

RRS 68

The Latest News from the Judges' Committee

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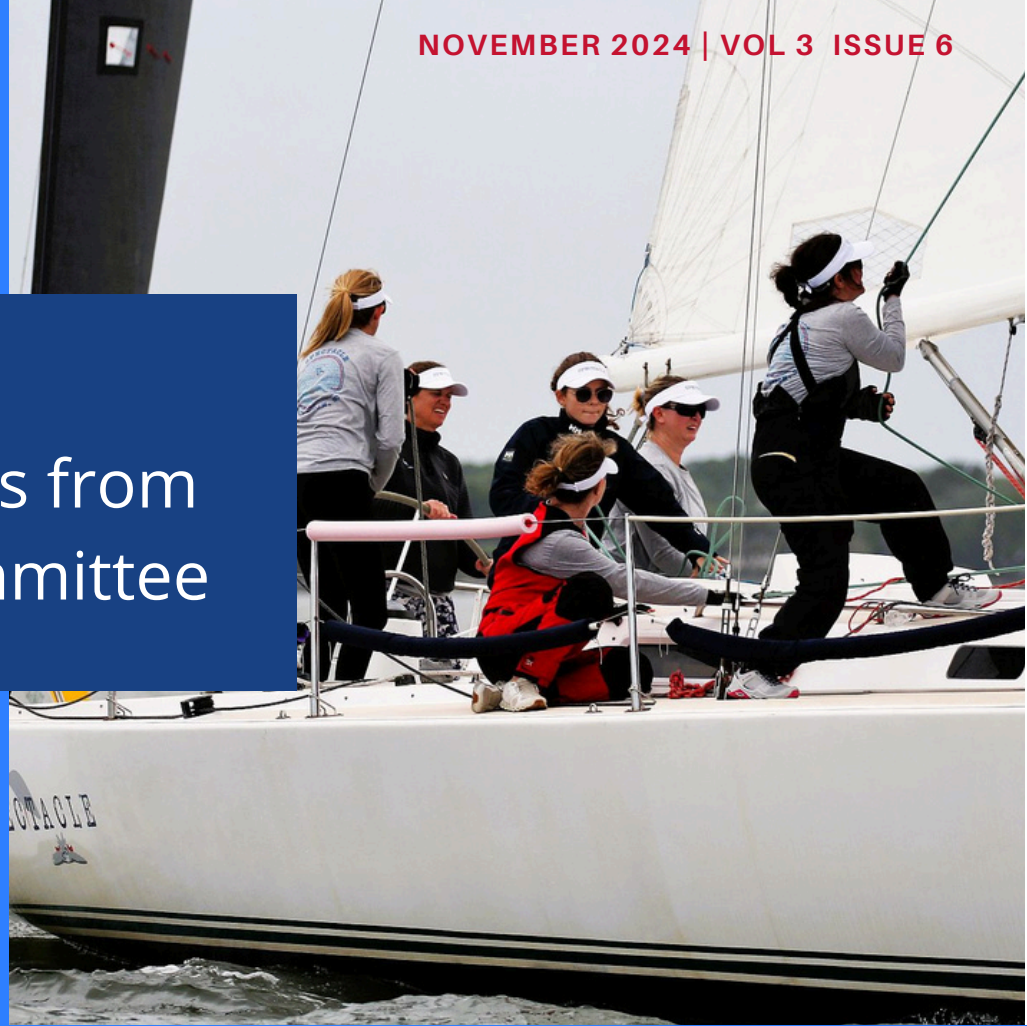
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WELCOME TO THE JUDGES' NEWSLETTER

Sarah Ashton

New Racing Rules of Sailing for 2025-2028

COMING SOON



The Racing Rules App
Mid-December

Dave Perry Books
December 1st

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.



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Wayne Balsiger

Fall is in the air in the northern parts of the country. As on the water events dissipate and many boats come out of the water, more education events are scheduled for Judges.

Education: Our educational offerings are filling the seminar calendar. We have an Advance Judges Seminar that filled quickly. We will offer it again this winter. If you have been waiting for one, sign up. We also have several Club Judge Seminars and will have some Protest Days. Protest days are a great way to improve your knowledge and learn tips on doing your best in hearings.

Round tables, both in-person and online, complete the schedule. They are a great way to expand your knowledge of judging, as they discuss multiple topics at each session.

New Racing Rules: As you know, the rules change every quad after the Olympics. The new 2025-2028 rules will be effective January 1, 2025.

That means updating the Judges' Manual and updating the Advanced Judge and Club Judge Seminars materials, Around the Race Course, and Protest Day Scenarios as needed. We are updating the Protest Procedure card. With the Part 5 rule number changes, the Hearing Decision form gets updated.

Rules App and Rulebooks: You received an email from Judie McCann and Matthew Hill on October 23rd about the US Sailing Rules app and printed rule books. The app is free for US Sailing members and should be ready by mid-December. The printed rulebook will be in January after WS makes corrections before printing them. US Sailing again provides a complimentary rulebook to all officials. Rulebooks for other members and additional copies for officials will be available at cost.

Dave Perry's books always help sailors and judges understand the rules. Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing through 2028, Dave Perry's 100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes (and the newly republished Winning in One Designs) will be in the US Sailing online store in December.

SOARS Records and your Annual Report: Please take five minutes to check your SOARS opening page and edit your Annual Report. This page has your Race Official certifications and the status of your Background Check, SafeSport, and dues paid. Also required is to click on "Edit my Annual Report" and update it within the last year. These are the criteria for being fully certified and your name showing up in Find-A-Race Official as a certified official.

A quick way to check into the Annual Report section of SOARS and My US Sailing (click Member Login, then My Certs and Courses)."

Note: the email notice that your SafeSport is expiring is sent 60, 30, 15 days before, and 7 days after it expires stopped working in August. IT is working on this issue.

SOARS event records: It is much easier to do right after an event. When chairing an event, I let people know I will create a SOARS record and then email them when I do so.

Smooth sailing always,

Wayne Balsiger, Chair
webalsiger@gmail.com

NEW QUAD, NEW RULES

Mark Townsend, JETTS Chair

Every quadrennium (four years) after the Olympic Games the racing rules of sailing are updated.

The new rule book is published in July. The new rules require that the documents that reference the rules are updated; Case Book, Appeals book, notices of race, sailing instructions and the training material.

While you are busy updating your notices of race and sailing instructions to comply with the 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing, the Judges Education, Training and Testing Subcommittee (JETTS) will be busy updating all the education and training material. Many thanks to Bruce Martinson, Bruce Cook, Nancy Glover, Ric Crabbe, Steve Wrigley and Craig Daniels for their efforts.

- Advanced Judge Seminar (Mark Townsend)
- Club Judge Seminar (Bruce Martinson)
- Protest Days (Bruce Cook)
- Round Tables (Nancy Glover)
- Testing (Ric Crabbe)
- Clinics (Steve Wrigley)
- Rule 42 clinics (Craig Daniels)
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See you on the water.

Mark Townsend IJ, IU, IRO



WHAT HAPPENS IF THE NOTICE OF RACE DOESN'T CONFORM TO RULE J1?

Mark Townsend

This article refers to the rule numbers in The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2025-2028.

Rule 89.2(a) (Notice of Race; Appointment of Race Officials) requires the organizing authority to publish a written notice of race that conforms to rule J1 (Notice of Race Contents), and rule 90.2(a) (Sailing Instructions) requires that the race committee publish written sailing instructions that conforms to rule J2 (Sailing Instruction Contents).

What happens if the notice of race doesn't conform to rule J1 (Notice of Race Contents), or the sailing instruction to rule J2 (Sailing Instruction Contents)?

Appendix J is a rule and the failure of the organizing authority to publish a notice of race conforming to J1 (Notice of Race Contents), or the race committee to publish sailing instructions conforming to J2 (Sailing Instruction Contents) could be considered an improper action or omission. Rule 61.4(b)(1)[1], a rule of Part 5 (Protests, Redress, Hearings, Misconduct and Appeals), allows a boat to request redress for improper actions or omissions of the organizing authority or race committee, and the boat is entitled to redress if her score or place in a race or series has been made, or may be made, significantly worse through no fault of her own.

Rule J1 lists six items that shall be in the notice of race. Rule J1.1(2) requires the notice of race to include a statement that "the event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing." If the notice of race fails to include that statement then The Racing Rules of Sailing do not apply. All clouds have a silver lining, and in this case the failure to include the statement that The Racing Rules of Sailing govern the event means, the RRS don't govern the event. Redress is a rule in Part 5 of The Racing Rules of Sailing so they can't ask for redress. The downside is that Part 2 (When Boats Meet) doesn't apply either, so they are racing under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS)!

If you are thinking that you can include a statement in the sailing instructions that "the event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing." No such luck... the sailing instructions only govern the event because the definition of rule (f) includes them. No statement that the rules as defined by The Racing Rules of Sailing govern the event, no sailing instructions.

US Sailing Appeal 126, published January 2023, states "If the notice of race does not state that the rules as defined by The Racing Rules of Sailing apply, a boat is not permitted to appeal a decision of the protest committee." If a boat is not permitted to appeal, then why are they allowed to protest or request redress, they are also Part 5 rules!

In US Sailing Appeal 126, everyone was sailing under the impression the rules as defined by The Racing Rules of Sailing applied., (including the protest committee), but they did not. The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea applied. Instead of right-of-way and keep-clear boats you have stand-on and give-way vessels, but we don't want to get into that. Just make sure the RRS statement is in your NoR!

We will all be updating our notices of race and sailing instructions in the coming months to comply with the 2025-2028 rules. Make sure you read rules J1 (Notice of Race Contents) and J2 (Sailing Instruction Contents) before you start.

[1] Was rule 62.1(a) in 2021-20224 Racing Rules of Sailing

See you on the water,

Mark Townsend IJ, IU, IRO

Judge Education, Training and Testing Chair

HAPPENINGS IN AREA G

Donald Wieneke

WHAT ABOUT AREA G?

Rules make the game.

Not much happens in sailboat racing without the rules. Sailboat racing is governed by a comprehensive set of rules that dictate every aspect of the competition, from the start of the race to the finish line. These rules ensure fair play, establish the rights and responsibilities of each competitor, and outline the procedures for resolving disputes. Judges play a crucial role in enforcing these regulations and making decisions on penalties, protests, and other issues that arise during the race. Without these rules and judges' authority, the sport's integrity would be compromised, leading to confusion and potential conflicts among participants.

US Sailing Area G represents a dedicated team of certified sailing judges serving northern California and Nevada. This team is pivotal in fostering an in-depth, quality training program for judges. We actively participate in US Sailing's national, regional, and local seminars to achieve excellence and consistency in certification across club, regional, and national platforms. We love judging and are happy to help resolve issues with sailboats and sailboards.

US Sailing Area G's team has seven National Judges, three Club Judges, and one Judge-in-training. We also regularly bring non-certified judges to our protest committees to provide improved support and a certification path for clubs in the area. This team effort exemplifies a commitment to excellence in officiating.

The geographical scope of Area G is vast, with more than thirty-eight yacht clubs extending from the picturesque Lake Tahoe and surrounding Nevada lakes to the Sacramento Delta, San Francisco Bay, and Pacific Ocean.

San Francisco, the focus of this region, is celebrated for its unparalleled racing opportunities, boasting an impressive concentration of fifteen yacht clubs within a ten-mile radius. Top-notch yacht clubs are participating, including the prestigious St. Francis Yacht Club, San Francisco Yacht Club, and Richmond Yacht Club, to name a few. The area is renowned for hosting world-class sailing events, ranging from the America's Cup to esteemed dinghy competitions and the Rolex Big Boat Series.

So it's easy to see the integrity of these competitions is upheld by the essential role of judges, who ensure adherence to the rules that govern the sport, thereby maintaining a fair and engaging environment for all participants. US Sailing-certified judges possess a comprehensive understanding of the rules and regulations and are tasked with making informed, impartial decisions in the face of disputes.

US Sailing's Area G team is unwavering in its dedication to ensuring that all regattas are conducted fairly and precisely while providing invaluable support to judges at all levels. It is imperative to recognize the availability of resources and assistance from the US Sailing as the member national authority for World Sailing.

Please help spread the word that clubs are encouraged to visit US Sailing's judge page or email me directly at dkwieneke@gmail.com.

Fair winds and smooth seas,

Don Wieneke
Regional Administrative Judge for Area G

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](#)

