

**BEFORE AN INDEPENDENT PANEL
OF THE WORLD SAILING JUDICIAL BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF:**

Mark Wood

Appellant

RACE OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE

(AUTHORISED COMMITTEE OF WORLD SAILING)

Respondent

DECISION

Background

1. The Appellant lodged – within the time limit - an appeal with regard to the Respondent's rejection of his application for his 4-year renewal appointment as an International Race Officer (IRO).
2. As per appeal document the Appellant made an error in the online application process and submitted the wrong reference letter.
3. In December 2023 he submitted a letter of recommendation from Lucy Jameson as RS Sailing Events Coordinator and RS Feva International Class Association Secretary with reference to the 2022 RS Games.
4. The Appellant applied for reappointment to International Race Officer (IRO). The Appellant's application and associated documentation were received by the World Sailing office and processed by its staff before the relevant application deadline.
5. The Appellant provided a letter of recommendation from Peter Barton in respect of the 2017 RS Aero UK Nationals.
6. The application was rejected by the Race Officials Committee (ROC) on the basis that the Appellant did not provide the letter of recommendation required by the Race Officials Roles, Qualifications and Competencies (RQC).

The Legal Framework

7. To be appointed as an IRO, applicants must meet a series of requirements set out in World Sailing Regulation 31.
8. In particular, applicants must meet the requirements under Regulation 31.7 which provides:
"A candidate for appointment shall:
(a) meet the general qualifications for appointment as a World Sailing Race Official and the discipline-specific qualifications as published by World Sailing by 1 February each year; and

- (b) *send an application on the official form so that it is received by the Executive Office by 1 September (for applications for re-appointment the Race Officials Committee may extend this deadline for up to two weeks if there is a good reason to do so)."*
9. The RQC sets out the general qualifications for Race Officials and the specific requirements for appointment as an IRO further to Regulation 31.7(a).
10. Section 6.3 of the RQC provides:
- "Specific Qualifications for Reappointment*
A candidate for reappointment as an International Race Officer shall have complied during the Designated Period with the requirements in 6.2 except items (a), (c) and (f). Eight Regatta Report Forms should have been lodged with WS during this period."
11. Section 6.2 of the RQC provides:
- "(e) included with the application a letter of recommendation from a class association or organizing authority of a principal event at which the candidate was a race officer responsible for running the races;"*
12. Section 1.1 of the RQC provides:
- "(b) All ancillary documents must be sent to the WS Executive Office by 23:59 UTC on October 13 in the year of application;*
 ...
(g) The 4-year period - to be referred to as the "Designated Period"- for all required qualifications shall be from 14 October 2019 to 13 October 2023 (inclusive). Where a test is required to be passed, the date it is considered to be passed is the date it was taken, even if the result was communicated to the candidate on a later date;"

Recommendations

13. The letter of recommendation from Peter Barton in respect of the 2017 RS Aero UK Nationals was outside the designated period 14 October 2019 to 13 October 2023 (inclusive).
14. The Appellant's original application for appointment as an IRO did not meet the requirements set out in Regulation 31.7 (a) and RQC 6.2 (e) as the Appellant did not provide one letter of recommendation from a class association or organizing authority of a principal event at which the candidate was a race officer responsible for running during the races during the designated period.
15. It seems plausible that the Appellant made an error in the online application process and submitted the wrong reference letter as the letter of recommendation from Lucy Jameson as RS Sailing Events Coordinator and RS Feva International Class Association Secretary refers to the 2022 RS Games.
16. The ROC is politely requested to accept the corrected paperwork and clarify whether the new document meets the requirements set out in Regulation 31.7 (a) and RQC 6.2 (e).

Judgement

17. The matter is referred back to the ROC for decision.

Suggestion:

18. In the future the process documents should be amended to stipulate that applicants have within 14 days of the rejection letter to correct any such errors.

Ute Reisinger
(Chairperson)

Dr. Balazs Hajdu
(Panel Member)

Ana J. Gamulin
(Panel Member)

Independent Panel

March 4th 2024