

US Sailing Judges Committee
Judges Committee Meeting
Atlanta GA
Feb 25, 2017
0815 hrs.

Minutes

1. Roll Call and Welcome

Present: Steve Wrigley-Chair, Sarah Ashton-Vice Chair/Area D RAJ, Chair, Joe Krolak -Judges Education and Training Director, Cliff Black - Communication and Marketing Director, Ric Crabble - Testing Lead/Area C RAJ, Bill Simon-Area B RAJ, Doc Sullivan-Area E RAJ, Wayne Balsiger-Area L RAJ, Mike Kasper-Area K RAJ.
A quorum was present.

Opening welcome and appreciation to the JC members that attended our JC annual meeting at their own expense. The JC as a whole approved this annual event due to the great deal of business that is conducted in a face-to-face manner, all in one day. The JC expressed their thanks to US Sailing for their support of the meeting room.

The JC was asked to decide what topics should be discussed in addition to; Online testing, Judges Education and Training, the Club Judge Program and our Communications and Marketing.

Once the topics were developed the JC decide what was the order and how much time to devote to each.

Per the Agenda, items beyond item 6 were developed by the JC and were discussed in order as seen in item 2.

2. Develop Agenda Discussion Topics/timeline:

- i. CEUs
- ii. Development programs/mentoring/new judges
- iii. Roundtables/Clinics/Protest Day
- iv. Communication and "marketing" (see item 6)
- v. Misc. Topics/Rule 42/other
- vi. RAD/RAC support
- vii. Use of Drones/Video/Tracking
- viii. New Rules

3. Online Testing Up Date - Ric Crabbe, Testing Program Lead

- The online testing platform has been updated with new questions and existing questions have been rechecked for quality. The practice will be expanded this year.
- Our testing group now consists of the Online Test – scores provided, a Practice Test – scores and answers provided and the Study Test – answers are not provided as this is a preparatory tool for our seminars.

- The old data has been downloaded and the site will be up no later than April 1st. All renewing judges and all seminar candidates will be advised by email as soon as it is open. The renewal test will be open until Dec 1st of any given year with a test in Dec granted by exception. All grades and information will be used in early December by the JC for the review of all judges renewing.
- Note: all those renewing will receive a letter/email from the RAD with a full explanation of the renewal testing process as well as a link to test taking guidelines.
- Any candidate that is not successful in their test taking will be offered a full debrief of their complete test. In such cases, a debrief is strongly recommended by the JC.
- When a seminar is attended, the test window will be open for 30 days after the seminar. All attendees are notified by the RAD the day prior to the meeting. If there are extenuating circumstances, a candidate must contact an RAJ to request an extension.
- All should review the online testing guidelines found on the judges web page

4. Club Judge (CJ) Program Director - Bruce Martinson

- The long term goal of the program is to have a at least one CJ in a US Sailing member Club or association and that the standard of judging is consistent across the country.
- We currently have approximately 45 qualified instructors available and seek to better utilize our team of instructors going forward.
- 102 candidates attended seminars in 2016 with 83 taking the test and 44 passing.
- The CJ seminar has been updated and improved for 2017.
- It was again emphasized that any organization seeking a Club Judge seminar must contact their RAJ. Applications are filed online at the US Sailing judges website and a copy goes to their RAJ.
- Thanks was given to Joe Krolak and Pat Stadel for their assistance in developing the CJ course materials for our seminars.

5. Judges Education Testing and Training (JETT) Director - Joe Krolak

- All Advance Judge (AJ) development is directed under this Program
- A request for an Advanced Judge Seminar must be filed online, approved by the JETT's Director and the RAJ for the requesting organization. Forms are on the judges website.
- All materials for 2017 will be supplied electronically. Special dispensation may be sought through the host's Area RAJ and the JETT director.
- Student notebooks have all been updated and seminars are up on the Calendar.
- Numerous roundtables are already up on the Calendar as well.
- Clinics have an extremely high development priority and the goal is to have at least 2 modules available no later than June 1st. Clinics will be lead by those that are certified to teach AJ Seminar. One topic to be developed is entitled "Protest Day" an opportunity for judges to develop their protest knowledge and techniques.
- The JC has a new 42 video and will be working with the RAD to develop access for all.
- **Motion:** passed: JETT is to develop a new Clinic Module "Protest Day" to be assigned 70 CEUs for a full Day and 35 CEUs for a half day.

6. Communications, Marketing Director Cliff Black

- Communications with the judge corps needs to be ongoing throughout each year. "Fact and Conclusions" will be published in March, June, Sept and December of each year.
- The JC feels that they need to be proactive in providing information regarding roundtable, clinic, and seminar dates to all our corps via news blast throughout each year.
RAJs were asked to be proactive with the judges in their areas to tell the JC what is needed and areas that need US Sailing's attention. Communication is a two-way channel.
- Discussions were held as to making the JC publication more meaningful to our judges. Again what information does our corps seek.

7. Continuing Education Events (CEE) and Continuing Education Units(CEU)

- All judges are reminded that there are minimum requirements for the number of attendees in a seminar. Although JETT has worked to reduce the minimum needed, there still must be 4 or more due to role playing exercises. Exceptions are at the discretion of the JETT and Club Judge Program Directors.
- **Motion:** passed: At the discretion of the JETT Director a CEE may be approved for CEU recertification after the event has taken place. The event must be requested by application (found online) to the JETT group and when approved will be listed on the SOARs event list along with the number of CEU given.
- Guidelines for Roundtables are found at the Judges web page at US Sailing. The JC approved adding new topics to the list of choices. A new rules discussion has already been added.
- Guidelines for CEEs and CEUs are found on the US Sailing website.
- All are reminded that information for CEEs and CEUs applications is found on the website, click on the Continuing Education tab. Electronic application forms as well.
- The JM will be updated to provide more information on how CEEs and CEUs effect renewal initial and renewal certification qualifications (chap 12 JM)
- JETT is developing an interactive education program for our judge corps with the goal of this being our basis of web-based training for the future. We are now working to have this on a platform accessible by our judges. Our thanks to Joe Krolak developing this path.

8. Developing, Mentoring Judges

- We currently do not have a structured program for mentoring. Each RAJ is the proper contact for all seeking to become a judge or Club Judge and those seeking mentoring as they gain experience. The JC will continue to the viability of such a program.
- All CJ instructors are expected to be proactive in approaching Clubs to host an CJ seminar
- RAJs were asked to be very proactive in working with judges in their areas to develop consistency.

- The JC discussed the necessary commitment required to become a Judge-in-Training (JIT). One must be a member of US Sailing, have a SOARs account and have been to a seminar. Once these have been accomplished each is then shown on the “Find a Judge’ search at US Sailing’s website.

9. Seminars/Roundtables/Clinics

- A Seminar is a full teaching event that covers 2 days and must have a certified instructor. The host must apply to host and to have a given instructor. The event must be approved the instructor approved.
- A roundtable is to be a one day free flowing dialogue among the attendees. It must have a approved facilitator and must be applied for online. The goal is to have in the attending group very knowledgeable judges present who can share their experiences through the dialogue interchange.
- Clinics are being rolled out and will be a one-day teaching experience composed of 2 topic modules, followed by a short roundtable at days end. They are lead by certified instructors and are applied for online.

10. Miscellaneous Topics/RAD support

- Several topics of interest from JC were discussed as to the impact on our judges for the future.
- Items were:
- Fleet umpiring- guidelines are available and will be updated to correspond to the new Fleet race umpire manual being developed by World Sailing.
- Rule 42- there is a new video that the JC will work to place online as soon as a proper server can be obtained by US Sailing.
- Hearings- concern about the lack of protest at events and the effect on a judge’s experience, tips from the group on how to shorten the length of a protest duration (we will work to put these into guidelines).
- Judges – we as an organization should work to provide better recognition of the contribution of our volunteers. We need to do more.
- Web based training – we will require much greater support from US Sailing if we are to continue on this type of training. At the current time there seems to be little support or resources.

11. Drones/Video/Tracking

Drones – At this juncture the use of drones in hearings a evidence is very similar to regular video evidence. The image quality from the camera lens can distort the true boat to boat relationship. The JC is hesitant to support the use of drones and this time and recommends that all PCs be very careful when considering this evidence.

Video- the JC feel that the decision to use video is very similar to that for Drones. Video can add to location on the course, but camera lens, does distort distances and boat-to-boat relationships. The JC recommends that all PCs be very careful when considering this evidence.

Tracking – Tracking to date has been largely entertainment and still has large discrepancies in accuracy between reality and what is shown on a tracking program. This discrepancy is such that the JC recommends that tracking not be used as evidence except to possibly look at location of a boat at a given time and place on the course.

12. New Rules

Several presentations from around the world have been developed in various forms. Rules clinics are being presented and the World Sailing Study version is available from World Sailing.

The JC will continue to develop links to these tools and will advise our judge corps via the new flashes.

All are asked to check the web for access to these tools we should have a selection of tools up on the web by April 1st.

US Sailing JC
March 16, 2017