Judges' Committee Annual Meeting
February 18, 19, 20 2022
Meeting Minutes

Schedule

I. Zoom meetings (Link in body of email)

Friday to Sunday, February 18, 19, 20, 2022

Friday 2/18  6 – 9 PM EST  3 – 6 PM PST
Saturday 2/19  3 PM – 6 PM EST  12 PM – 3 PM PST
Sunday 2/20  3 PM – 6 PM EST  12 PM – 3 PM PST

I. Call to order
Meeting called to order by Chair Wayne Balsiger at 6:02 PM EST, 3:02 PM PST

II. Greetings – Wayne

III. Roll Call

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<td>Sarah Ashton – Judges' Newsletter</td>
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<td>Bill Simon, Chair Judges Training and Testing Subcommittee</td>
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<td>Bruce Martinson, Chair Club Judge Program</td>
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<td>Nancy Glover, Round Table Coordinator</td>
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<td>David Pyron, Chair, Umpire Committee</td>
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<td>Ric Crabbe, Testing Coordinator</td>
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<td>Steve Wrigley, Chair, Clinics Program</td>
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<td>Matt Hill, Race Administration Director</td>
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<td>Sandy Grosvenor, Chair Race Administration Committee</td>
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<td>Kevin Hawkins, US Rep to WS Judges Committee</td>
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<td>Rich Jepsen, US Sailing President</td>
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<td>Andrew Clouston, US Sailing SVP Programs &amp; Services</td>
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<td>Charlie Arms, US Sailing Secretary</td>
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IV. Approval of December 2021 Minutes motion by Edith, second by Nancy Z
The December Minutes were approved as written.

a. Status of changes in insurance coverage

Rich and Andrew discussed the dropping of race official insurance and assured us that everything possible is being done to replace the coverage.

What has changed - Now — officials are covered under club/OA insurance first or own insurance. Covered under USSA insurance only for USSA events, courses. If working in capacity of USSA committee member, covered.

It is a challenging insurance environment. Working with numerous brokers and USOPC and other orgs with officials and instructors trying to replace the coverage. Asking brokers who specialize in sport and those who don’t. Who and what is covered and cost?

The Committee had a long discussion with Rich, Andrew and Charlie on the changes and ideas on potential replacement coverage.

VI. Topic of Judges Pay for Training and Volunteer for Free

Many steps for training, certification, etc. — each step of the way, USSA asks volunteers to pay their way. Background Check, SafeSport - what’s the benefit for being a certified race official? Sailing is probably unique in accepting all of this free talent and treasure from its volunteers. Even the USTA pays officials nominal amounts.

Why is that? In the NAYRU and USYRU days, the only people volunteering were those for whom those expenses were considered to be a rounding error. And so the “proud tradition” of “giving back to the sport” predates anyone in leadership now at USSA.

There followed a lively discussion on ways to promote asking OAs to cover expenses of Judges and Umpires. We are integral to running regattas and race fees can increase slightly to cover Race Officials. Another aspect was on training costs and reference materials we each purchase such as Appeals and Cases books and on possible ways to reduce that for certified officials.

Rich is interested to work with all of us to find a solution – change the culture so that competitors are paying for us to do our work. Local regattas — competitors pay a small additional expense to pay RO’s for their work. A working group may start on that.

All of us on the water have a safety officer role. We need to discuss that. In the past, we might not have pointed out life jackets improperly fastened or kill switches not attached. Now we’re Safety Officers and need to deal with all of these incidents.

VII. Race Administration Committee Report – Sandy Grosvenor

Looking forward to working with you. 12 years away as RO chair — what did I miss while I was away? Figuring out what the role of Race Admin Chair is.

Over the past two years we have lost so much of our ability to interact together. And have discovered how important it is to be able to spend time together and the camaraderie. It’s impacting our morale. “Thank you, committee. You are the core of our judges’ program without our judges we don’t have a sport.”

Things need to be consistent among disciplines. Race Admin need to approve things. Sandy’s vision is RA Committee has oversight and coordination (not just lunch). Would like to see the things that are
different among disciplines that don’t need to be – let’s see if we can’t make them as similar as possible where it makes sense – streamline.
Changes in ethics handling and review board stuff. Do a better job communicating with sailors.

VIII. WS Judges – Kevin Hawkins
Focused on building a remote proctoring policy so renewals can be remote. Getting seminars to happen – ATL last week – thanks to Rick Mallinson
Revised WS Judges’ Manual – constant revision on test and content – accurate and no contradiction to new rules.
Questions - Does WS cover IJ’s with insurance – to my knowledge – No. AUS 6 – 7 years ago, WS sponsored event – maybe? Nothing published about insurance coverage.
Not for officials or events. Expectation it is provided by host clubs.

IX. Finding IJ Mentor – Wayne
Rick Mallinson did most of the organization for IJ seminar. Rick has retired as IJ mentor. Looking for a new IJ mentor to track candidates, help them get events, understand process, answer questions. Wayne has a feeler out for one person and some input on good mentor candidates. Let Wayne know if you have any thoughts.
Edith - Huge shout out to Nancy Parson who facilitated the IJ seminar and did an awesome job!

X. US Race Admin Director Report – Matt Hill
  a. Background Checks / SafeSport multiple reminders
SafeSport admin audit coming up in a month – Justin Sterk handling this. One of the things they look at is the percentage of persons who have maintained current training. Put in place a process where if a person allows their training to expire, their certification is auto suspended until training renewed. Hoping this will help everyone stay up to date on training.
Who has BK checks and who is due? Thanks for all who followed through and finished that process.
About 100 left of RO core to be updated.
People have gotten used to SS and BK checks so there is less resistance now.
SafeSport operates on a 4-year cycle. Year 1 90 min training. Year 2 – 4 short – 15 – 20 min refresher. Year 5 back to 90 mins.
Expiration dates on SOARS. Refresher training and request of BK check on the web page Wait to refresh Safe Sport and BK check to time close to renewal date.

Discussion on bullying: SafeSport seems to not deal with situations unless they are sexual abuse or abuse of a minor. Generally, reports are made to SS when there is an imbalance of power – coach and athlete for example.

Matt to talk to Justin about creating clear guidelines about what goes to SafeSport (SS) and what is not or stays as a Rule 69.

Rule 69 and SS are not mutually exclusive unless SS takes the investigation over.

Background checks – no notice given of results unless you check a box, unless they turn up reportable information. Reportable information is reviewed by Justin and HR manager. If no impact on ability to be a RO, expiration is extended.
b. Ideas from JC on Improving recognition/appreciation of Race officers – How would you like to be recognized? Survey will be forthcoming.
   i. Bring your ideas to Matt
      1. Do you want something?
      2. Functional items or commemorative?
         Free education, a 5-year letter of thanks, travel expenses to champs, some help with expenses (keep cost to competitors low), case book, oar pin, package for newly certified club judges (all the stuff they’re told to get – flag, etc.),

Stu is working to link Appeals to Rule book in app

XI. Review of the state of the Areas. Counts, issues, what is working well – RAJs
Area A - Mary Pierce - 48 total + 4 dual citizens: 2 IJ (1 Canadian), 11 NJ, 4 RJ (1 on 6 month extension), 19 CJ, 12 JIT’s + 2 pending tests. 8 retirements/non-renewals (2 NJ, 6 CJ) and 5 new CJ’s in 2021 so net loss of 3. 7 up for recertification in 2022.
What’s working - CJ Online, Protest Day online – able to get training and some hearings without travel restrictions. Mentoring JIT’s and new CJ’s – connecting them with experienced judges to get them to events, get them experience and help to make them known to organizers. Still informal as I haven’t had time to make it more formal yet.

Area B - Bruce Cook – (Submitted this report) - 24 Judges: 2 International Judges; 7 National Judges (2 of whom are IJ); 8 Regional Judges; 6 Club Judges; 3 Judges-in-Training, and a mailing list of 52 people. Educational offerings currently include a virtual Advanced Judge Seminar on February 22, 24, 26 and 27; a virtual Protest Day on March 2nd and 4th, and an in-person Protest Day on April 2 at American YC.
I have asked Organizing Authorities in Area B to consider offering at least one extra spot on their hearing panels to people seeking to become certified or upgrade their certification. This request has generated some positive responses.

Area C - Jim Walsh - 24 judges 4 are IJ’s, 14 NJ, 5 RJ all in MD, 5 CJ (NJ, MD, VA) – no JIT’s as they don’t follow through. 6 – 10 working at clubs but not certifying. Not a lot of protests

Area D - Edith Collins – 12 JIT’s, 21 CJ, 17 RJ, 16 NJ, 3 IJ – total 63 active
3 retired 1 not renewed 5 still working on requirements. Scheduling RT’s for 2022.
Flock are in total freak out over the insurance stuff. 1 is threatening – never again.

Area E - Nancy Zangerle – 1 IJ, Ted Everingham is transitioning out – no longer an NJ but still an IJ, (this may be an issue); added 5 JIT’s, filling coverage gaps. Very active clubs don’t look within Area E bring them in from other areas.

Area F - Chris Luppens – 30 total - 13 JIT, 8 CJ, 2 RJ, 6 NJ (1 IJ) – IJ is Doug Fredericks from CA just moved to Denver. He’s helping to fill the vacuum in that region. Chris meeting with Dallas area judges during the J24 Nationals to meet them. Lost a lot of people last year on NJ levels. Gained some RJ’s Need to have a CJ class available soon. Have had no complaints about the insurance issue.

Area G - Michael Gross – 14 judges 2 IJ, 8 NJ, 1 RJ, 2 CJ, 1 JIT. 2 RJ’s from 2021 dropped off – 1 to CJ for insurance and the other one’s SS expired and Mike will check on him. 1 NJ on 6 month extension when she takes an AJS and test.
Area H - Tom Pochereva – 2 JIT’s, 2 CJ, 1 RJ, 2 NJ and 0 IJ. HI clubs all covered under Burgee program with $20MM umbrella. Running zoom meetings for racing rules before major regattas and mini protest days, once a month Racing Rules presentations use 2 different ppt presentations – one from AUS and one from Pat Stadel in San Diego. Last class was AJS in Jan 2020. Looking for seminars for CJ and AJS. 2 Lipton Cups - 1 class boats (Cal 20’s) and 1 PHRF, Judges and JITs participate. Clubs cover food and drinks for judges. HIRA lobbies clubs to pay for training for their club members – 12 – 20 at seminars and clubs pay seminar and meals. HIRA builds into its budget airfare and room and board for instructors who are brought in.

Area J - Steve Schupak – bunch of judges at various levels. Mark Townsend’s CJ seminar and BRMS seminar and Pat Stadel doing AJS. Fewer people are protesting so it gets harder and harder to get the required hearings to certify – juniors and high school racers are still generating protests

Area K - John Porter – 9 JIT’s 12 CJ, 2 RJ, 6 NJ’s, 2 IJ Chicago was center of judging for Area K, now more welcoming – Working well doing HS stuff. Struggle to get CJ rec’s they need. Using 360 cams, RJ’s and NJ’s can observe and then write rec’s

Area L - Craig Daniels LSA reimburses costs of seminars for BRMS or CJ if someone then volunteers at two events within the next year 24 total - 3 IJ’s, 5 NJ, 5 RJ’s, 8 CJ’s, 1 JIT. Only 1 gentle insurance question. Great note by a youth organizer – here is what you need to do. Holding beginning and intermediate rules seminars in Seattle and Portland. Really only OR and WA and judges are in Seattle and Portland with events from Bellingham to Eugene. Hearings are mostly in the Seattle area where contact seems to be prevalent. HS’s are going nuts with team racing and only 2 certified umpires so pressing judges in to help.

Wayne is sending out a spreadsheet for preferred email for JC members.
Adjourn until 3:00 EST tomorrow – 9:10 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Mary Pierce

XII. Sarah Ashton newsletter RAJs should send it to their people. It will come out the 12th and should be to the people by the 14th. Articles need to be submitted on time with 600-700 word lengths.

XIII. Chair’s Report – Wayne Balsiger
   c. No Appeal Rule 70.5(b) request for no appeal event under 70.5(b) for the first time. 70.5(a) policy was modified to include (b).
   d. Finding IJ Mentor Status
   e. Sail Canada Cooperation, Joe Jospe, Chair Cooperation is positive. They are working on a video of a well-run hearing. He has a copy of the NZ misconduct policy. Rule 42 was discussed.
   f. Lynn Beal is counterpart with Ric Crabbe and have exchanged test questions.
   g. Club Judge programs sent to each other.

XIV. Judges' Plan of Improvement process – Jim Walsh
Plan of improvement should be done in person and should include goals, what concern needs improvement, specific on steps needed, required completion dates, potential educational targets, and review by other officials. Report to Matt Hill with the plan. Form is in the Judges secure area. It is mostly self-explanatory.

The Jotform can come back to originator and they can add documents via upload.
There are forms for both commendation and complaints.
XV. JM Manual Update 2022 – Wayne Balsiger

II. I am behind on getting the JM updated.
   The unscheduled update originally was to update Chapter 12 and remove material that is on
   the Judges Certification Requirements pdf on the website that we approved last year.
   Second, was updated information on Misconduct, SafeSport, Background Checks and the new US
   Sailing Policy on Personal Attributes Requirements
   Other items include:
   Updated Judge Certification Requirements
   Updated Rule 14 Decision tree diagram
   Other minor changes
   Resource Links updated

I have recently realized the personal attributes policy integration into the certification application
process is much easier than I thought. This is because the standard clearly lays out the procedure.
There are two points where the Ethics Committee is consulted. 1) if the US Sailing Compliance
Manager (Justin Sterk) sees the Background check has reportable information, he may send the
matter to the Ethics Committee. 2) If the JC sees anything in the references or members have
awareness of potential integrity issues, the JC refers the application to the Ethics Committee. See
policy for full details.

One issue we still have is how to ensure we receive adverse information. It used to be the RAJ sent
the paper reference forms to the Candidates references. This conveniently happened to allowed
the RAJ to know if a reference declined to be a reference. Now days the Candidate asks for
references and the references fill out the electronic form. But we do not know if any asked
references declined to provide a reference. I know I have a tendency to not provide a so-so or
negative reference. I got chewed out one time by a spouse when I changed my mind on giving a
reference because it was going to have some criticisms in it.

And the Misconduct section is not quite ready yet as well.

Any questions?
This flows into the next discussion of the integration.

XVI. Integration Personal Attributes policy into Judges/Race Officers Application discussion – Wayne
How do we bring forward negative comments? The discussion included:
How much research does an RAJ do on a candidate? If people are aware of negatives but don’t “go
fishing”. If there is something legal, we are obliged to disclose.
If there is something contained within the “4 corners” of the application we have a complaint process.
Reference shopping will always occur.
There is now a “personal behavior” question on the application.
We need to consider how references are done. We need to avoid having candidates “reference shop”.
The current reference form allows a reference to “bow out” of making the reference. Matt will know if
this happened.
It is important that if a negative is given the candidate will be given a chance to reply. Be careful.
Does the candidate get a copy of the reference? That would only be if the reference is shared with the
candidate.
Guidance should be given about what is expected from a reference
The process at World Sailing is good, we should follow it.
We looked at following the WS process before. We are looking for cumulative references, not just one event. Could we incorporate this discussion as a round table topic? WS now has a procedure where 2 judges at the event evaluate the candidate. The preference is for the chief judge to give the reference. We don’t want to put too many obstacles in. We do discuss the reference forms at the seminars. Wayne: This discussion will be shared with the Race Admin Committee.

XVII. RAJ Guide – Make it more useful – John Porter
Debrief procedure should be added to RAJ Guide. Mary and Craig are helping. They are pretty close. Sections that are being added:
How to handle a misconduct report (Nancy G will help);
Review everyone’s SOARS at renewal. The manual mentions “annual in-person meetings”
Other additions and deletions were discussed. RJ and NJ application goes to both US Sailing and the JC Chair. The 6-month extension to recertify is not automatic, it must be requested. Having access to a “master list” of educational offerings on the calendar. Google alert was discussed. Matt has a source at US Sailing that might can work in that.

XVIII. Judges Renewal Tracking Spreadsheet - John Porter
   a. Short discussion on using it both full year for all judges and for renewals
      Blue Color is we talk about it in the meeting
      Dates for SafeSport and background check change summary of compliance to NO CJ columns can be collapsed
      John to change far left column to be a date, not a yes/no then distribute final version.

XIX. Club Judge Program – Bruce Martinson
Bruce Martinson Club Judge Report:

**Club Judge Report 2021**

**2021 Statistics**
10 sessions
121 Students
68 passed the test
8 failed
33 didn’t take the test

**Present Issues**
- The webinars are taking too long... looking at 1 short night then three 2-hour sessions
- Instructors need training
  - Must be Zoom proficient
    - Must have gone through Canvas.... Very different than past
- We have had excellent reviews and along with them have come areas that we can improve.
- Continuing to update PowerPoints and hearings. We have several people that are repeating the class 2 and 3 times so making some change helps to keep it fresh.

**Future**
• I anticipate more in person seminars. Make it easier for more instructors to run a good seminar. 1st on in Duluth in March.
• Students will still go through Canvas with just a short Zoom right after the students get access to Canvas.
• Focusing more on just the role of being a judge and not the rules.
• Presently the test focuses on rule and not their role as a judge....should we develop a new test?

**Judges Committee Action**

Motion by John Porter, Second by Craig Daniels:

a. Increase recommendations from Instructor plus 1 judge to Instructor plus 2 judge recommendation (one from Protest Day)
b. Remove requirement for Instructor Recommendation for CJ
c. Increase judge recommendations for CJ to 2.
   i. 1 may come from an RJ, NJ, or IJ who is not your RAJ at a Protest Day.
   ii. 1 MUST be from an RJ, NJ, or IJ who is not your RAJ and come from a real-life zoom or in-person valid hearing that has facts, conclusions, and a decision.

**Motion Carries**

XX. Continuing Education

a. Protest Day – Bruce Cook
   Bill Simon for Bruce
   Protest day is very different from Race officer or Umpire training options that currently exist. Some are taking for the fun of it
b. Round Tables – Nancy Glover
   1 roundtable on calendar and 6 in planning stages.
   No longer needs RAJ approval.
   Can be virtual, in person, or combination.
   Half topics technical, half best practices, rules, or technical.
   This is the opportunity for “soft topics.”
   Lots of good offerings available.
   Nancy will send us a list of topics that are currently available.
   RC people are coming and talking about both roles
   Can provide facilitators if needed
   20th anniversary of Chicago upcoming.
c. Clinics – Steve Wrigley
   Each clinic should be a module. Things include Misconduct, 42, etc. The idea is 2 modules in a day.
   1. Interactive new rules changes
   2. Misconduct
   3. Misconduct in the form of a protest day
   4. Chief Judge Clinic
   5. 42 – maybe
   Can be scheduled through host a seminar. Misconduct is live.
d. Webinars – We need the software
e. Training issues in General
   iii. Issues
f. Craig Daniels musing query
iv. No new JITs or CJs in Oregon.
   1. I want to do something to recruit JITs. Have feedback that CJ seminar is “too much” from folks I consider appropriate for JITs.
   2. Wondering if any RAJs have a “recruitment” presentation. Bill Simon suggested Better Written Decisions.
   3. Should we store that kind of information in the RAJ secure area? Have a library of RAJ topics/presentations?

XXI. Testing – Ric Crabbe
Testing going well.
Advanced test
   Renewal - 90% of Advanced tests were passed with average score of 91%
   Initial – 90% pass with 89% average
   Retest – 75% pass with 84% score
   One candidate scored 100%
Club Test
   Recert – only one recert in 2022 0% pass rate, 70% score
   Initial 86% test with average score 87%, Retest 2 people both passed 82%
Flagged questions where the percentage of correct answers was lower than 80%
People struggle with the diagram questions more than the true/false.
Gotcha questions are gone.
CJ candidates struggle with overlap questions and definition questions
The practice test has been moved to Ric’s domain.
Debrief procedure should be added to RAJ Guide.

XXII. Rule 42 on water Certification and training – Craig Daniels, Bill Simon
Craig will do an intro to 42 as a 3-hour clinic. Goal is to have an advanced 42 clinic as well. Volunteers are working on it. Must have two on the water evaluations from approved evaluators (just like list of instructors) to have a 42 endorsement, applicable to any level of certified judge. Seminars can be paired with an event.

Good feedback to the concept. Matt needs to work through the IT side of adding the endorsement for 42 to find a race official.

XXIII. NJ no longer needs Rule 42. Do we want a Rule 42 Endorsement for Judges?
Motion by Nancy Glover, second by Mary Pierce
   - create an endorsement for rule 42 with the basic framework of:
     - with series of clinics
     - with tracking in soars and find a race official
     - may have endorsement by resume for appropriate candidates, but taking the seminar will be encouraged
Motion Carries

XXIV. New Applications/upgrades
   b. Nelson Pemberton - Jim Walsh - Approved
   c. Jim Tichenor’s Judge Emeritus and Harman Hawkins awards presentation – Chris Luppens
   d. Mays Dickey RJ -Mike Roth. Did not have references from non-seminar, non-protest day judges. Needs one more live event reference. We will vote on him once that reference comes in.
   e. A discussion was held regarding a JIT candidate taking the AJS instead of the CJS. Training for the seminar instructors was discussed.
XXV. Misconduct - Nancy Glover
Clinic will be part of the training Steve is working on. New policies will be in the Judges Manual and will be discussed in Round Table meetings. Still working on the rest.
Matt: 3 motions passed with the Board meeting in December. A “database” exists on spreadsheets and folders. This are up to date. We need to rake the World Sailing Manual and note differences. The committee for this is:
Matt, Dick Rose, Steve Wrigley, Bruce Martinson, Craig Daniels

XXVI. Umpire Committee Update – David Pyron
Seminars in Houston, New York, Chicago, and Newport.
Test is updated, getting the match racing answer order straightened out. Certifications have gone out.

XXVII. New Process for Approval
Craig asked if there was a new process for approval. Dave talked about technical competency approval. Should Judicial Temperament be judged on its own?
Matt gave an overview of the process:
Initial background check is done. If there is a concern, it goes to Justin Sterk and determines if it goes to the Ethics Committee. He would then send to the Ethics committee. Their decision is binding. If they receive a report that causes the attention of the Ethics committee or the Board, the official can be de-certified. If no concerns, it goes to the JC committee for approval decision.

XXVIII. Instructor Qualifications policy/application –
Nancy Z: Issues with the instructor course not helping seminar instructors much. Wants to help review new plans
Bruce M: It has some relevance to see it as the developer but little for instructors.
We have about five qualified to teach CJS. Mary Pierce, Cliff Black, Chris Luppens, Bruce M.

XXIX. Instructor Evaluations –
Matt: Bill has asked for a form that may be beyond our ability. After every section, please evaluate the section. May not be able to do. Not full attention on. Long forms less people fill out. Matt Recommends simpler form.
Matt: Take up at RAC committee level for three primary disciplines.

XXX. Certification / Recertification – Craig Daniels, Mary Pierce
a. Status report on documents
   i. Docs are still good to go, except for changes made at this meeting. Craig will update them.
   b. JIT Designation, Certify Club Judge if concerns about higher certification
      ii. Should a RAJ not designate a JIT if I already have concerns? (will share specific example but not name.) What is the proper way to do that? Does that person get an improvement plan?
      iii. Motion by Chris Luppens, second by Bill Simon to ensure requirements for JIT Designation are:
          1. Take CJS
          2. Have a SOARS account
          3. Be current with US Sailing Membership and SafeSport
          4. Do NOT need to pass test.
5. Fill out application
6. RAJ approval

Motion Carries

Chris: What to do if there is a known problem with behavior when someone wants to be a JIT. Conversation with the candidate, get facts in writing and copy Wayne and Matt. JIT is NOT a certification. It is a designation, but a grievance can be filed. Do a formal “Plan of improvement”.

XXXI. Old Business
   a. Extend One hundred eighty virtual miles for 2022?
      
      2/2021: The 180-mile requirement can be fulfilled by video conferencing for 2020 and 2021.
      
      For 2022, 1 remote and 1 “in person”.
      
      Motion - change NJ requirement for National, continental, International >180 miles from candidates’ home to 2 (one may be remote, but remote must have a hearing)
      
      Motion carried.

XXXII. New Business

2022 JC Meeting schedule plans—Wayne Balsiger

   Members wanted scheduled meeting farther in advance

   BOD meetings: only possible conflicts are October 14, 15 and December 5

   RO 2nd Tuesday of March, June, September, December

   Race Mgmt. 3rd Tuesday of March, June, September, December

   Judges’ Committee every two months: April, June, August, October, December

   How do Mondays or Thursdays work for us this year?

   A poll was sent by Matt on preferred evenings to meet.

XXXIII. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 5:50 EST, 2:50 PST

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pierce, John Porter, Edith Collins and Wayne Balsiger