



Appointment of Officials

Once the club has made the decision to host an Ontario Sailing regatta, and the Regatta Chairman has been appointed, that person needs to appoint some key people. The first of these should be a Treasurer or Chairman of your Finance / Administration Sub Committee (see Master Planning Schedule). Shortly after that, you need to determine who is going to run the races and resolve the disputes. The first thing to remember is that these must be separate positions, and neither of them can be you, the Regatta Chairman. Nothing will cause more problems than if someone needs a decision made, but the Regatta Chairman is out on the water running the races, or cannot be disturbed because they are in a Protest Hearing.

1. Race Officers

If you are going to have more than one race course, then each course will be run by a Race Officer, and their activities will be coordinated by a Principal Race Officer. Their roles are separate and distinct. The Principal Race Officer does not run races.

a) **Minimum Certification Criteria:**

Ontario Sailing specifies the minimum certification criteria for both Principal Race Officers and Race Officers. Only in exceptional circumstances, and only with the prior permission of Ontario Sailing, will exceptions be made.

The Principal Race Officer (PRO) must be certified as a Canadian Race Officer (Level III) or as a Senior Canadian Race Officer (Level IV), or as an International Race Officer. The minimum requirement for a Race Officer is certification as a Provincial Race Officer (Level II).

For many of the larger clubs, these criteria will not pose a difficulty; their racing program is large enough that they have a built in training program for officials. This may not be the case with other clubs. If you do not have officials who can meet these criteria, either within your club, or in the nearby area, Ontario Sailing has several programs which will help you meet this requirement.

b) **Race Management Seminars:**

Ontario Sailing conducts Race Management Seminars, usually during the winter months. The instructors are nationally certified Course Conductors who are also certified as either Canadian, Senior Canadian, or International Race Officers. Each of these courses can be run either at your club or some nearby suitable facility, with a very flexible schedule. The cost per participant is very reasonable. If the course is to be run in a major metropolitan centre, your group may be combined with those from other clubs depending on schedules. In other cases, seminars can still be arranged. The only additional "cost" may be that the host club is expected to billet the instructor if he or she travels from out of town. These seminars can be a valuable investment, not just in this particular regatta, but in the general race management at your club.

Upon completion of one of these seminars, it may be possible that local race officers can be certified at the Provincial Race Officer level.

For more information, see the Ontario Sailing Website, under Race Officials.

c) **Mentoring Program:**

Ontario Sailing recognizes that in some cases, clubs would prefer to use their own Principal Race Officer/Race Officers, even if they do not meet Ontario Sailing's criteria. In some cases it is simply a matter of the local race officer not being certified even though they have the required experience. Perhaps your senior race officer has not had the experience of organizing the race committees for a complex event, or perhaps you have a race officer who is hesitant to run races for large fleets. Ontario Sailing has a Mentoring Program designed specifically to help with these issues see **Race Officer Mentoring**.

If you decide to take advantage of this program, Ontario Sailing will arrange for a Mentor for your regatta as follows:

- i)* Senior Race Officers are in high demand, therefore it is necessary to schedule this well in advance.
- ii)* If the Mentor is from out of town, you will be expected to billet, these very important volunteers and pay for their travel expenses.

2. Protest Committees

Serving on a Protest Committee is an entirely separate function from Race Committee. Ontario Sailing specifies that members of the Race Committee are not to serve on the Protest Committee.

a) Minimum Certification Criteria:

Ontario Sailing specifies the minimum certification criteria for the Chairman of the Protest Committee (Chief Judge). Only in exceptional circumstances, and only with the prior permission of Ontario Sailing, will exceptions be made.

The Chief Judge must be certified as a National, Senior National or International Judge. In addition, the protest committee (including the Chief Judge), must consist of a minimum of three certified judges which may be a mixture of International, National, Provincial and Club Judges. Other non certified people who are interested in becoming certified judges may be added to the Protest Committee. This combination ensures a high level of judging at the event, while continuing the mentoring of judges who wish to further their training.

For many of the larger clubs, these criteria will not pose a difficulty; their racing program is large enough that they have a built in training program for officials. This may not be the case with other clubs. If you do not have officials who can meet these criteria, either within your club, or in the nearby area, Ontario Sailing will help you meet this requirement. If you decide to take advantage of this, Ontario Sailing will arrange for a suitably certified judge for your regatta as follows:

- i)* National, Senior National and International Judges are in high demand. Therefore it is necessary to schedule them well in advance.
- ii)* If the Judge(s) are from out of town, you will be expected to billet these very important volunteers and pay for their travel expenses.

b) Judges Seminars:

Ontario Sailing conducts Judges Seminars, usually during the winter months. These courses can be run either at your club or some nearby suitable facility, with a very flexible schedule. The cost per participant is very reasonable. Where possible, Ontario Sailing asks that the course be open to members of nearby clubs as well as your own members. The only additional "cost" may be that the host club is expected to billet the instructor if he or she travels from out of town. These seminars can be a valuable investment, not just in this particular regatta, but in the general race management at your club.

c) On The Water Judging:

Although it is not a requirement for Ontario Sailing events, on water judging is recommended, especially for large regattas involving older youth. The application of Rule 42, Propulsion, under Appendix P requires specifically trained judges, additional boats, and additional clauses in both the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions. It is therefore crucial that on water judging be planned well in advance of the event.