote Area C recommends Peter Chirlian for National Judge. Approved.
   b) Bill Collins Area A recommends Michael Balay for Appendix P endorsement. Approved.
   c) Jerry Thompson Area D recommends Warren Collier for Appendix P endorsement. Approved.
   d) John Porter Area K recommends Mike Kaspar for Appendix P endorsement. Approved.
   e) Edith Collins recommends Giff Constable for Appendix P endorsement. Approved.

5) Newsletter-Sarah Ashton – articles expected for July:
   a) Don Wieneke about activities in Area G
   b) How to get your Appendix P endorsement – Jerry Thompson.
   c) Protest about hitting a markbot – Giff Constable

d) Language in SI's about hitting a markbot – Mark Townsend
e) NASO insurance – Matt Hill

6) Education – Mark Townsend, Bruce Martinson & JETTS Team
   a) JC discussed whether being a Rule 69 investigator should count for CEUs and agreed no, since that role requires application of knowledge rather than learning. JC agrees that hearing credit is appropriate for Rule 69 investigators, even though the investigator shall not participate in the hearing.
   b) JC discussed the updated Judge Certification Requirements recommended by the Strategic Planning Team (see item 10 below). The objective is to make the on-ramp to training as a judge more accessible.
      i) JC recommends that one hearing at an Umpired event can count as a hearing for Judge certification if a written decision with facts found, conclusions, and decision is completed.
      ii) JC recommends removing Fleet Race Umpire training from the CEU list.
   c) Nancy Glover will be coordinating Roundtables, has several great topics coming soon.
      i) Shannon Wood Bush would like to present "How to run the big regatta".
      ii) Need more people who are excited about their favorite topics to present. Get in touch with Nancy!

7) Umpire Committee – Steve Schupak (absent), no report

8) Appendix P Certification – Jerry Thompson made a motion to accept the following requirements. Approved.
   a) All events must be regional or national to count for experience and assessment.
   b) An assessor must be a National Judge. They may be the Chief Judge or appointed by the Chief Judge.
   c) A candidate can pass assessment without penalizing a sailor if the assessor determines this is the correct interpretation of Rule 42.
   d) If Oscar is displayed by the RC, that race is not eligible for assessment.

9) IJ Candidate Mentor – Darryl Waskow
   a) Shannon Wood Bush's IJ Application was presented and provisionally approved, pending completion of her third and final event (Chicago-Mac, July 10) and getting that recommendation. If the third recommendation is not completed, Shannon will not apply for IJ this fall. Application is due by September 1.
   b) "Learn to be an IJ" seminar is September 25-27, Holland, Michigan. Tell your area judges!

10) Work Parties Status Updates
   a) Judges' Committee Strategic Planning – Darryl Waskow. Goal: Maintain appropriately high standards for all levels of certification.
      i) Early career judges:

(1) Motion presented by Darryl Waskow: Make it easier to enter the judge pipeline. Approved. Summary of recommendations:
   (a) Reduce the requirements for Judge in Training (JIT) so that it is an expression of interest in judging. Require US Sailing membership, Safe Sport training, and racing experience.
   (b) Add a Basic Judge level of certification. In addition to meeting JIT requirements, take a Basic, Club or Advanced Judge seminar, participate in one hearing, and you're a Basic Judge. Test not required; recommendation not required.
   (c) Create a short Basic Judge seminar (2-3 hours) with no test. Focus both on rules and how to do a hearing. Run it as Zoom or in person. There may be a small cost for the student. Till this course is available, a Basic Judge may take either the CJ or AJ seminar.
   (d) The Race Administration Committee needs to approve this change and we need IT support to implement it. Approximate effective date 10/31/26.

ii) Veteran National Judges:
   (1) Motion presented by Edith Collins. "Veteran National Judges" (those renewing their National Judge certification with 3 preceding consecutive terms (12 years) as a National Judge) may be exempted from taking the advanced judges' test if they have completed at least 160 CEUS with 40 CEUs coming from racing rules seminars focused on the rules of the current quadrennium at the time of renewal. Approved.
      (a) Discussion: if we don't require a test, how do we ensure NJs continue to meet high standards? Renewals are all reviewed by the JC, and it's possible (although likely controversial) to decide to not renew a judge certification. Race Administration has a mechanism for adjusting or not renewing certification, although there is no specific criteria for NJs. Judges' Committee should continue to consider how to ensure NJs not taking the test are up-to-date.

iii) When making a policy change, JC should consider how it will affect the average judge, not just the "power users".

11) Old Business:
   a) The passing test score for Regional and National Judge certification is the same for both levels. Should the NJ passing score be higher? Shannon Wood Bush and Mark Thompson to consider and report back.

12) New Business:
   a) Edith Collins: Operational Efficiency:
      i) Subcommittees who are given an assignment are to report back with a reasoned motion for the full committee to vote on or possibly modify.
      ii) Assign a leader for subcommittees.
      iii) Send motions from subcommittees to JC members in advance of the meeting.

b) Matt Hill: US Sailing has a new insurance program for certified education instructors. It's primarily for US Sailing certified instructors who are also US Coast Guard licensed. You can also sign up if you are a US Sailing member and a licensed captain. Interestingly it has a Portability Endorsement rider at additional cost that in addition to instructing covers other on the water activities. 360 Coverage Pros Mariner Liability Insurance Program for US Sailing Members with USCG Licenses – US Sailing

13) Meeting adjourned at: 9:50 EDT 6:50 PDT

14) Next meeting Monday August 10, 7 Eastern/4 Pacific