

# RRS 68

## The Latest News from the Judges' Committee

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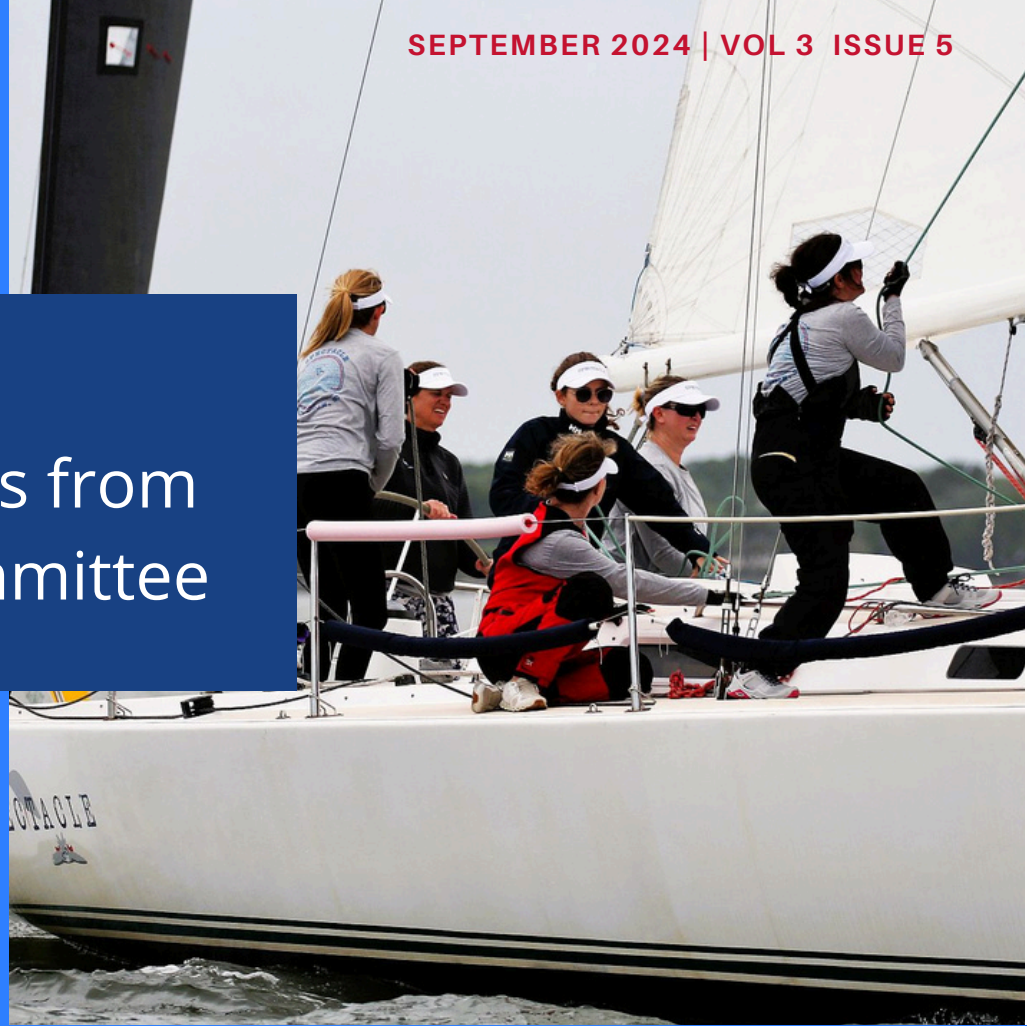
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## **WELCOME TO THE JUDGES' NEWSLETTER**

**Sarah Ashton**

The Olympics are over, and the summer sailing season is coming to a close. So now is the time to check your certification and complete the necessary qualifications.

- New Continuing Education Events will shortly be added to the US Sailing Calendar.
- If you need more events or hearings, talk with your RAJ. They will be happy to assist you.
- The study questions and practice test can be found at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/judges/programs/>
- Keep an eye on your Safe Sport renewal date. You must take the entire course every four years, but in between, the "quiz" is a 15-minute version. If you miss the deadline, you will take the entire 60-minute course.

Your feedback is valuable. If you have any suggestions for RRS 68, please share them with us. We're here to listen and improve. You can reach out to me at [ashtonsh@bellsouth.net](mailto:ashtonsh@bellsouth.net).



# CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

**Wayne Balsiger**

Wow, where did summer go?

**New JETTS Chair:** Introducing Mark Townsend as the new Judges' Committee Education, Training, and Testing Subcommittee Chair (JETTS). Mark was born and grew up in Great Britain, where he represented Great Britain at several World and European Championships. He is an IJ, IU, and IRO and has been involved with the Judges' education offerings. I think he will do a good job filling the big shoes and footprints left by his predecessor, Bill Simon.

**Thank You, Bill Simon:** Bill Simon stepped down as the JETTS chair after six years of doing a masterful job. I and the Judges' Committee thank him. Read Bruce Cook's Thank You Bill Simon article below.

**Insurance:** As you know, US Sailing now has an insurance option from NASO for Race Officials at a group discount. So far, 103 race officials have signed up, including 54 judges, 73 Race Officers, and seven Umpires. Look at the [FAQ document](#), review the [NASO website](#), and decide whether to purchase this insurance. The discounted price for us is \$79 a year. You can sign up here: [Join NASO](#).

**IJ Seminar in the USA this fall:** US Sailing is hosting a World Sailing IJ seminar at Chicago YC on November 15-17, 2024. We still have several open spots for it. If you want to become an international judge, this is a step. If you are interested in the IJ seminar, **let Matt Hill know very soon.**

Anyone interested in attending should email Matt ([matthewhill@ussailing.org](mailto:matthewhill@ussailing.org)) and Megan Griggs ([megan.griggs@sailing.org](mailto:megan.griggs@sailing.org)). Their email should include your:

- WS ID
- Race official certifications - all disciplines
- Experience as a judge for the past six years, including any OTW/rule 42 work and/or international jury service, if applicable
- Experience working with current Olympic classes (ILCA 6&7, 470, Nacra 17, 49er/FX, Formula Kite, iQ Foil)

If you are working towards becoming an IJ, please let your RAJ and our IJ Candidate Mentor, Darryl Waskow, know at [dswaskow@gmail.com](mailto:dswaskow@gmail.com).

**Rule 42 training and endorsement:** We are working toward creating a Rule 42 Endorsement (similar to a motorcycle endorsement) showing that you have passed and are endorsed for Rule 42 judging. A subcommittee is working on the requirements, training and 'assessment' methods.

**Education offerings:** Yes, we know the calendar is blank. We will add events shortly, including Club Judge Seminars, Protest Days, and Round Tables. Again, we plan to have a series of Round Tables similar to those in early 2024. We tend to have most offerings in the fall and winter, as we also like to be on the water in the spring and summer.

**More Judges needed:** Do you know someone who may be interested in becoming a Judge? Encourage them and let your RAJ know as well.

Sail well,

Wayne Balsiger, Chair  
[webalsiger@gmail.com](mailto:webalsiger@gmail.com)

# "OBSERVING" RADIO SAILING RACES: WATCH YOUR STEP!

Edith Collins

I was first introduced to radio-controlled sailboats several years ago when my mentor asked me to help out as an "observer" with a regional regatta. I had been warned that things sometimes got "heated" between the heats, and our presence would help keep the peace. Little did I realize this would be one part judging, one part trail jogging, and one part umpiring.

For those of you who have never experienced radio sailing, competitors wear a "transceiver" (about the size of an iPad) around their neck, with dials controlling the boat's sails and rudder. They walk, or sometimes run, up and down the shore (control area) following their boats. Boats are occasionally hard to see, and you must watch your step so you don't trip or run into someone. Collisions between competitors happen off the water, too!

Races can be in small ponds or close to shore in a larger body of water. One of the hotbeds of radio sailing is the lake in Central Park in NYC. Many of the rock stars of sailing, including Bruce Farr and Ken Reed, are involved in radio sailing. The competition is intense, even at the local club level.

Appendix E covers the special rules for Radio Sailing. "Observers" are like referees in a football game. We are following the races going up and down the shore, keeping up with the competitors. If there is a protest called, and it is not resolved, we can add additional penalty turns. We also announce if a boat hits a mark or another boat by shouting "contact." There is also the possibility of hearing expedited protest or redress hearings between heats. Sort of "three-minute justice." The races are quick and numerous, and your focus needs to be sharp. Oh, and did I mention that some of these boats are TINY and hard to differentiate, particularly if the course is away from the shore? We cannot "have a visual advantage over the competitors."

Being an "observer" for a radio sailing race is really fun. If you get a chance, go for it. But remember to bring your running shoes and watch your step!



# THANK YOU, BILL SIMON

**Bruce Cook**

Six years ago, Bill Simon became a member of the US Sailing Judges Committee and the Chair of its Judges Training and Testing Sub-Committee. He inherited a program consisting of a Club Judge Seminar, an Advanced Judge Seminar, and some Round Table options that were available to those interested in becoming or continuing to be a certified Judge. While he recognized that this program was good, maintaining the status quo was not on Bill's agenda, and things began to change.

With the assistance of people he recruited to be on this sub-committee, Bill began to revise and update the two basic credentialing seminars, to incorporate Protest Day into the curriculum, to expand the round table options, and to add programs on misconduct, writing better decisions, rule 42 and virtual hearings. He made these programs available in person and virtually so that people could attend these programs no matter where they were in the world, and he has had national and international participation as a result.

This expansion and the quality of the JETTS offerings has resulted in greater interest from US Judges in participating in continuing education programs and a change in the requirements for certification and renewal of certification making it easier and more interesting for us to be a certified judge.

As a member of the Judges Committee, Bill has always been willing to provide his advice and input in a constructive manner even if it challenged an issue that was under discussion. The members of the Judges Committee have always appreciated (and looked forward to) his candid comments!

Needless to say, Bill has dedicated himself to the task of having the best Judges Program and the best Judges possible over the last six years. This has been a tremendous amount of work. Bill has now decided to pass the torch and free up his schedule to spend more time with his family. He has retired as Chair of the JETTS Committee but will still be out there on the water supporting the sport.

We can only thank Bill for everything he has done for the sport, for US Sailing, and for us. We are all better off because of his efforts.

THANK YOU BILL SIMON.



# HAPPENINGS IN AREA E

Nancy Zangerle

## Good, Bad and Ugly

It has been a busy summer. Area E has seen its share of summer classics like the Helly Hansen Sailing World regatta at Bayview Yacht Club, Cleveland Race Week at Edgewater Yacht Club, I-LYA Bay Week at Put-In-Bay, and LYRA Race Week hosted by Rochester Yacht Club. Our freshwaters have also attracted several regional and national championships for a multitude of one-design classes.

**The Good** -Among the highlights has been the addition of three new Club Judges to our area. Congratulations to Mary Cay Tylee, Stephen Corona, and Keven Eiber.

Mary Cay is out of the racing hotbed at Edgewater Yacht Club in Cleveland, Ohio. Mary Cay has been a JIT for quite a while, but she joined the Women for Women Club Judge Seminar as a refresher this spring, and it spurred her to wrap up the final qualifications she needed to get certified.

Stephen Corona is from Genesee Yacht Club in New York. He has been working towards certification for over a year and has ticked all the boxes. Stephen will help fill a huge void in the New York/Lake Ontario/Finger Lakes region.

Keven Eiber has done extremely well as a certified Regional Race Officer both on Lake Erie and at her winter venue in Sarasota, Florida. She is a member of the Edgewater Yacht Club in Cleveland, Ohio. This past spring, she joined the Women for Women Club Judge Seminar and excelled. She quickly collected glowing recommendations to complete her certification.

**The Bad** - not all is rosy. We still have a tremendous shortage of qualified and certified judges across the region - especially in Michigan, New York, and Ohio. The result continues a years-long trend with many local and regional events going "bare," i.e., no judges. Those events have become complacent. The idea of having a judge is almost an afterthought. They don't budget for a judge's travel expenses, and frequently, when they ask two weeks before, no certified judges are available.

When they manage to get a judge, that judge often flies solo. When problems arise, this can create significant challenges for solo judges. One thing that has helped reduce the volume of protests is the appearance of App V1 in the SIs. Competitors appear to be more willing to take a one-turn penalty than risk a protest.

On a positive note, when there is a certified judge at the venue, there is much more engagement with the competitors and the ability to answer questions in a casual setting. Those host organizations that do seek a timely judge commitment are also engaging the judge with an advanced review of documents, resulting in better NoRs and SIs.

**The Ugly** - This has been the worst summer for people behaving badly. Some adults and juniors have exhibited the most horrendous behavior on the race course, at regatta venues, and beyond. Seeking a timely hearing under RRS 69 is likely the best route, but it just does not work when there is a shortage of qualified judges and maybe only one judge at the venue. Some venues do not have wifi. Most judges do not have Zoom.

The offenses across the board could best be described as bullying and harassment. For example, we have ongoing online bullying by adults and verbal threats after losing a protest. One might expect bullying by juniors but not threats of suing judges by their parents. The most egregious have been reported to Safesport. The penalties under RRS 69 may not be substantial enough when the parties don't care about US Sailing or the RRS.

## USEFUL LINKS

- [US Sailing Judges' Page](#)
- [The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 and 2025-2028](#)
- [US Sailing Appeals](#)
- [World Sailing Cases](#)
- [SOARS](#)
- [Safesport](#)
- [World Sailing](#)

## RESOURCES

- [Find a Seminar](#)
- [US Sailing Judge Certification Requirements](#)
- [2021-2024 US Prescriptions to The Racing Rules of Sailing](#)
- [Appendices KG & LG - NoR and SI Guides & Templates](#)
- [The Judges' Manual for 2021-2024](#) **Latest version 02/2024**
- [Guidelines for Online Hearings](#)
- [Continuing Education Events and CEUs Table](#)
- [Race Officials Certification Forms](#)
- [Race Officials Insurance Information](#)
- [Race Official/Organizing Authority Connection Page](#)

