

Judges' Committee Conference Call
Wednesday June 10, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Sarah Ashton at 7:04 PM EDT, 4:04 PM PDT

I. Roll Call

Attendees

Chair Sarah Ashton

Wayne Balsiger, JC Secretary

RAJs: Mary Pierce, Area A

Bruce Cook, Area B

Jim Walsh, Area C

Edith Collins, Area D

Nancy Zangerle, Area E

Chris Luppens, Area F

Michael Gross, Area G

Michael Roth, Area H

Steve Schupak, Area J

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

Kathy Lindgren, Chair, Umpire Committee

Ric Crabbe, Testing Coordinator

II. Approval of April Minutes

The April minutes were approved as written

III. Collaboration with Sail Canada – Bill Simon

Plan is to work together. Everyone agrees. No reason not to work with Sail Canada with cooperation and collaboration.

Sharing test questions, we have 200, they have 100 questions. We will share together. Will check that any questions with Prescriptions issues; we have six questions with prescription in them.

Bill Simon moved that we work with Sail Canada and combine test questions library as much as Ric wants to do so.

Motion carries unanimously.

Matt: SOARS, a few Canadians use SOARS to keep track of records.

If US Sailing Official took a Sail Canada event, the Official must enter the seminar information manually.

They can enter in their events, but it does not show up in the seminar section on the Annual Report section.

Fees to Sail Canada will reduce fees to US Sailing. A significant number of Canada officials are taking US offerings. Not an issue. Some Canadian officials do have a US Sailing number. Usually they are a full member. However some are on one year SOARS membership thru Sail Canada.

Bill Simon moved:

For initial certification, must take US seminars and test.

For renewals, Judges Committee accepts Sail Canada seminars and Continuing Education offerings.

US Officials still have to pass US Sailing Test.

Motion carries.

Bill will continue working with Sail Canada on a regular six month interval.

IV. Virtual CEEs – Bill Simon, Nancy Glover

Nancy: Roundtables going great, both in person and virtual Roundtables will continue in the future. Important for people because no location limits. Protest days both virtual and in-person are also important.

Question, Short discussion about: Do Virtual hearings count or not as an Out of Area event? Various opinions on this. Sarah and others will look at off-line after meeting.

Zoom meetings: Matt will send email to all about setting up Zoom meetings for education events so he is not shown as Host for all the meetings. Note Google Meet is now a free service, without the free version of Zoom limits (40 minutes).

Protest days: Bruce Cook: half dozen so far this year. Virtual going well. For example, 12 people with nine states represented. Ability to do virtual works well to erase geography limits. No travel or time expenses. Some participants are skeptical at beginning. Many love it by end of day. And we all meet new friends.

Education sign-up Priority: Matt will request that Race Admin resume setting up a hidden link for two days before the seminar displays publically for all. This allows the organizer to provide advance notice to their Area first.

V. Advanced Seminar – Bill Simon

Reminder, new format, New Advance Judge Seminar has a class day and a protest day. Have done proof of concept seminars. They are ready to roll out. Is the Protest day limited to AJS participants? Yes, it is part of AJS Seminar and only Seminar participants are in the protest day portion of the Seminar.

VI. One Day Seminar – Bruce Martinson

First iterations of Virtual Club Judge program are in testing. Mark Johnson helping with this. First Zoom call trial was one RAJ and 4 race officers. Rookies on protests; good trial situation. Will test further and look if slides need changes. Finding that small class size works better.

Round the race course has been added to this.

Going Virtual Education: Bruce, Bill and Nancy did all this amazing work in three months. Some changes take years. They did it all in only three months. Three Cheers for them.

VII. Education Promotion – Sarah Ashton

Sarah asked RAJ's if an Education Coordinator for each RSA to help promote education events is useful. If so let her know which RSA's.

VIII. Race Administration Division Assessment Task Force – Sarah Ashton

Sarah reviewed the draft plans for the Race Administration Division Assessment Task Force.

This is designed to look at "strategic priorities...serving racing sailors and how [to] support the infrastructure of racing". New proposal designed to help reconnect and how to move forward with good quality programs, RO, Umpires and Judges. How to get momentum back.

Sarah asked if anyone wanted to volunteer for the Task Force to send her an email.

Kathy said the Umpire Committee is restructuring somewhat with three resignations as a result of actions taken with a prior de-certification issue.

There was much pushback from Nancy Glover and Bill Simon. The main issue for the JC is how complaints about officials are handled and decisions made. Especially on decertifying an official before their certification expires.

Nancy G: seems like another pass and delaying tactic.

Disappointed how handled. Our problem when a judge is not performing adequately, there is a lack of defined process. Just need answer to specific questions, not something this broad. Way too broad.

Sarah said the Task Force plan covers education, certification, plan of improvement and decertification.

There is one overworked person with all of the race officials to take care of.

She has been trying to get a reporting process for three years.

This wasn't getting done. Hoping to move forward and get a survey out to race officials on what support they want and need.

Bill: We have been asking for these for six - seven years. The BOD has not accepted that these issues exist. Current choice limited to only not renew, no de-certify option. When that is used, the official is reinstated by the BOD.

Bruce Cook asked if the proposed Race Administration/BOD evaluation process would include an evaluation of the Review Board. Sarah and Matt answered YES.

So JC is looking for a more limited scope of review focusing on grievance, certification and de-certification procedures.

Sarah will express the concerns of the JC to Charlie Arms, Chair of the Committee, and report by via email to the JC. Time frame for the assessment is to report to BOD by September.

IX. Plan of Improvement – Matt Hill

Matt Hill said he, Jim Walsh, David Pyron and Justin Stark are working on addressing how to receive complaints, handle them and make a decision.

Edith: complaint made, lots of flak, lost friends. Great on how complaint was handled and thanks to Matt Hill.

The Plan of Improvement includes a plan of improvement, demote, or decertify. It is now in draft format. He will give it first to RO, JC and Umpire committees for their feedback. And eventually signoff.

X. Umpire hearings credit – Craig Daniels

Preview of work. Proposal next meeting.

Looked at possibility to use Umpire and PRO work to meet Judge recertification requirements.

Looked at NJ Requirements and where other requirements could be met by other work.

e.g. PRO and Chief Judge tasks are very similar. Organization skills, lots of overlap.

Maybe count two events from PRO activity as two of four required Chief Judge Events.

Bill is an Umpire, loves it. He hears what Craig is trying to do. But on the water is very different from land hearings. Also his Protest Days experience shows a number of NJ's need help on protest procedures. Fine for using PRO events to fulfill some Chief Judge event requirements.

Craig: reiterated these are for Recerts only, NOT initial certification.

Bruce Cook: IJ juries on the water often do use full hearing procedures, so these may qualify. Craig and Bruce to talk off-line.

Craig thanked everyone for their input and expects to have proposal for our next meeting.

XI. 2021 JC Annual Meeting – Craig Daniels

Craig proposed planning on a Virtual meeting. After discussion, in October JC will make decision on how and where to hold the February annual "In-Person" meeting. It may become a virtual meeting.

XII. Other Business?

Judges Manual – Wayne Balsiger said Dick Rose reports rules committee very likely to finish rules changes on schedule for June 30, 2020. So by Mid-July, Wayne expects to send email to all with rules changes and rule number changes so we can proceed on revisions to the Judges Manual. Rules expected to become effective 1/1/2021 as originally scheduled.

It looks like the rule book is being reorganized so rule numbers are changing.

RAJ Guide – Wayne. No changes suggested so far beyond simplifying and making sure information is only in one place not two. It is peacefully resting for a while.

XIII. New Applications –

a) Steve Schupak - IJ

Sarah moved to accept Steve Schupak IJ application and forward to BOD to approve and send to World Sailing. Motion approved.

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned 8:51 PM EDT, 5:51 PM PDT

Respectfully,
Wayne Balsiger
JC Secretary