

International Judges Grouping System 2023

General

The purpose of this grouping is to act as a guideline for the World Sailing Event Appointment Working Party (EAWP) in their work of appointing International Judges (IJs) to events, where it exercises the right of appointment as per Regulations. The grouping list shall be published on the World Sailing website and shall be available for all Organising Authorities, MNAs and Classes to provide guidance for event appointment.

This grouping system will be subject to approval by the Race Officials Committee (ROC) and the Board under regulation 31.17. The grouping system will be administrated by the World Sailing International Judges Subcommittee's (IJS) Grouping Panel.

The grouping system will be used to identify both the 'Lead' judges and the 'Chief' judges as further defined below. The system will also allow for the identification of IJs with the potential to reach this level. It is envisaged that a grouping process which is based on objective, performance-driven criteria will also encourage continuing professional development within the IJ community.

Race official appointments made by World Sailing to the events listed above also include officials who are not grouped. Therefore, IJs that are not grouped, will still be eligible for appointment to the above events.

Principles

1. The grouping of the Judges will be based on the Events database collected from the IJ Report System and in the near future with the new eROC (Race Officials digital platform).
2. The use of a database will give to the EAWP the flexibility to use different criteria needed for the event.
3. While the grouping of each IJ will be public, all other information regarding individual IJs will remain strictly confidential within the Grouping Panel and the administration of the system.
4. The Grouping Panel will use their best judgement to give input on the ability of an IJ and shall only consider factors which feature on the WS IJ assessment form in making grouping decisions.
5. The Grouping Panel shall also consider gender and geographic location to expand and encourage the growth of IJs

Groups

The IJs qualifying to be grouped will be assessed against the criteria below to determine which of the following groups they shall be placed in.

Lead IJ
A Lead IJ is someone who has a proven ability to carry out the roles required of the discipline. All International Judges are capable of being appointed as an ITO at a World Sailing event as they have met and maintained the requirement to be a World Sailing International Judge.
Developing Lead IJ
The IJ has attributes to be developed into a Lead IJ with further experience and development.
Chief IJ
The Chief IJ is an experienced IJ who can lead a team and act as the Jury Chair at a World Sailing event.

Grouping Criteria

To be grouped, the following criteria will be considered:

	Lead	Chief
A. Rules Knowledge	1. Demonstrates good rules knowledge and a proper understanding of their application 2. Correctly identifies breaches of rule 42 3. Recognizes the principles of RRS Rules 14, 15, and 16 4. Demonstrates an awareness of proper race committee procedures 5. Has a clear understanding of the definitions 6. Identifies the precise moment of rule transition 7. Demonstrates a willingness to accept the rules as written (including NoR and SIs) 8. Has a good overview of the RRS and a knowledge to apply it on different situations.	9. Has a good knowledge of special rules and regulations. 10. By having a good and wide rule knowledge, can lead and manage the juries correctly and effectively.
B. Hearings	1. Is punctual at hearings 2. Understands and follows protest committee procedures 3. Identifies the key facts 4. Asks pertinent questions based on the getting to the relevant facts 5. Comes to a logical conclusion and a proper decision 6. Contributes meaningfully to the discussions in the jury room 7. Willingness to accept the decision of the team having expressed an opinion 8. Scribes effectively 9. Chairs hearings correctly and effectively 10. Leads discussions during hearings effectively 11. Resolves disagreements within a panel	12. Schedules hearings and constitutes the panels effectively 13. Implements proper procedures for quality control of protest decisions

	Lead	Chief
C. Boat Handling & Driving	1. Is able to operate small power boats 2. Properly prepares the boat 3. Skilled at mooring and docking, and motoring to and returning from the course safely 4. Demonstrates proper positioning on the race course for the enforcement of rule 42 5. Is sensitive to wash, wake and windage 6. Adjusts positioning according to other jury boats. 7. Experience to be a course chief	8. Experience to make and apply the on-the-water positioning and judging plans
D. Communication	1. Speaks and understands English 2. Is a good listener, taking into account fellow jurors' opinions and observations 3. Uses internationally acceptable terminology 4. Demonstrates proper use of radio, including procedures and response to calls 5. Is able to clearly describe an incident after the event, both afloat and ashore 6. Communicates clearly and calmly with fellow-judges, competitors and organizers 7. Is able to discuss in a positive way with the colleagues, coaches, rules advisors, etc.	8. Able to lead the communication with team leaders, coaches, colleagues, organizers, etc. 9. Speaks well to a large audience 10. Communicates effectively with media
E. Temperament & Behavior	1. Is willing to learn and accept change 2. Accepts WS rules and cases and comply with WS code of conduct 3. Is willing to work within a team 4. Keeps calm under stress, and is able to make timely accurate decisions 5. Is open minded and accepts the point of view of others 6. Is empathic with competitors, but treats all Jury room matters as highly confidential 7. Maintains good relations with judges, organizers and race committee 8. Is cordial and polite, but keeps appropriate distances from competitors, coaches and team leaders 9. Is punctual 10. Has respect for other people's property equipment, yachts, etc. 11. Has appropriate dress code at all times (on the water, in the jury room, socially after work) 12. Abstains from alcohol until the work of the day is done 13. Refrains from unauthorized communication with the media? 14. Demonstrates lack of prejudice to all 15. competitors - either negative or positive. 16. Works well under pressure staying calm 17. Collaborates well with the other committees	18. Manages good relationships with team leaders and coaches, organizers, media, etc. 19. Handles confidential information properly

	Lead	Chief
F. Physical Fitness	1. Is able to spend long days on the water in small boats in bad conditions 2. Is mobile enough to transfer between small boats afloat in moderate conditions 3. Does not have any impairment that could affect accepting a position as IJ	
G. Experience	1. Has good experience from a range of events 2. Has significant experience from a range of events	3. Has significant experience as chairman at major events where WS appoints the jury

These criteria represent the expected minimum level of experience required to maintain a high level of judging ability, assuming that an IJ is active. IJSC will apply the criteria from the Race Officials Competency and Qualifications document (RQC) in deciding on whether an event is a principal event etc.

Process

1. Initially, all IJs will be contacted by the World Sailing Executive Office and asked to indicate whether they wish to be grouped.
2. The Grouping Panel will use the information from the IJ Report (IJReport.org) and in the future the eROC system to allocate the IJs Lead and Chief groups. Input must be based on actual experience with the IJ and not anecdotal or unsubstantiated opinions.
3. The WS Executive office may collate the additional information and liaise with the Grouping Panel. If the Grouping Panel has been unable to group the judges, the IJSC will make the final decision.
4. The list of grouping decisions will be published on the WS website.
5. Any grouped IJ that request information on the reasons for their grouping. In these cases, the Grouping Panel may be asked to provide feedback to the IJ.
6. Any IJ that is dissatisfied with their grouping decision, whether or not they asked for feedback, may request that the decision be reconsidered by contacting the Executive Office. In such cases, World Sailing will use its reasonable endeavours to arrange for the IJ to be reassessed the Grouping Panel will be advised of the outcome of this assessment and will proceed to reconsider their grouping decision.
7. The grouping process will be conducted continuously, with the updates to grouping at least every six months.