

Race Administration Division Report for August 17, 2015, Board of Directors Meeting

– prepared by Hank Stuart, Race Administration Division Chair, and
Matthew Hill, Race Administration Director

Seminars and Certifications

Summer is a quiet period for Race Administration programs, so there have been few race official seminars since we last reported in May. The table below shows the current numbers of race officials, sorted by area (please bear in mind that some individuals hold multiple certifications and that the table shows certifications held, not individuals holding certifications):

Race Official Certifications by Area -- as of August 1, 2015

	Multiple Areas	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	Total
Classifier			1		1			1					3
Club Judge	1	6	3	6		1	7	1		4	5		52
Judge		6	7	12		6	5	8	2	13	14	7	101
National Judge	1	16	10	11		11	8	8	1	19	8	5	119
Judge in Training		3	2	16		6			7				34
Int'l Judge (ISAF)		3	1	5	1	2		3		3	2		20
Int'l Judge - 2 years (ISAF)		2	3		3	1							9
Judge Instructor - Adv.		2	1	3	2	2	2	2		2	2	1	19
Judge Instructor - Basic		7	3	6	8	4	3	2		4	3	1	41
Club Race Officer	10	40	38	45		35	14	16	9	50	42	6	422
Regional Race Officer	4	10	13	10		9	8	12	2	8	15	3	122
National Race Officer		5	1	6	6	2	4	2		7	2		35
Int'l Race Officer (IASF)		2	1	2	1	1	2	1		2	1		13
Int'l Race Officer - 2 year (ISAF)		2								1			3
Race Mgmt Instructor - Adv.		2		3	2	2	3	2		5	1	1	21
Race Mgmt Instructor - Basic		4	2	7	6	2	3	3		3	2		32
Regional Umpire	1		2		2	1		2		2		1	11
National Umpire	2	10	10	6	4	2		5		10	6	2	57
Int'l Umpire (ISAF)	1	4	2	4	1	1		2		4	1	1	21
Int'l Umpire - 2 year (ISAF)	1	1			1								3
Umpire Assessor		2	4	4	2			1		4		1	18
Total	21	127	104	146	2	88	59	71	21	141	104	29	1,156

Online testing for the Advanced Race Management Seminar should be ready for the beginning of the winter season. We are also working with the Umpires Committee to develop curriculum materials and online testing for Umpire certification seminars and testing.

We have made good progress in continuing education for race officials. Several Judge roundtables have been held for recertifying judges, and the participants' CEUs have been recorded. The Judges Clinic program is still in development. Both offerings, as well as future webinars, can be counted in place of standard two-day seminars. The Judges Committee has also developed a single recertification test for 2015, which can be taken by judges due for recertification this year independent of their seminar or continuing education events. Race Management is adapting this concept for race officers who need to recertify as well. The

committees have worked on clarifying instructional policies, including testing and retesting guidelines, as well as standards for appointment of instructors. The committees will also continue to look for ways to shorten the time commitment required for advanced seminars, possibly by supplementing the in-class portion with online learning.

Race Admin and the Training Department have discussed ways to combine our efforts, since much of what Race Admin does is educational. We have explored the National Faculty model and will continue to work with Training to enhance the quality of our offerings for all race officials. We are also revisiting the concept of a markset boat operator endorsement, which could become a Race Management offering in connection with successful completion of the Safe Powerboat Handling course's Safety, Rescue and Support Boat Handling module. Another option under consideration is a combined Race Admin/Powerboat basic safety course that can be offered to race support volunteers and others at US Sailing member clubs.

Submissions to ISAF

After seeking comment from other Race Administration committees, the Racing Rules Committee proposed 13 submissions to the ISAF Racing Rules Committee for inclusion in *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2017-2020*. These are posted on the US Sailing website with an invitation to comment.

The Judges Committee has proposed one candidate for International Judge, Richard "Doc" Sullivan of Rochester, NY, who will be presented to the Board for approval and nomination to ISAF at this meeting.

The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2017-2020

The Race Administration office has begun preparing for the production and distribution of the new US rule book in late 2016. Preliminary conversations with members of the Racing Rules Committee have already taken place and will be followed next month and beyond by more detailed discussion and planning with the committee and other key participants in the process, including the Marketing and Membership departments, graphic designers and printing companies. We have reviewed the lessons learned from the 2012 production cycle and will do so again to ensure that the process proceeds as smoothly as possible.

"SOARS 2.0"

The Sailing Officials Automated Reporting System (SOARS) was originally developed in the late 1990s by Sandy Grosvenor, and is the logging system used by all US race officials to record their participation in sailing events, training and other details. While it still works, it is being asked to do more than it was designed for, and Race Admin has begun the process of updating the system. Based on extensive and thoughtful comments from a large number of users, we have

reached agreement that the conceptual design of the system will be maintained so users do not have to learn an entirely new process. Data storage and reporting functions will be enhanced, new options will be introduced and the look will be updated. Sail Canada has inquired about collaborating on the development of this or a similar system, and we have planned more discussion on this topic in the near future.

The Dauphin Island Race, Mobile Bay

Race Admin has provided support to the US Coast Guard, Sector Mobile, and to the Safety at Sea Committee, in their investigation of the distance race in Mobile Bay in the spring. We have consulted with the Coast Guard investigators on basic information about race management best practices, the training US Sailing offers to race officers, and the US Safety Equipment Requirements, and we proposed safety recommendations for distance race organizers and sailors.

Sailing Leadership Forum 2016

Planning is well underway for SLF in February of 2016 and Race Admin is looking at ways to make this an even more useful offering for race officials. We are considering how attendance at the event might be counted toward the developing Continuing Education system.