The Race Officials Committee met on-line at 0530 to 1400 UTC on Tuesday 27 October 2020

Please refer to the World Sailing website www.sailing.org for the details of the submissions on this agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Minutes of the previous meeting and Agenda
3. Governance & Strategy
4. Development
5. Education and Training
6. Race Official Administration
7. Race Official Performance
8. Event Appointments
9. Reports
10. IT Systems
11. Submissions
12. Finance
13. Closed Session (closed to observers)

Present:
JS = Jan Stage (Chair)   EJ = Ewa Jodlowska (Vice Chair) AS = Ana Sanchez (VP)
AP = Andres Perez SB = Sally Burnett TD = Tom Duggan JC = Jurgen Cluytmans
DD = Dimitris Dimou TH = Timo Hass DB = David Brookes JP = John Parrish.
BJ = Barry Johnson CM = Corinne McKenzie NS = Nino Shmueli DE = Doug Elder
MP = Marina Psychogiou (RRC Rep) JA = Jo Aleh JK = Jens Kroker
MS = Markus Schwendtner DG = David Graham (CEO) AF = Alastair Fox (DOE)
MD = Maddie Dunn (ROM) MG = Megan Griggs (ROE) MJD = Michael Downing (OM)

Apologies received:
BOH = Bill O’Hara   RG = Russell Green   MB = Mats Björklund

1. Opening of the Meeting
   Welcome by the Chair
   The Chair, Jan Stage (JS) welcomed the committee and presenters and those watching via the livestream to the meeting taking place for the first time online
   Attendees and Apologies
   The Chair noted apologies received by Bill O’Hara (BOH), Russell Green (RG) and Mats Björklund (MB)
   Obituaries
   The Chair and Committee followed a moment of silence in remembrance of the 10 Officials who passed during 2020

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Agenda
   Minutes
   The Committee noted and approved the minutes of the previous Race Officials Committee meeting held on 29 October 2019 (circulated before the meeting).
Matters arising

No matters arising were received by the Committee

3. Governance and Strategy

Executive Committee meetings

JS welcomed and noted VP Ana Sanchez (AS) and WS CEO David Graham’s (DG) attendance in the meeting who both addressed the Committee. There were no new items brought to the Committee from The Board or Executive outside of the meeting agenda

Race Officials Committee strategy 2017-2020

The Sub Committee Chairs highlighted progression made, and challenges met during the year and within the quadrennial term including reference by Jurgen Cluytmans (JS) to the management of applications in a year disrupted by the global pandemic

Sally Burnett (SB) noted the need for greater investment in IT solutions for the area within World Sailing structures but recognised efforts made by the Executive in communications to officials between periods of furlough

John Parrish (JP) echoed the challenges the area has faced, adding reference to the disruption of education plans

Andres Perez (AP) agreed but also underlined that work on RO manuals, grouping and education material had been able to continue even if at a slower rate this year

4. Development

To receive a report/feedback from:

Coaches Commission

The ROM (MD) reported on one direct subject which the Coaches Commission requested the RMSC look into on starting procedures and in their view an excessive use of the uniform flag. MD noted that the RMSC received this in their SC meeting and will continue to work on the item. Other items mentioned by the CC was that of safety and format with specific reference to foiling fleets

Athletes Commission

Jo Aleh (JA) reflected upon a year of stunted activity with no travel and limited events. JA informed the Committee that the AC continue to keep in touch with relevant groups and working parties on work going forward with new events/classes in particular

WS Race Officials appearance

MD updated the committee on work which has re-commenced by the WS Commercial department further to widespread furlough and a partnership with a new apparel sponsor. The aims and objectives outlined last year have been presented within the scope of the new partnership and work is hoped to progress into the New Year to confirm this. This will then lead to further discussion on operation and distribution options with the new incoming committee.

5. Education and Training

Seminars and Clinics

(i) To review the 2020 program.
The Committee received an overview of activity heavily disrupted by the pandemic from the Race Officials Executive (ROE) Megan Griggs (MG).

The majority of activity for 2019 was cancelled. Some seminar and clinic organisers have made their intentions known for rescheduling of activities into 2021 and when the global situation allows. These have all been noted and disseminated to the relevant SC for consideration

(ii) To discuss the 2021 program.

All SC’s noted the request for rescheduled events as well as plans presenting training going forward with adjusted timelines reflecting the World Sailing Championships at The Hague in 2023, Regional Games development and the Youth Worlds which are still to be confirmed. The agreed that budget and the situation with COVID-19 and travel will need to be reviewed over the coming months.

Continuous development

All of the SC’s highlighted that the subject of online training and education was of major discussion within their sub-committee meetings. SB outlined how IUSC received a presentation from IU/IJ’s from IRL and GBR – Chris Lindsay and Chris Atkins on remote training methods using digital platforms which was met with praise for development into WS practices. The outline was welcomed and praised within the sub-committee as well as by observers from MNA’s also. Tom Duggan (TD) agreed that this was also a large conversation with RMSC which would need further investigation and work on the ways that teaching materials could be presented. JC and AP agreed that online teaching will be needed moving forward but many officiating topics require practical education items which cannot be replaced with online methods

Publications

The Committee received an update on Race Official manuals and publications including the changes reflecting the new rules book. AP thanked the team involved in this from IJSC notably Lynne Beal. SB elaborated on the 3 x IU manuals for Match, Team and Fleet racing and how the majority of work is now completed with only a secondary review across them all to be conducted to ensure consistency of language where possible.

MD reported on behalf of Alex Finsterbusch who has been working on the area of the common sections and the difficulty he reported in bringing all groups together and the submission of items to formulate a new draft. JS underlined this as a priority for the ROC going forward to ensure consistency between disciplines. MD added that this work should also include reference to a code of conduct outlined within SC meetings and the newly drafted document outlining requirements for officials to hosting event organisers formulated by the IJSC.

6. Race Official Administration

(a) Regulation 31 and the RQC Application document

Dimitris Dimou (DD) reported that the 2020 version of the RQC was completed in good time coming out of the 2019 Conference in Bermuda. DD noted it had been beneficial to return to the previous format to update changes. DD requested information on any updates or changes to the document to be submitted to the Executive Office as soon as possible.

JS added that work will need to be undertaken to integrate the outline for first time and renewal candidates should this year’s submissions be approved. This brings in an extended application period of 5 years in light of the problem that officials have
encountered gaining events. JS urged for this not to be left to the new committee due to the tight timeline in place.

(b) To receive an update on the modified requirements for events for race officials

TD advised that the guidelines for reviewing applications this year taking account of COVID-19 worked well. The review team for RMSC did need to apply it in some instances but IUSC were happy to confirm that the IU candidates this year were largely unaffected

(c) To receive Sub-committee reports on race official administration and make any recommendations to Council:

Race Management Sub-committee:

TD and JP outlined changes to FR policies taking account of heat mitigation and rest periods which were approved by all of the ROC around the virtual table

International Umpires Sub-committee

SB queried the ability for RO’s to log events in a portal/IT solution throughout the 4-year period for easier management and submission of application details. This query was supported by TD and RMSC

International Measurers Sub-committee

JC outlined the IMSC wishes to make event reporting mandatory and for this to be placed in the RQC. Further discussion to take place on this prior to the end of the year and new RQC document

International Judges Sub-committee

AP supported the need for a link between the application platform and an event reporting system ideally the one Judges currently utilise online

(d) Administration of other WS Race Official disciplines:

International Classifiers

Massimo Dighe Para World Sailing Manager reported that disappointingly no formal education activities took place for ICL’s during the year but positively an event in Hamburg was able to run this autumn which saw a classifier attend. 5 out of 7 ICL’s who received a 1-year extension to increase events had reapplied and the PWS Committee hopes to be able to expand the development of Classifiers alongside the ROC in 2021.

International Technical Delegates

MD reported on behalf of WP Chair Ricardo Navarro that the WP would be monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on event requirements. The WP made updates to the outline of the RQC for ITD’s and continue to progress work on the Assistant TD and opportunities for appointment. They were happy to see two new candidates for application review this year.

7. Race Officials Performance and Feedback

(a) Race Official Groupings

To receive an update on the grouping system for WS Race Officials

International Judges

AP advised that grouping procedure has run with a deadline earlier this month and the Panel will be meeting next week to confirm the allocations and then these will be
communicated to officials. The IJSC run this process for those wishing to be appointed to Olympic classes events bi-annually

International Measurers

JC presented updates for approval by the ROC which were passed. These were discussed in the IMSC meeting and were around details reflecting grouping around the tiers of grouping and requirements outlined

International Race Officers

TD recognised the use of the grouping system in aiding appointments and information on the development of officials, TD outlined that due to the disruption to the year and the large application in 2018 that the recommendation would be to run the process next year

International Umpires

SB outlined that the IUSC discussed the need for the grouping procedure within their session and recommended that due to the current low number of event appointments made within MR and TR events that a combined approach to FR and Medal Racing umpires should take place with a member of IUSC to sit on the IJ grouping panel.

8. Event Appointments and Conflict of Interest

Barry Johnson (BJ) presented the EAWP’s final year and end of term report. BJ advised that activity had been limited for 2020 due to the pandemic and that appointments for events taking place in 2020 had been undertaken in 2019. The new event strategy would assist in plans going forward for event appointments into the new term as well as the overall World Sailing and Race Officials Strategies. Recognising strengths and weaknesses of the procedures he as Chair thanked those involved in the work that had been undertaken throughout the term and continued to advise that the EAWP have recommended to the Board that a full review of the EAWP and its procedures are undertaken by the new Board. BJ advised on the need for a reinvigorated process paying attention to the separation between groups and decision-makers without losing the knowledge and expertise of those who know the official’s community best.

The Committee discussed submission 09-20 and views around the recommendations and how many subject traverses the area including expertise requirements; continuous development; regional and gender-based mandates; needs and requirements of event organisers; regions and WS classes; as well as opinions around conflicts of interest. VP Ana Sanchez (AS) provided an update from the Board on their position to reject the submission and the two proposals which it was felt would not progress officiating and/or were already activities undertaken.

The Committee also discussed the progression of Conflict of Interest guidelines further to an exploratory paper presented by the WP in Bermuda. JS that this work should be reviewed by the incoming ROC and the implementation of a balanced approach to perceptions of COI and also the responsibility of the individual to understand the perception of their own position. The ROC concurred with this approach and TD highlighted that one strict framework does not fit all as each situation has many facets for consideration and solution. The Committee agreed to the addition of an athlete to the COI WP for the next ROC.
9. **Reports**

The Committee received a report on the status of WS major events from Alastair Fox (AF) Director of Events this include high level overviews of the next stages for the Events Committee on Format proposals which will incorporate views from many groups including the ROC.

The ROC then had a brief overview further to the submission of WP reports on the status of a number of areas and work in progressions. These included a new MR RM Organisation Manual and accompany documentation that was also circulated to the IUSC and MRSC for comment and approval.

10. **IT Systems**

To receive a report and discuss the development of online/internet-based IT systems for race officials

(a) Internet based reporting and applications

ROE Megan Griggs (MG) updated the committee on the work and updates undertaken to the application portal Monkey Apply and asked for any requests on improvements to be emailed directly to her by the SC’s.

(b) Internet-based continuous training materials

(c) IT-system for Conflict of Interest register

MD presented on the overall status of the organisation-wide IT development plan.

Work had been postponed on the new website and database platform further to the outbreak of COVID-19 and for financial stability of World Sailing. The plan is for this work to resume in Q1 of 2021. MD outlined that the timelines on this and action plan on areas relating to officiating and events would be communicated as soon as this was available. MD reflected on the comments from the ROC and in all SC meetings that IT solutions was of the highest priority for the functioning and progression of the area. MD underlined that this would be a recommendation taken forward by the ROC to Council and that it reflected other committee views also. Specific reference was made to updates to the online application portal, link-up to event reporting systems; registers for submitting and monitoring conflicts of interest and race official profiles

(d) Digital Officiating

Olympic Manager Michael Downing (MJD) presented a discussion paper to the ROC which had gather conversation within the SC meetings which proposed a homologation process for the specifications on technology used within events. The SC’s welcomed this approach and agreed to look into further details to develop baselines on technology requirements within officiating. Work in to progress into the term.

11. **Submissions**

The Committee considered the following submissions for which the Race Officials Committee is the reporting or noted as Other Committee and made the following recommendations:

Submission 009-20 – Regulation 25.8 – Reject Proposal 1 & 2

Submission 031-20 – Regulation 10.5 (f) (iii) - Approve
Submission 038-20 – World Sailing Race Officials Administration - Approve
Submission 039-20 – World Sailing Race Officials Administration – Approve
Submission 040-20 – World Sailing Race Officials Administration – Approve
Submission 041-20 – World Sailing Race Officials Administration – Approve
Submission 042-20 – World Sailing Race Officials Administration – Approve
Submission 043-20 – World Sailing Race Officials Administration – Approve
Submission 044-20 – World Sailing Race Officials Administration – Approve
Submission 045-20 – World Sailing Race Officials Administration – Approve
Submission 046-20 – World Sailing Race Officials Administration – Approve

12. Finance

2020 Finance
The Committee received an overview of spending for 2020 which was heavily affected by
the COVID-19 pandemic

2021 Finance
MD presented a skeleton budget outlining the education plans as per the return of staff
to the office from furlough taking account of the rescheduling of postponed education
activities as well as any new interest or proposed forward plans.
The Committee agreed with the Executives plans to submit information on plans for 2021.
MD & MG also noted the Committee’s wish to recommend financial priority on IT solutions
affecting Race Officials and Events.

13. Recommendations Not Based on Submissions

Recommendation 1
The ROC Chairman proposed two recommendations for the WS Council’s consideration
The Committee recommends to Council that a Working Party is appointed by the
Committee to review the current process for the appointment of race officials to events
by World Sailing and, if necessary, propose a new process.
The terms of reference shall be approved by the current Chairman of the Race Officials
Committee after consulting the Chairmen of the World Sailing Classes Committee and
Olympic Classes Sub-committee. The Working Party shall include in its consideration
the issues raised by Submission 009-20.
The working party shall be appointed before November 15 and complete the work before
March 1, 2021.
The Working Party shall consist of:
A former or current Board member who has been involved in event appointments
A member of the current Event Appointment Working Party
A member appointed by the Chairman of Race Officials Committee
A member appointed by the Chairmen of the Race Officials Sub-committees
A member appointed by the Chairman of Olympic Classes Sub-committee
Race Officials Committee Agenda (cont.)

A member appointed by the Chairman of WS Classes Committee
A member appointed by the Chairman of Athletes Commission
A member of the WS Executive Office appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Recommendation 2
World Sailing allocates budget in 2021 to develop an IT solution that provides functionality for creating and maintaining race official profiles and up-to-date event reporting and connects the two for making applications for appointment as WS race official.

14. AOB
The Committee noted no further business and the Chairman Jan Stage thanked the ROC for their contribution as volunteers over the term and closed the meeting