

WS 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

RACE OFFICIALS COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

After a first year with focus on set the Committee quad strategic plan and implement actions to minimize pandemic negative effects on education and race officials appointments and renews, on this second year was possible to partially go back to normal activities.

Therefore, re start the educational program, discuss ways to implement an online educational system, write the new Grouping System, review polices and documentation, discuss how high-speed boats affect race management, judging and umpiring and ways to implement technology/electronic to improve the service provided to our community were the main points for the Committee and its Sub Committees.

1. Educational program:

The program was highly affected during the pandemic due to the fact that currently it is 100% in person-based events but the renew exam for few disciplines. The consequence was lack of opportunities for new applicants to fulfil two of the basic requirements to apply for international status, attend a seminar (for most disciplines) and take the exam what brought the consequence of lower the number of first time applicants. In 2022 was possible to run some clinics and seminars in Europe, South and North America and Asia but we learned the lesson of trust on only that format. The logical conclusion was to start work on the development of an online educational system. Apart from the positive impact on costs to run clinics and seminars with that platform it will be possible to expand the program to underserved areas. At this moment all Sub Committees are investigating platforms and starting with pilot events to test the proposal.

2. New Grouping System

Started in 2021 inside Sub Committees, a full review of the current system was in place that ended with proposals of a new system. It includes clear criteria for grouping, procedures for applicants to request information on the reasons of their grouping and also to reconsider that decision and a more dynamic system with a six-month period to review the lists. The proposals are on final review to be submitted to WS Board for approval.

3. Polices and documentation

Early in 2022 Race Management Sub Committee under supervision of Race Officials Committee promoted a review of the Race Management Polices with the feedback from Tokyo. At that time decision was to do a slight review without include topics related to new Olympic classes due to lack of feedback from major events under the new Olympic format for Paris 2024. During the year the Race Officials Committee kept in close contact with those classes at the same an evaluation of the delivery of the format in some Olympic Events was been made by Events Committee.

At the Conference ROC has received a document from Events Committee with its conclusions and recommendations that together with the feedback from the classes regarding their events will be the basis for Race Management Sub Committee for a full review of the Polices that will be in place for 2023-2024 period.

In parallel, each Sub Committee updated their manuals to reflect the current best practices for the respective discipline.

4. Technology/Electronic in race management, judging and umpiring:

After the positive results of the experience/starting point in Tokyo, was clear for the Committee that topic should be a priority for next years with the goal of make available for our officials more tools to officiating. Apart keep and improve the digital officiating in place for Tokyo, the goals are to provide real time solutions for the decision-making process on the water like reliable systems to call start lines and finishes and also for umpiring high speed boats fleet racing.

During this year the focus were on look for options and their impact on officiating, investigation on Racing Rules possible changes and new procedures needed to implement that technology. Plan are to start test some options early in 2023 to get feedback on time for a final evaluation before the first major events on the way to Paris 2024.

5. Other business

In parallel with those key topics, the committee continue with its usual activities like administration of race officials and through its Working Parties: Conflict of Interest, Rule 42, e-ROC Electronic Platform, Q&A (with RRC), International Technical Delegates and Classifiers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ricardo Navarro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ricardo Navarro
Race Officials Committee Chairman

26 October 2022.