

WS 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

RACE OFFICIALS COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

After some years with focus on mitigate COVID-19 impacts on race officials, most on education and applications, last year was possible for Race Officials Committee to go back to a quite normal year.

Main areas of attention were to expand the educational program with more clinics and seminars, start a program to develop new instructors, together with Steering the Course Program run clinics for women only, run the new Grouping System to provide information for EAWP on appointments and also to create a process for instructors appointment based on clear criteria and procedure. ROC also reviewed the Race Officials Roles, Qualifications and Competences document, the document that contains the requirements for new and renew applicants to race official status.

1. Educational program:

This year in the education program, for all disciplines, 7 clinics and 8 seminars with a total of 131 attendees in all but one continent. Talking on seminars only, approval ratio was 40%, so we expect 52 new applicants at this or future conferences. ROC also started a program to develop female instructors for clinics and seminars with three new trainee instructors as assistants to senior instructors in five clinics. We expect next year these three new instructors be promoted to senior instructors.

A new initiative this year in conjunction with the Steering the Course, Race Officials run five race management clinics for women only in Asia, South America and the Caribbean with a great number of attendees and run by our female trainee instructors. Was a very positive experience with positive feedback so we recommend that initiative continue on next years.

2. Grouping System

Early this year we've approval from the Board for the new system that was implemented during the year. At this moment all race officials around the World had the opportunity to be grouped with the new lists approved and published. This new system is more dynamic than the previous one, with new rounds at six months and procedures for any official to request information about his/her grouping.

3. Instructor Appointment Process

Until 2022 the instructor appointment process, inclusive for clinics and seminar, was not a formal process, with each discipline free to decide how and when that process would happen. That brought some inconveniences like not refresh the current lists on regular basis, not make possible for candidates to apply by themselves and more important, without clear criteria and an open and public process.

This year we asked each discipline to work on criteria same time Race Officials Committee would do the same with procedures for appointment. During this conference we will finalise the document so World Sailing will have a standard procedure/process for instructor appointment, with clear criteria, defined timeline and with a process that is public, open to any official and with easy tools for candidates to receive feedback on their application. The criteria take in account not only skills but also gender and geographical aspects are included.

4. Technology

Day by day technology plays a more important role in our lives and it is not different with respect to race officials administration. A huge amount of information come from regattas, educational events, applications, etc... Since we started this term, it was clear that information should be available online to make possible for ROC and its SCs a better management of all activities. Therefore, we set up a Working Party with members of all SCs to work on a system that collects, maintain and make available those data in a central database.

We call that project the E-ROC and after two years of work, the system design is now ready, next step is to create the software and for that the WP will need assistance from IT persons and to make that possible we will need support from the Office and the Board.

We expect the system in place at the end of 2024 with a huge improvement on points like educational program, race officials' performance feedback, support to EAWP, educational program plan and many other administrative tasks that nowadays take a huge amount of time.

5. Polices and documentation

Last but not less important, all disciplines did review and update their manuals and polices to reflect the current rules and best practices in our sport.

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.

Would like to take this opportunity to thanks to the Office for its daily help and in particular to the Board for the strong support to Race Officials Committee initiatives.



Ricardo Navarro
Race Officials Committee Chairman

13 November 2023.