



ROWING CANADA AVIRON UMPIRES COMMITTEE

Presentation to the

Rowing British Columbia Umpires' Meeting

February 2022

Judy Sutcliffe, Chair, RCA Umpires Committee

Overview



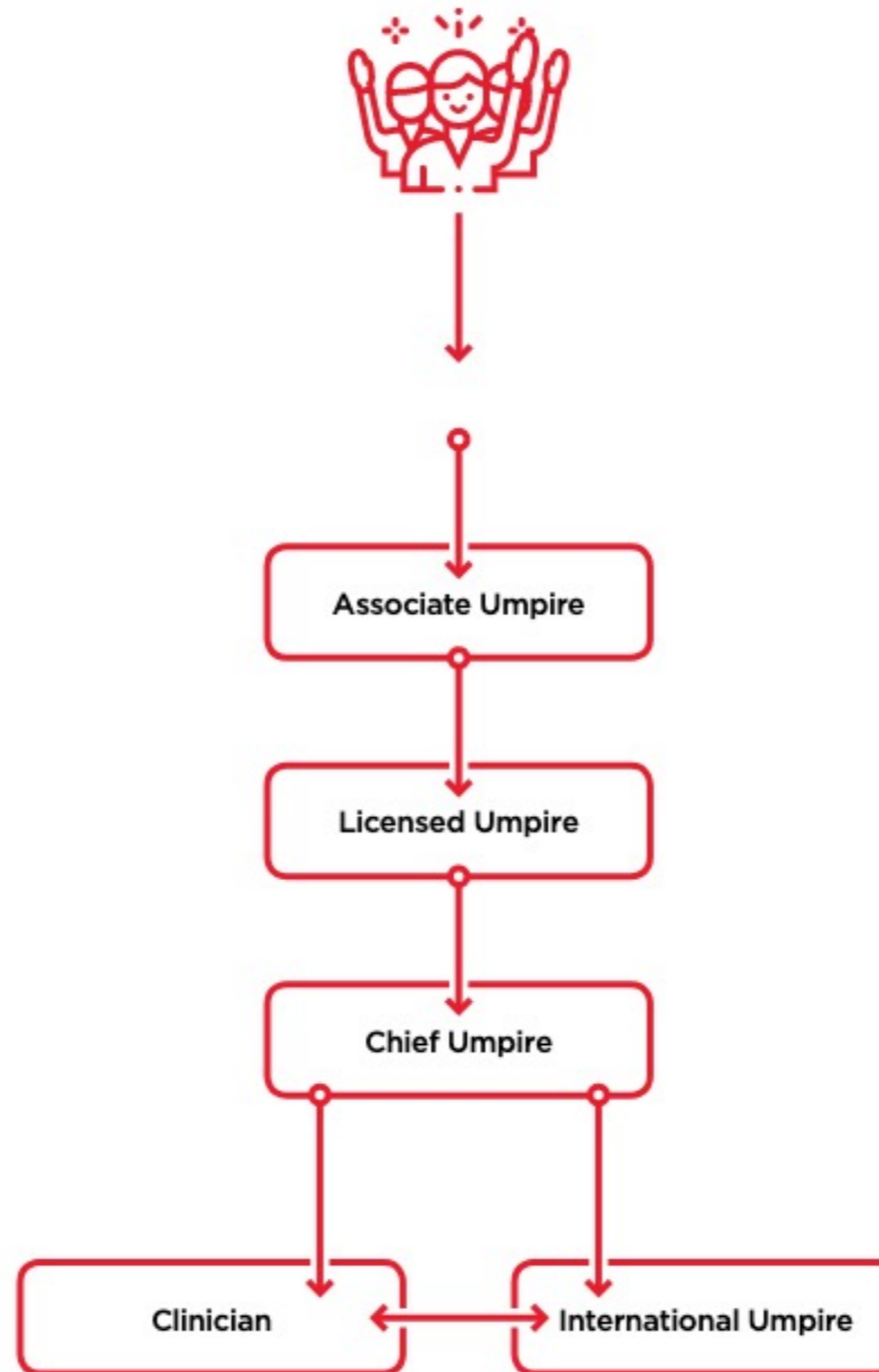
1. RCA Umpire levels
2. RCA Umpires Committee Structure & members
3. Sub-Committees
4. 2021-22 Accomplishments
5. Impact of Pandemic on UC Activities
6. 2022-23 Planned
7. Recruitment
8. Final Points
9. Questions?

RCA Umpire Levels



- Assistant Umpire – Level 1 – online course + observations
- Associate Umpire – Level 1 – 1-day clinic + practical experience
- Licensed Umpire – Level 2
- Chief Umpire – Level 3
- Clinician – Level 4
- World Rowing (formerly FISA) Umpire – Level 5

Umpire Development Pathway



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:
 - Donna Bliss (Fredericton, NB)
 - Marie-Sophie Desaulniers (Ottawa, ON)
 - Ge-an Rijniersce (Vancouver, BC)
 - 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, Ge-An Rijniersce (A/L4), Tim Henderson (A/L4)
- National Jury (NJSC) - six members – Chair + 5 - RCA UC Member is Chair (Debbie Sage) and reps from :
 - British Columbia - Ge-An Rijniersce
 - Prairies – Audra Vair
 - Ontario – Louise Hastings
 - Quebec – Julie Thibault
 - Atlantic – Linda Lee



2021/2022 Accomplishments

- National Jury appointments for 2020 and appointees given first right of refusal for 2022
- \$85 for every licensed umpire for uniform (new uniform)
- Rules of Racing – Review and approval at 2022 Semi-Annual Meeting
- Associate Umpire Clinic online completed and available free
- Task force on inclusive umpires about to begin pilot phase
- Meeting with PRA UC Chairs / Umpire Coordinators



2022 Pandemic Implications

Changes arising from the global pandemic

- National Jury appointees 2020 – first right of refusal on 2022 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).
 - **Pandemic years** lost (2020 & 2021)
 - **Grace year** created for the first year of the 2022-24 block, extended to December 2022 because of pandemic
 - Evaluation blocks now 2022-2024, followed by 2025-27, 2028-30, etc.
 - Umpires who did not get 3 evaluations in 2017-19, will need to get 6 evaluations in 2022-2024, plus attend a Level 2 Seminar, to maintain their license



2022 Planned

- Rules of Racing Seminar update
- Coastal – training umpires in Coastal & Beach Sprint rules
- Inclusive umpiring pilot program
- Survey of Assistant and Associate Umpires
- Umpire recruitment strategy
- World Rowing umpire recruitment
- Succession planning for some clinicians



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

- Selection for National Juries will come out in the near future—consider applying
- License Maintenance – Umpires licenses are maintained through evaluations in 3 of 5 stations once every three years (as described earlier) and seminar once in same 3-yr. block
- Safe Sport Policy is here and applies to umpires – prepare by reviewing the Safe Sport Module (90 minutes—online)



Questions?

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