



Rowing *British* *Columbia*

Conference 2022 **Umpire Committee Report**

Past Summary - 2021

The Umpire Committee (UC) began 2021 with no desire to repeat the effort of assigning Chief Umpires and providing Juries for regattas which were very likely never to materialize. (2020 had seen all 31 local events beyond the first week of March progressively cancelled due to Covid-19.) Instead, sourcing Umpires occurred on a more reactive basis.

Umpire Conference

The annual Umpire Seminar (/Conference) was conducted virtually using the Zoom platform on 23 Jan 2021 09:00-12:00 with a lively agenda and 53 Participants (most of whom carried on “net-working” for about 20 minutes afterward). Sign-ups for Local, National, and US Rowing Northwest Regional regattas were absent. Attendees received a Rowing BC face mask which has proven to be very useful indeed. These and other presentations may be referenced on the <https://rowingbc.ca/umpire-resources/> webpage.



Umpire Conference *continued*

Umpire Committee elections had resulted in the acclamation of 3 incumbents (Sheree Moffatt, Ge-An Rijniersce and Glenn Robb) to 2-year terms. Gordon Sund was subsequently re-elected Chair. Laurel Glanfield and Tim Henderson rounded out the committee.

3 series of 3-session virtual BC Level 2+ (Licensed and above) Umpire Seminars led by the Clinicians using an RCA curriculum resulted in a very good compliance rate for the “Seminar attendance” license-maintenance requirement.



Umpire Equipment Bags

Under the auspices of RCA and Rowing BC Covid-19 Relief Funding, the UC diligently converted our Umpire Equipment maintenance model from one of a “communal regatta supply” to that of “distributed individual kits”. Covid-19 transmission concerns are slightly reduced and our numbers and quality of equipment are vastly improved. Even the workload of our 2 “Equipment Managers” has changed for the better.

45 Umpire Equipment Bags were created containing a blend of new equipment and existing inventory. 37 were assigned to our most prolific Umpires with 4 being held in reserve on both sides of the Strait to supply those who attend less frequently. (At least one other jurisdiction acquired more bags than they have Licensed Umpires, but containing less and inferior equipment.)



Regattas

35 local events were cancelled (including 2 that had Chief Umpires and Juries already assigned). However, 8 regattas (for a total of 13 racing days) in the latter-half of the year did proceed with Covid-19 Safety Plans.

The first event requiring Umpires was the Province-wide Sprint (/Mid-Summer Madness) on Burnaby Lake 24-25 July. A cautious subscription rate led to an Island contingent of Umpires joining their Mainland colleagues. Only 2 more Mainland regattas occurred as the Western Canadian University Rowing Championships was negatively affected by the absence of crews from Covid-19 ravaged Alberta and the Head up the Creek regatta racing course is probably still cluttered with anchored vessels.



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Regattas *continued*

On the Island, 5 regattas required Umpires. The final one was the RCA National Rowing Championships on Elk Lake 12-13 November.

The RCA World Beach Sprints Championships Selection on Cadboro Bay at Gyro Park 22 August had been conducted without uniformed Umpires (although many dropped by to observe).

All regattas were characterized by later-than-usual notification and close-to-the-wire Sanction Approval. Fortunately, Umpire subscriptions were fairly responsive.



Communications

Regular monthly Zoom meetings involving the Rowing BC Executive Director and Umpire Committee Chair have helped keep our objectives on track. Email provided the predominant UC communication method fitting in with divergent schedules. “Updates for Umpires in BC” were published approximately every second month. Similarly, Rowing BC and Rowing Canada put on various Community Meetings (using Zoom) which helped maintain engagement.

Recruitment

A virtual BC Level 1 (Assistant) Umpire Clinic after the last AGM resulted in some new Assistant Umpires in our “database” almost balancing the “no longer interested” losses. (RCA has since rolled-out a self-serve virtual one which should help maintain momentum.)



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Hugh Porter

Hugh has been a rower and stalwart supporter of rowing *for ages*. For the past two and a half decades he has also managed to be a fixture officiating at local regattas ... many of those as Chief Umpire when at Elk Lake. Coinciding with his mid-July birthday, he announced his retirement from umpiring.

Donald John Arnold (1935-2021)

Don was a giant in the Rowing Community and his loss this past year should give us all pause for reflection. Although his interests extended well beyond rowing, he will be remembered for a Gold medal at the 1956 "Melbourne Games" and being instrumental in the development of Rowing BC. After serving as a Member of the Jury at 2 regattas and as Chief Umpire at 2 more in 2012, he had retired from officiating, but left us with passionate advice to avoid mediocrity and to strive for professionalism.



Future Outlook - 2022

Umpire numbers

43 Assistant Umpires (↓ 2)

8 Associate Umpires

32 Level 2 Licensed Umpires

5 Associate Chief Umpires (↑ 1)

15 Level 3 Chief Umpires (including 3 Associate Clinicians and 1 Level 4 Clinician)

Included in the Licensed / Chief Umpire counts above:

3 Level 5 FISA (/World Rowing) Umpires (↑ 1)



Regattas

The Regatta Calendar for 2022 is still in a state of flux.

At present, there are **13** Island regattas over 23 days with 296 umpire-days (59%) recommended. (Another 2 over 6 days with 50 umpire-days recommended have been “proposed”.) On the Mainland, **14** regattas over 23 days with 208 umpire-days (41%) recommended are expected. (Another 1 over 2 days with 22 umpire-days recommended has also been “proposed”.)

Another **5** regattas over 8 days with 74 umpire-days estimated are still in search of a willing LOC and venue.



Regattas continued

New proposed (mostly variations of Coastal) regattas risk straining our present capacity to provide officials and, if approved, also need some date conflicts to be resolved. If all were to materialize, we would be talking about a grand total of possibly 650 umpire-days. The corresponding non-Covid 2019 figure was 580. (A 17% increase in demand with the exact same supply.)

The BC Indoor Rowing scene has shifted this year and it is assumed that none will be applying for sanction with many simply going “virtual”.

We are hoping to be ready for what is appearing to be a “return to regattas” even if not the normalcy we were used to. Please consult the [Google Docs Regatta Signups \(Umpires\) spreadsheet](#) and send an email to the [Umpire Committee](#) to offer your services where they will be very much appreciated.



Jackets

We had fewer of the FarWest Gore-Tex jackets than our target number of Umpire Equipment Bags, but are still wrestling with the details of an acquisition strategy. We may attempt to spread the expenditure over a few fiscal years, but one progressive possibility is that we could initially acquire Women's' models with more accurate size matches (and of a higher water-resistance standard).

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Congratulations to Tim Henderson and Ge-An Rijniersce

As more good news regarding representation from BC on the national stage, note that Tim has been appointed to the RCA Umpire Education and Development Sub-Committee, while Ge-An has been appointed to the RCA Umpires' Committee.



Contact us

Please remember to inform us of any changes to your contact information. As always, an email to the [Umpire Committee](#) will be received by all 6 members.

The Rowing BC website is a useful source of information at any time. (See [Become an RCA Umpire](#) and [Umpire Resources](#).)

Respectfully submitted,
2021 Rowing BC Umpire Committee

“Be kind, be calm and be safe.” Dr. Bonnie Henry

