



# *Rowing* *British* *Columbia*

## Seminar 2021 **Umpire Committee Report**

## Business as usual

As 2020 began, the Umpire Committee was, as usual, attempting to provide officials to ensure safety and fairness at 33 events spanning 53 days and involving 564 “recommended Umpire days”. In keeping with the 2018 RCA Rules of Racing (5.2.1, etc.) emphasizing the Chief Umpire’s role in the regatta planning process (including Sanction Application), assigning Chief Umpires had begun in November 2019.

## Seminar

At the January 2020 umpire refresher (/recertification) seminar (alternating to the Mainland), winter weather and road conditions had resulted in a start time delayed by over 2 hours and a compressed (/lively) agenda. In total, 38 Umpires attended. This included almost 60% of our Licensed Umpires.



# Umpire Committee Report 3/7

Up to 4 positions were open for election instead of the usual 3 (due to the earlier departure of Peter Sage to Ontario) with only Ge-An Rijniersce and Glenn Robb commencing the second half of their 2-year terms ensuring continuity. Laurel Glanfield, Tim Henderson, Sheree Moffatt, and Gordon Sund were acclaimed with Sheree randomly selected for the 1-year term. Gordon was subsequently elected Chair.

## Covid-19

By the second week of March (when the first cancellations due to Covid-19 restrictions were announced), only 36 “Umpire days” had been utilized (in 4 Indoor Rowing events and the 2-day Elk Lake Spring regatta) out of 500 filled. We continued to try to fill juries to ensure that we would be ready for any possible “best case” scenario. However, as the magnitude of the pandemic sank in, the rolling window of cancellation announcements continued until September whereupon no scheduled events remained.



# Umpire Committee Report 4/7

National and some Out-of-Province regatta opportunities are coordinated by the committee. Expressions of interest are sought and selections made from the applications received. Nominations for the Canadian regattas were completed by mid-February, while applications for the US Rowing Northwest Regionals were abandoned as March-April Covid-19 restrictions took effect.

## Clinicians

A significant achievement of the committee was successfully working with RCA to appoint 2 more Associate Clinicians in BC. When their educational journey is complete, we will have 4 Clinicians with all the benefits that should entail.

Mike Bagshawe

Tim Henderson (August 2020)

Simon Litherland (November 2019)

Ge-An Rijniersce (August 2020)



## Umpire continuum

There are currently 45 Assistant, 8 Associate, and 51 Licensed (Level 2 or greater) Umpires in British Columbia. Of the latter group, 4 are Associate Chief and 15 Chief (Level 3) Umpires. 3 of the latter are Associate Clinicians along with 1 Clinician (Level 4) including 2 FISA (Level 5). While a few of the Assistant Umpires may have simply filled some spare time with a learning experience, this dramatically higher number also represents a tremendous opportunity for us to address capacity issues and succession planning (as the ranks of the Licensed have been further depleted).

Our 31 newest Assistants arose from 3 Rowing BC (plus 1 Row Ontario) clinics consisting of 2 “virtual” sessions each. This sort of introduction to officiating may prove to be the wave of the future as RCA is exploring a self-directed static version for 2021.



## Communication

In an attempt to maintain some social connectedness, Zoom video conferencing became the default communication tool. The Rowing BC office scheduled numerous Covid-19 Updates, plus sessions for Regatta Planning, Para (Adaptive) rowing, a Herb Challier memorial, and the AGM and Conference. The Umpire Committee hosted a Chief Umpires discussion and an all Umpires "Safety Meeting", plus conducted a few meetings when mere email fell short, and were able to review the Proposed Regatta Calendar and audit RowOntario's Level 2 Umpire Seminar.



# Umpire Committee Report 7/7

## Return to Racing / Back to the Future

For 2021, solicitation and assignment of Chief Umpires and Juries will await confirmation of event scheduling. Covid-19 transmission mitigation strategies are expected to initially result in small “pilot project” regattas. Naturally, we all anticipate a time when vaccinations will once again have us all setting our alarm clocks on the weekends for early morning arrivals at nearby bodies of water.

Committee members and our experienced umpires are willing to help educate athletes on the Rules of Racing and what to expect at a regatta. The committee is also always keen to hear from anyone interested in becoming an umpire. Please forward all such requests to the [Umpire Committee](#).

Respectfully submitted,  
2020 Rowing BC Umpire Committee

