

Race Officials Committee Minutes

The Race Officials Committee met at the Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre on Wednesday 6th November 2024.



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CM = Paper circulated to Committee Members only

SP = Supporting Paper

Attendees:

C – Chair, Ricardo Navarro **VP Vice President – Tomasz Chamera**

NS – Nino Shmueli **AL- Aileen Loo** **AB- Alan Baser** **AP- Andrus Poksi**

CL – Chris Lindsay **DB – David Brookes** **EP – Elena Papazoglou**

EJ – Ewa Jodlowska **JC – Jim Capron** **FJ – Francisco Jauregui** **TH – Timo Hass**

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 Welcome by the Chair
- 1.2 Attendees and Apologies
 - (a) Apologies were received from Russell Green (NZL) and Christophe Gaumont (FRA) who were unable to attend.
- 1.3 Obituaries

Shared an obituary to remember Race Officials Jean-Pierre Cordonnier FRA (IJ/IU) who has shared many contributions to race officiating and sadly passed in 2024.

2. Minutes and Agenda

- 2.1 Minutes
 - (a) The minutes of the previous Race Officials Committee meeting held on 15th November 2023 were approved with no additional matters arising not already covered by this agenda.

3. Governance and Strategy

- 3.1 Board Meetings

Tomasz Chamera (VP) welcomed all to Singapore and thanked for contribution to ROC across this year and the past quadrennial. TC reflected on many successful events including the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, highlighting many successes and lessons to be learnt to take forward into preparation for LA 2028. Tomasz Chamera

outlined the ongoing priorities with education towards gender equity and geographical representation, highlighting this remains an overarching goal for the Executive Board.

3.2 Race Officials Strategy

Chair Ricardo Navarro updated the committee on the position of a new strategy, confirming the race officials strategy shall be held until the new World Sailing overarching strategy, which was announced in the past days at the conference.

Nino Shmueli outlined the new strategy must focus on development with clear focus on remote regions, particular in Africa.

Alan Baser suggested an analysis should take place to understand what the customers need and to understand if the current structure is meeting the needs of athletes at competitions, proceeding to build the strategy from this.

Tomasz Chamera reinforced the focus of any strategy should evolve from the need for officiating to deliver the best possible racing for sailors.

4. Sustainability, Diversity and Inclusivity of Race Officials

4.1 Alexandra Rickham WS gave a report on Agenda 32 and the progress made.

Ewa Jodlowska discussed the programs in Poland and reinforced the potential to encourage new females by focusing on athletes who have the sailing knowledge and understanding of the rules with the ability to relate to racing experience. EJ acknowledged the challenges of officiating and the pressure of a race management position where it's hard to make mistakes is discouraging females from being involved.

Aileen Loo identified a need for a process to take the promising names from seminars to events as trainees to have on the ground practise without jeopardising the event, which is hard within measurement and race management where singular appointments are made and organisers not willing to pay for additional trainees.

Jo Aleh reinforced it matters for female athletes to see female officials at events and how spreading the word can give some athletes the idea of becoming an official, reinforcing the need to raise the profile of current female officials. JA confirmed most athletes would expect race officials to be paid, asking officials to do a good job and respect that takes good people and for that to be possible there should be some payment. JA highlighted the opportunity for classes here to assist in offering training opportunities.

Timo Hass highlighted the gap being missed in focusing on females who have already had families and have more time available to attend events. Noted World Sailing event appointments are not at 50% and it should be World Sailing setting the example for MNAs to also reach these targets.

Francisco Jauregui noted with the exception of Europe, all other regions have low numbers and focus needs to be put into to close the geographical gaps alongside gender priority.

EJ highlighted the role of Course Representatives to offer mentorships at events in less developed Geographical regions to assist in teaching whilst gaining event experience.

Andrus Poksi raised question on the priority between quality and highlighted if focus is on gender, majority of females are from Europe and how this impacts the geographical split, asked to understand what World Sailing is highlighting as the most important to achieve.

5. Education, Training and Development

5.1 Seminars and Clinics

- (a) Sub-Committees chairs shared information on the 2024 education programme. 12 seminars and 6 clinics shall be held by end of 2024 across a wide spread of geographical locations, with the first seminar in Oceania since Covid held by RMSC. Sub-Committee reinforced interest in seminars as many become oversubscribed shortly after being announced.

- (b) To discuss the 2025 – 2028 program

For 2025 IUSC shared how they aim to take feedback from past discussions to reduce the burden of attending seminars aiming to revamp by removing the test from the seminar and offer more focus to maximise the in-person opportunity for learning and not assessment.

RMSC confirmed a European seminar in Czech Republic and in India to offer opportunity in Asia. Europe has most events and therefore is a continuing demand to develop race officers in this region whilst aware priority is to focus on development in other regions.

Stronger connection is needed between instructors and sub-committees to build up understanding of the potential candidates coming through.

5.2 Continuous Development

- (a) The committee discussed the educational opportunities required to maintain and further develop the skills of current international race officials.

Alan Baser, emphasised as the sport develops with digital officiating there is a need for education modules for existing international officials to learn about these new processes which did not exist/ were not taught at seminars when gaining international status. These topics should be offered as webinars/ online learning modules to provide continuous education to upskill current officials.

5.3 National Race Management Training Program

- (a) Megan Griggs (WS) gave an update on the new National Race Management Training Program.

The committee confirmed support to the program but would like to ensure stronger connection within the Race Management Sub-Committee to finalise the program.

5.4 Publications

- (a) Sub-committees reported on updates of the manuals. Andrus Poksi thanked Lynne Beal for the work on the 2024 updates to the manual and acknowledge the workload for 2025 with the new rules. Chris Lindsay confirmed umpiring manuals updated to the new rules ready to publish in Q1 of 2025. Ewa Jodlowska confirmed content of RM manual was updated and access was simplified with bookmarks. Aileen Loo thanked Dimitris Dimou for the updates to the 2024 manual.

6. Race Official Administration

6.1 Roles, Qualifications and Competencies

- (a) Qu Chun report the changes made in 2024.

Sub- Committee Chairs discussed their recommendations for 2025. Chris Lindsay confirmed IUSC would like to remove 8.3 (c) and (d) as by actively

participating in events these requirements are being completed without a need to additionally identify within the application. To amend 8.3 (b) to require 2 L2 national events or below. For 8.2 amend the term reference to feedback to prevent confusion of needing a completed form. Update 8.2 (b) to note 1 reference must be completed from a Chief Umpire from outside your MNA/Group or at a level 1 event outside of your MNA/group.

Aileen Loo confirmed IMSC do not propose any amendment to the requirements but would like to update the wording for clearer understanding.

Ewa Jodlowska confirmed RMSC request to amend 6.3 (c) removing eight from the number of event reports and including the link to the report. Regional Games to be added to the list of L1 events, with the note at 6.4 "The number of entries at events is only given for guidance, and may be smaller depending the context of those events, especially in emerging regions." Asked to re-design 6.3 for clearer understanding of the requirements by relisting all requirements for a renewing applicant.

David Brookes confirmed request for ITD WP to simplify the process for officials to become ITDs and to amend Level 1 events to allow any L1 event listed for International Race Officer without requiring appointment from World Sailing.

The committee confirmed to remove Appendix A from the RQC for 2025 onwards.

7. Reports

- (a) To receive reports from Race Official Committee Working Parties.
 - i) Q&A Panel Q&A Panel GD gave an update on the Q&As received this year and confirmed the combined booklet shall freeze for this quadrennial at the end of the year to allow for a new book in the next quadrennial.
 - ii) Conflict of Interest. Timo Hass reported on the COI enquires received this year, noting a lack of understanding the difference between COI WP for Race Officials and the general World Sailing conflict of interest. Proposes the task to the next WP to try and make documents more user friendly to help answer questions without having to submit a query to COI WP.
 - iii) Rule 42 Working Party. GD updated on the working party activity in the past year.

Commented [rn1]: Think second "Q&A Panel" could be deleted. Also as first time quoted, GD name in full.

8. Digital Officiating

8.1 Digital Officiating

With the absence of Michael Downing (WS) Race Officials Committee members who were present in Paris 2024 gave a report on the activity. Chris Lindsay highlighted development had been made in the quadrennial to offer the first Olympic Games regatta with umpires not on the water. CL advised the working party responsible for outlining the process were limited due to the timeframe to get the technological solution in place to give penalties on the water. CL identified the priority moving ahead to get a solution in place as soon as possible. Noting advancements with tracking and video for the jury developing, CL highlighted there is a need to develop policies for competitors for the right to see the videos.

Becky Ashburn explained her role at the Test events and the Games. Reinforced unreliability of trackers but still effective in helping the teams on the water, help determine RO on where to set up with access to all race courses. Noted other technologies doing a better job at calling the line and there is progress to be made.

Kevin Hawkins confirmed technology has continued to develop but there are further strides to take. Moving forward there is a figures out how to serve both customers, officials and sailors to understand how to maximise the advantages of the technology.

Andrus Poksi recommended consistent technology should be provided to the judges at World Sailing events to record incidents and assist in hearings.

Andrus Baser highlighted the importance to get ahead of the curve and not use major principal events for the training events but as an opportunity to replicate the Olympic Games and ensure opportunity to be ready for LA 2028.

9. Event Appointments

9.1 Megan Griggs shared a report on behalf of the Event Appointment Working Party.

Figures from the report show progression has been made in the past quadrennial to work towards World Sailing gender objectives, but further work is required to explore suitable development pathways to increase geographical representation, noting varying factors impact event appointment figures, including event calendars and event locations. The report reinforced the lack of knowledge of official's capabilities, due to limited feedback from events and little or no performance review procedure for appointed officials. The report highlighted the critical importance of an evaluation process moving into the next quad to utilise learning opportunities and help officials develop and reach their full potential.

10. Future of Race Officials

10.1 To open discussion on the current status of Race Officials and identify any changes to consider for the future.

- (a) Statistics of International Race Officials. Timo Hass highlighted 50% of officials are over the age of 60+ and therefore highlights the need to bring in new officials for the sustainability of the sport.
- (b) Structure of Race Officials. Andrus Poksi suggested exploring stages of international status with clear understanding on how to develop to move to a higher stage to encourage professional development for officials by providing an opportunity to create clear criteria and assist in moving away from subjective grouping. Acknowledged different skills are needed i.e. booth umpiring for kites, ILCA's need Rule 42 judging which require different education to upskill.
- (c) To discuss a new approach/process for grouping moving forward for race officiating.

Discussion reinforced all current grouping processes focus on number of events attended. In the modern world and with a focus on younger officials, thought must be given as to how to identify top officials who may not have the time available for X number of events per year. Without collecting any feedback grouping shall always remain event based which shall be a limitation.

- (d) To discuss the opportunity for offering event evaluation for officials.

EJ highlighted the importance of event reports to provide further information on what event each race official is doing and help build understanding of suitable experience.

11. IT Systems

- 11.1 Steve Smith (WS) gave an update on the digital platform confirming the priority for World Sailing to move this project forward, acknowledging the resources in staff and budget were not previously available. Steve reinforced the importance for all systems to be linked both operationally and technically and this target is in place for the next 18 months. Steve confirmed he has taken time to understand what is needed internally and remains open to talk to all stakeholders on the needs of the committees.

12. Submissions

- 12.1 Please refer to the 2024 Submissions Booklet for details of all submissions also available online at: <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/conferences/2024-world-sailing-annual-conference/>
- (a) To consider submissions for which the Race Officials Committee is the reporting committee:
 - (i) 032-24 – Constitution – Technical Delegates Sub-Committee - Reject
 - (b) To consider submissions on the Racing Rules of Sailing for which the Race Officials Committee is an Other Committee - Submissions 001-24 through to 027-24.
 - (i) 005-24 - Rules 30.2, 30.3 and 30.4 - Approve
 - (ii) 007-24 - Rule 60.3 (b) - Approve
 - (iii) 008-24 - Rule 60.5(C)(4) – No opinion
 - (iv) 009-24 – Rule B5, 60.3,63.4, 63.6 - Reject
 - (v) 011-24 – Introduction of a new rule in Appendix D - Approve
 - (vi) 013-24 – Rule F2 18 Urgent Changes - Pending
 - (vii) 018-24 – New Case Definition Mark Room - Reject

- 12.2 To consider any additional Racing Rules of Sailing submissions Race Officials Committee would like to share opinion on. Submissions 001-24 through to 027-24

13. Closed Meeting

13.1 Performance Investigations

- (a) Megan Griggs (WS) reported on performance investigations.

13.2 Seminar/Clinic Instructors, Test Administrators and Performance Assessors

- (a) The committee noted the current list of instructors and approved recommendations from sub-committees on changes to these lists.
- (b) The committee discussed the policy for new instructors and propose the next Race Officials Committee review the version to amend suitable to ensure clear understanding of the process to all stakeholders.

13.3 Race Official Appointments

- (a) The committee considered all first-time and renewal applications for World Sailing Race Officials.