

2020 Judge's Committee Meeting
Annual In-Person
Atlanta, GA
Saturday February 15, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Sarah Ashton at 8:30 AM EST

I. Greetings

Around the table Introductions

II. Roll Call

Attendees

Chair Sarah Ashton

Wayne Balsiger, JC Secretary

RAJs: Mary Pierce, Area A

Edith Collins, Area D

Nancy Zangerle, Area E

Chris Luppens, Area F

Michael Gross, Area G

Mike Kaspar, Area K

Craig Daniels, Area L

Matt Hill, Race Administration Director

Bill Simon, Chair Judges Training and Testing Subcommittee

Bruce Martinson, Chair Club Judge Program

Nancy Glover, Round Table Coordinator

These people joined in via Video Conference Call at 3:00 PM EST

Ric Crabbe, Testing Coordinator

Rick Mallinson, IJ Candidate Mentor

Kathy Lindgren, Chair, Umpire Committee

RAJs: Jim Walsh, Area C

Michael Roth, Area H

Steve Schupak, Area J

III. Approval of December Minutes

Minutes approved

IV. Manuals

a) Judges' Manual (JM)-Wayne

Background

For the 2017 manual update we divided up chapters among the JC. John Segal RAJ was primary editor assisted by Rick Sullivan RAJ. (Refer to Acknowledgement page and Editor's Notes pages of Judges manual.) After our edits, Mary Savage was assigned primary Editor task to reduce size and reorganize. It came out finally in February 2019.

World Sailing did not have a Judges manual when we created our manual. They now have one.

Questions:

1. Do we need a separate US Judges Manual? Yes
2. If so, we need to update it. I don't believe there are many major rule changes in 2021, unlike 2017, where Rule 69 had major updates. So updates may be easier this year.
3. Set assignments and due by schedule.

The chapter assignments for updating the Judges manual were made (in separate sheet). First pass due May 1, 2020. Here is the link to see the coming changes

[https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingRRS2124draft1Jan2019-\[25233\].pdf](https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingRRS2124draft1Jan2019-[25233].pdf)

JC decided to keep updating JM every four years.

b) RAJ Guide RAJ-GU – Wayne

So we have the First Edition of the Regional Administrative judge Guide (RAJ-GU) mostly ready to go. We do know we want to make more edits under these guiding principles: 1) further reduce size, (four pages too short, 25 pages too long) 2) have reference info to the source material but remove duplicate information from guide. 3) Don't duplicate info so we don't have conflicts with dual sources of information.

We want to not let perfection get in the way of good.

We should put RAJ-Guide on Judges (public) page of Web-site.

Bill Simon **Moved** we publish on public page and continue to improve. Seconded by Craig Daniels

Ask Wayne and subcommittee to keep editing it going forward.

Motion passed unanimously

Goal to shorten and remove duplicate information located elsewhere.

Add Preamble to each Chapter

V. Continuing Education

a) One Day Judges Seminar – Bruce M

Take out around the race course. Focus on protests.

Goal racing every club have a club judge

Bruce Martinson and others update the Around the Race Course seminar info

RAJ's should think and submit study questions to submit to Ric Crabbe.

Motion to change name of One Day Seminar to Club Judge Seminar by Nancy Zangerle. Seconded by Bill Simon. **Motion** passed.

b) Advanced Judges Seminar – Bill

Refer to summary sent out to all. New AJS Seminar. Bill thanked those that helped write. New format is First day seminar followed by Protest Day. Day one, teach about the procedural rules, then Protest day so subjects from day one flow to day two. Protest day has five one hour hearings on day two, with supervising Judge. Debriefs at end of each hearing and end of the day. Produces much stronger Judges when done.

Bill noted that Non-Certified candidates don't hold back seminars.

Motion by Nancy Glover to make New AJS Seminar format (Seminar day 1 and day 2 is protest day) replace existing AJS. Seconded by Bill Simon.

Process includes more talent needed, and that adds to seminar. Can have all Instructors/ supervising judges on day 1 or some on day 1 and all on day 2. One Judge Supervisor for each PC panel. Often two panels. Number of talent people to bring in based on number of students.

Motion passes

c) Round tables – Nancy Glover

Are in good shape. Have created a new expanded list of topics. See Round Table Topics copy document sent during meeting.

Round Tables format is to have three from “technical” topics, one from “soft” topics. There are many new topics. Having trouble hosting a Round Table? Contact Nancy Glover contact me for suggestions regarding out of town facilitators who can fly in. Always welcome to come to Chicago or Marblehead to attend to see one in action.

Pop Up round tables. Prefer approval in advance, but can be done after the fact. Pop Up Round Tables are good for when under AP at a regatta. Send request to Nancy including 1) Names with US Sailing member number. 2) What topics you covered. The appropriate number of CEU’s is credited to those attending. Want to have two or three topics covered in depth (not at the bar). Let’s open the book, research and provide no incorrect information.

d) Webinars –Bill Simon

Does anyone want to volunteer to set up webinars? Knows how to use software such as Adobe Presenter? Webinars similar to SafeSport (In line Knowledge system. Presented material and then questions embedded in Webinar. Need strong Judge with tech skills and interest. So RAJs need to find someone to lead.

Craig Daniels happy to do one on Rule 42.

e) Clinics –Bill Simon

Two. One on Racing Rules of Sailing. Steve Wrigley is updating. Craig Daniels has run a Misconduct Clinic. To do a clinic, same as Round Tables. Host one. All the material is on the slides. Need to get the word out to RAJs. (Note to add this to RAJ-Guide.)

First year of Quad change, some areas have RRS changes for Judges.

VI. Instructor Qualifications/application – Bill, Sarah

Bill wants to open up the number of instructors. Current thinking open to any NJ or higher and existing AJS instructors. Application on-line, ask about teaching background. Opt more toward giving people a shot at it. Not everyone can teach well. Judge able to not just present given material but adlib; can handle more free-form beyond just presenting PowerPoint Slides.

Matt: Noted that a proposal is coming to JC from US Sailing. Goal is all disciplines bring all instructors into Instructor Training program. Take teaching fundamental and adult learning topic. New instructors co-teach, get evaluation and then recommend or not recommend for instructor certification. Teaching and coaching fundamentals.

Some vocal discontent on this subject. So Matt will ensure inviting member of JC and member of Umpire committee to meetings on subject.

Decision made that JC will follow to Bill’s proposal on more AJS instructors. Email being sent to NJs and current instructors about application form. Committee will approve or not.

VII. Club Judge Program – Bruce M

Most RAJs present have taught CJ Seminar. Get as many clubs as possible to hold seminars. Current process is to Email Bruce for current updated materials, as he updates on frequent basis. US Sailing wants materials all in one Dropbox. Many clubs are not US Sailing clubs that do race sailboats. Bruce wants US Sailing to reach out to clubs and sailing schools.

Next, Bruce has been asked by World Sailing, Canada and a South American country to share Club Judge Program. We previously said no to share. Bill is sharing with Canada the New AJS format. Is the Copyright by Committees or by US Sailing?

Bill Simon **moved** to share material with other MNA's, after talking to Legal and find out if OK. Second by Mike Kaspar. **Motion** passed.

Getting someone qualified as Club Judge by Judges as a reference for them. Issue is if a Club Judge candidate is not near other Judges, very hard to get a reference. Can we let Club Judge be a reference for a Club Judge? The JC considers it fine if they come to Protest day and they are good except for reference. Can get reference that way.

Nancy Glover **Moved** that Flag Officer recommendation be removed as a requirement for all certification levels. Seconded by Edith Collins. **Motion** passed.

Club Judge Application: Steps 5, 6 and 9 can be from or by same person, including a RAJ. Does not need to be multiple people.

VIII. Open Discussion

Wayne asked Matt: Seminar fees: why decision to not have US Sailing collect fees and reimburse club for holding seminars. Judge Committee wants Matt to take back and discuss returning to prior method as it makes it harder to host seminars. Also Matt said he is working with IT when the \$35 fee is being covered by an organization (donated), and fee to student is \$0. Current system does not handle well. JC also pointed out request for being involved for input into these types of decisions that US Sailing makes affecting us. Part of treating volunteers better.

Request for Matt to Report back to Accounting department the current method is not working. One possible method is to use Regatta Networks (with the Seminar fee and store front separate).

Seeing who is registered for an event. Always hard for JC members to see who is signed up. Matt will add RAJ's and ARO's able to see who is registered for events in addition to Instructors.

At a minimum for seeing who is registered, at least Name, email, phone number.

IX. Judge-in-Training

Options for JIT requirements

- a) Take Seminar,
- b) Pass Test

- c) Neither required
- d) RAJ Approval
- e) 4 year period, then they come off

Nancy Glover **moved** that Someone can be designated as Judge-In-Training is any person interested in Judge – In-Training and has been approved by RAJ and filled out Judge Application form (with option for JIT on form) and opens a SOARS record. Seconded by Mike Kaspar. Note RAJ’s and Find-aa-Judge cannot see record until a log event has been entered. Log event could be they opened a SOARS record.

After much discussion, **Motion Passes** 6-3 with 1 abstain.

X. Race Officials’ Plan of Improvement/discipline Process – Sarah, Race Administration Committee

Matt and RAC are working on. Judges, Umpires and Race Officers will have input.

Applies any time a race official comes up for complaints on performance of duties or conduct. Plan to do so in next 4 – 6 weeks.

Have a central repository.

Requirement for filing complaints, must have name of person filing complaint, no anonymous reports.

XI. Safe Sport/Background check update – Matt

a) SafeSport: Rolling along pretty well now. Audit of US Sailing went fine, with a few corrective actions made. Was initially a two year cycle. Then became a one-year cycle.

b) Background checks: Little response in November when introduced. Now emails. When email came from Hire Image, came from a different email account than expected. The disclosures. Language is Federal law. Statue does not differentiate between background and credit checks. Had 35-40 queries about it including credit check, that we are not doing. Most accept answers. But, 2- 6 people have taken position says no background check without a personal contract. Data privacy concerns. Can enter 0 as social security numbers. Somewhere above 350 of 750 officials have been done as of about February 7. Justin at US Sailing is only one that can look at them. Date of birth and SS number redacted, except last 4 digits of SS do show.

It is not our goal to get rid of people. Background checks are required because we are protecting athletes.

XII. References Timeliness

Good practice and highly recommended to ask up front at an event that you want a reference. Let Chief Judge or PC chair know. Good practice for reference is written within 30 days of the event. Mike Kaspar took notice this guideline should be put in section 12 of manual.

This section of the meeting included those on the video Conference call 3:00 PM

XIII. Testing - Ric

Passing levels

Ric’s report on Testing: Nice big body of testing results on Advanced Judges test. Last 2 years all tests results. T/F has three sections: A: easier, B: mid, C: harder questions.

Group A are answered 91% correct.

Group B 87% correct. Group C 81%

All T/F is 87.8% correct.

For Diagrams Have section D 86% Easier, E 75%, Medium, F 66% Harder. All 77.8% correct

85.7% over all questions.

280 questions asked 6621 times

Test Results from Advanced judges Test, Last 2 years

6621 Questions on tests
280 different questions asked

# on test from each category:	A or D	B or E	C or F
True/False (TF)	17	11	7
DIAGRAMS (DIA)	8	4	3
Question Difficulty	Easier	Medium	Harder

Passing % by Category

A:	91.2	TF:	
B:	87.4	87.8%	
C:	80.8	Overall:	85.7%
D:	83.6		Percent passing
E:	75.6	DIA:	77.8%
F:	66.0	69.4% passing	

Ric Crabbe 2-15-2020

Ric noted:

- Some questions pop out for high error rate. We improve test questions from time to time. Example, some vague questions are reworded.
- High error rate questions: Right of way boat at Mark vs. Mark Room. Consistently getting wrong.
- 69.4% test results passed AJS. This includes Retakes. Retakes also 69%.
- The test pulls a specific number of questions from each section, as shown in table above.
- Testing sort of has about 10 principles.
- Ric working towards having multiple questions of a single diagram as was on paper. Matt said he thinks it can be done. Ric and Matt will get together with Rachel and Brad at US Sailing.
- Next, Ric may promote questions at mid 40s pass rate to a harder category. Some tricky, so maybe move to group C. Testing theme guide may help.
- Passing score: Ric is comfortable with current standard of 80% Club Judge and 84% on Advanced Judges.

- A. SI may change rule 42. Lowest score of A group.
- B. **Action:** Ric will help to update the study questions to change them. They have been static for a while.

XIV. IJ Seminar Update – Rick M.

Middle of October, 2020 in Miami. So far he knows 12-13 interested in IJ seminar. Notice sent out recently to them and a survey. Next steps include approve them and offer actual enrollment. 2) Send out Notice to all NJs that we are having IJ Seminar in US.it. Who is interested? One Canadian submitted survey. If too many interested, how to make selection of entry. (In 2014 applicants sent in CV, and had a 25 student Limit for class.

Umpire Committee Update – Kathy

Umpires have been working on many of same issues. Certification process and align with judges on titles, Regional and National for umpires. Working on CEUs program as well. Lance Smotherman, NU from Bayview, MI is joining committee. Umpire testing questions will have Quad Rules change review as well.

2021 In-Person Meeting – Craig

Discussion on where to hold meeting next year. Was once in St. Louis and 4 times in Atlanta. Craig has volunteered to look into alternate location. Some suggestions were Dallas, ~~Denver~~, Chicago, Seattle. Have a Rotating option. We need plan in place by September. Goals: Reasonable hotel rate, Reasonable air fare. No snow issues.

Matt reminded us about United Airlines and Hilton Hotel agreement thru USOC. Or housing with local people. Chicago YC. St. Louis. Major hubs.

Rick Mallinson said he can work with clubs in Dallas. Hotel at DFW airport. Walk to it.

XV. Improvement Plan – Jim

Race official Complaints: If we get a report. Process is the same regardless of when the information comes in. If before certification, could talk with candidate to see their viewpoint. Different from removing certification.

The Jim, Justin, Matt committee will offer advice of steps to take. If committees have a report. Option to sit down and discuss if would effect their ability to perform their certified job.

New/Renewal Applications

- a) *Mike Catalano* **Promoted to RJ.**
- b) *Edmund Fry* **Promoted to RJ.**
- c) *Kat Kulkoski* **Promoted to RJ.**
- d) *David Pelling* **Appointed as NJ after 2 year lapsed.**

XVI. CEU's Amount in table changed

- a) Passed **Motion** for Eric Rimkus gets 100 points in CEU's for assisting at CJ seminar.

XVII. Shared Events for Recertification

- a) *Chief Judge, PRO and Chief Umpire Credit for events*

Craig asked about. Mike Kaspar said review the Chapter 12 document sent out today. Need to have proposal for any changes. Most focus was on hearings: Depends on quality of hearing, type of hearing. Full hearing, versus expedited hearing, on land.

Open Items

Question asked about how old a passed test can be. Policy is Test taken with 18 months is fine if the Quad rules did not change.

XVIII. Adjournment

Sarah Ashton noted that almost all members attending the Conference call portion of the meeting. Video conference call and meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM EST.

Wayne Balsiger

JC Secretary