



ROWING CANADA AVIRON UMPIRES COMMITTEE

Presentation to the
Rowing British Columbia Umpires' Meeting

January 2021

Judy Sutcliffe, Chair, RCA Umpires
Committee

Overview



1. RCA Umpires Committee Structure & members
2. Sub-Committees
3. 2019-20 Accomplishments
4. Impact of Pandemic on UC Activities
5. 2021 Planned
6. Recruitment
7. Final Points
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RCA Umpires Committee



- Technical Committee - reports to CEO, provides advice to Board
- Chair appointed by CEO - open call
- Members appointed by Chair - open call
- Members:
 - Errol Bosman (Calgary, AB)
 - Donna Bliss (Fredericton, NB)
 - Marie-Sophie Desaulniers (Ottawa, ON)
 - Debbie Sage (Clinton, ON)
 - Julia-Ann Vincent (Halifax, N.S.)

Committee Structure



- According to the RCA UC [Terms of Reference](#):
 - “...up to six members selected for their knowledge of umpiring, capacity in policy development, and capability and willingness to undertake committee work. A minimum of one member of the UC shall be a licensed FISA umpire”
 - “...selected through a structured application process”

Sub-Committees



- Umpire Education and Development (UEDSC)
 - Chair – Donna Bliss (L4), Guylaine Bernier (L4), Julie-Ann Vincent
- National Jury (NJSC) - six members – Chair + 5 - RCA UC Member is Chair (Debbie Sage) and representatives from :
 - British Columbia - Ge-An Rijniersce
 - Prairies – Audra Vair
 - Ontario – Louise Hastings
 - Quebec – Julie Thibault
 - Atlantic – Linda Lee

2019/2020 Accomplishments (1/2)



- National Jury appointments for 2020 and appointees given first right of refusal for 2021
- National Jury process review completed based on umpire survey
- National Juries process revised for 2021 and prepare for call when National Regattas determined
- Umpire uniform survey, report, decision, new kit confirmed
- Rules of Racing – Review and updating of coastal rules
- Level 1 online material created

2019/2020 Accomplishments

(2/2)



- Task force on para-umpires begun
- Clinician kits, compensation resolved, communicated to PRAs, and **succession planning** initiated
 - Appointment of three Associate Clinicians in BC (Simon Litherland, Gean Rijniersce and Tim Henderson), two in Ontario (Andrew Smith, Debbie Sage) and one in Quebec (Guillaume Chretien)
- 2 meetings with PRA UC Chairs / Umpire Coordinators
- Confirm Level 2 Seminar content and share with all clinicians and PRAs - aim for consistency of umpiring across Canada



2020 Pandemic Implications

Changes arising from the global pandemic

- National Jury appointees 2020 – first right of refusal on 2021 NJs
- **Evaluations** – 2017-2019 block ended with 62% of all RCA umpires fully evaluated and compliant with the RCA Policy (62% for BC as well).
 - **Grace year** created for the first year of the 2020-2022 block, but now extended to December 2021 because of pandemic
 - Evaluation block now 2020-2023 (4 yrs.), followed by 2024-26, 2027-29, etc.
 - Umpires who did not get 3 evaluations in 2017-19, will need to get 6 evaluations in 2020-2023, plus attend a Level 2 Seminar, to maintain their license



2021 Planned

- Umpire uniform – stocking and supplying uniform pieces (production delayed due to pandemic)
- Rules of Racing review – whole review, starting with FISA Rules' changes, analysis of sanction application exception requests
- Umpire Development Program – to support umpires to get more experience outside their province, if not selected for a National Jury
- Level 1 clinic delivered online – likely by fall, supplement to in-person workshops, can do anywhere, anytime.
- Para-umpire pilot program



Recruitment

- We need to refresh the umpire cadre across Canada, we need younger, more diverse umpires
- Best people to recruit umpires are umpires – you know what’s involved and why you do it
- Umpire [training pathway](#)
- Masters athletes, Seniors, National Team alumni— approach them and make the pitch



Final Points

- Sanction applications - Chief Umpires need to be involved in the development of the sanction application
- Evaluation - Umpire evaluation was introduced in 2011 by the RCA Board through [Policy](#). Umpires need to be evaluated in 3 of 5 stations once every three years (as described earlier)
- Safe Sport Policy is on its way—RCA National Conference announcement - will apply to umpires



Questions?

(You may submit these in writing if you wish,
and I will “reply all”.)