

World Sailing

International Judges Sub- Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday 3rd November 2025

Location: Dún Laoghaire, IRL

Commencement Time: 10:30 – 17:00

Attendees:

Andrus Poksi EST – Chair (AP)	Kevin Hawkins USA – Vice Chair (KH)	Anastasia Weinberger AUT (AW)
Giuseppe D’Amico ITA (GD)	Masaaki Tanaka JPN (MT)	Luke Gilchrist Scott RSA (LS)
Aleksander Prusinski POL (APr)		

Agenda Items

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a. Welcome by the Chair
Andrus Poksi (AP) welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked all for their contribution this year.
- b. Attendees and Apologies
Apologies were received from Gonzalo Heredia (ARG), Alina Stratigiou (GRE) and Aylin Suntay (TUR) for not attending in person, but all remained available online to participate in discussion virtually.
- c. Conflict of Interest
The Sub-Committee noted there were no conflict of interest declarations relevant to this meeting.
- d. Obituaries
The Sub-Committee members remembered IJ Pat Healy (USA) who passed away in 2025.

2. Minutes and Agenda

The minutes of the previous International Judges Sub-Committee meeting held on 27th March 2025 were approved with no matters arising from those minutes not already covered by this agenda.

3. Education, Training and Development

a. Seminars and Clinics

(i) To review the 2025 program

Neven Baran (NB) shared a report of the activity held in 2025, identifying 3 seminars held to date for IJs - New Zealand, Argentina and Turkey with a remaining seminar to be held next month in Thailand.

NB reported 4 clinics held in 2025, Morocco, Uruguay and Fiji, with a female only course held in Brazil under the Steering the Course campaign.

NB recognised the need for clinics to be delivered in the local language and reported this has lead to difficulty relying on existing IJ instructors. It was confirmed this would be monitored

(ii) To discuss the 2026 program

NB confirmed an application

AP confirmed application received and approved from ESP for March 2026 and USA for September 2026 with the Executive Office to announce the seminar in ESP in the coming weeks. It is understood the seminar in the USA would be ready to advertise in 2026. Further interest has been received from GER and JPN.

The application process for MNAs to apply for clinics will be opened by the Executive Office in January 2026.

b. Race Official Development Cohort

WS Rebecca Videlo reported on the proposal developed in collaboration with the EDI Committee to host a Race Official Development Cohort focusing on a structured development programme providing targeted education, mentorship and international event experience to newly qualified international officials to foster development and progression at an accelerated pace.

c. Development of Education

- (i) The sub-committee discussed the development of internet-based tools within education and identified the progress made to digitalise the IJ Test Process for first time applicants at seminars. This is to be trialled at the first seminar in 2026.

4. Digital Technology Project

WS Michael Downing provided an update on the three components of the digital technology project. The first covers the development of a Digital Race Office designed to eliminate friction and replace paper-based processes at regattas. MD emphasised that for juries, digitalisation should streamline case management and hearings by replacing radios, paper forms, and whiteboards with real-time visibility of personnel availability and

locations.

The second component focuses on Competition Management, particularly start-line and race operations. Following feedback from Olympic Broadcasting Services—who stressed the need for races to start on time for broadcast purposes—MD noted that technology should support race officials in starting races promptly and without repeated attempts. Digital tools capable of “seeing through sails” and providing accurate boat positions will help reduce unnecessary general recalls caused by obscured sightlines. MD reiterated that this workstream is a key objective within the broader “Olympic Transition/Vision” projects.

The third component addresses high-speed umpiring and communication. As classes become faster and conditions more demanding, maintaining physical proximity and clear communication with athletes is increasingly challenging for umpires. MD stressed that the priority is not automated umpiring but improving the communication pathway between umpires and competitors.

IJSC confirmed its support for the project and noted that the Sub-Committee will designate a point of contact to assist Tim with any required aspects of the work.

5. Work Plan

- a. To review the International Judges Sub-Committee work plan.

AP shared an update on the purpose behind the work plan and how workload had been identified across multiple mwork teams.

- b. Reports were received from the following IJSC working teams:

- (i) IJ Report
- (ii) Remote Proctoring
- (iii) Website
- (iv) IJ Tests
- (v) Judges Manual

LS reported on the changes made to the Judges Manual and confirmed the update would be ready to publish in Q1 of 2026.

- (vi) Policies and Rules
- (vii) IJ Forms
- (viii) Recommended Standard Wording

6. Event Appointments

Megan Griggs (WS) gave a report on Race Official Event Appointments made in 2025, identifying World Sailing made 152 appointments to 125 race officials. MG highlighted the core objective remains to provide the highest quality of service to events while promoting gender equality and geographical diversity, supporting the global development of race officiating. The report World Sailing continues to prioritise the IOC target of gender-equal ITO appointments, with a steady increase in the percentage of female officials appointed annually. The report identified the current interim solution for Race Official appointments with the Executive Office leading appointments, supported by an Advisory Group representing key stakeholders. It was identified the advisory group had collectively identified existing and developing officials with focus on the World Sailing Championships being held in 2027. It was recognised this process had taken place and appointments for 2027 events would now proceed, with aim to conclude all 2026 appointments by the end of Q1.

7. Closed Meeting

a. To receive a report on performance investigations

WS Megan Griggs shared a report on performance investigations

b. Seminar Clinic Instructors, Test Administrators and Performance Assessors

The sub-committee reviewed the existing Instructors, Test Administrators and Performance Assessors list and finalised decisions on any changes to the list to recommend to Race Officials Committee.

c. Race Official Appointments

The Sub-Committee reviewed applications for International Judge status and finalised recommendations in preparation for the Race Officials Committee meeting.