

Flying Scot Sailing Association

National Championships Committee and Regatta Chairman Responsibilities

The National Championships Committee (NCC) is a committee appointed by the President, in accordance with the Constitution. The members of the NCC should be familiar with the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the FSSA Constitution and By-laws, and preferably have experience as a US Sailing Judge or Certified Race Officer. One member must be the First Vice-President. The NCC has jurisdiction over the management and conduct of sanctioned events that are national in character. It works with the Regatta Chair to approve the appointment of the Principal Race Officer and judges. The NCC ensures that those appointed for key race management positions have the qualifications and experience commensurate with running a national event.

The NCC recognizes that the Regatta Chair represents the host club and that the needs of the club and the relationship with the FSSA must be considered in the decisions affecting those relationships. The Class should never dictate, but rather guide the Regatta Chair through the decision making process when making personnel appointments. At the same time the host club needs to understand that the event is that of the Class and should acknowledge that the Class has By-laws and regulations that need to be adhered to when managing events of national character. There must be a spirit of cooperation between the two.

The Regatta Chair shall submit to the Chair of the NCC the following for approval, in accordance with a schedule to be provided by the FSSA:

1. Judges
 - a. Three judges (along with their credentials). At least one Judge shall be a member of the FSSA.
2. Principal Race Officer (PRO)
 - a. The recommended PRO (along with his/her credentials).
3. Notice of Race (NOR)
 - a. The proposed NOR shall be prepared in accordance with the RRS and the Standard NOR posted on the FSSA Web Site, but tailored to fit the local conditions and site-specific information.
4. Sailing Instructions (SIs)
 - a. The proposed SIs shall be prepared in accordance with the RRS and the Standard SIs posted on the FSSA Web Site, but tailored to fit the local conditions and site-specific equipment.
 - b. The Proposed SIs shall also be reviewed by the Chief Judge prior to finalization.

Pre-Race Protocol

At the beginning of the regatta the Judges, PRO, and the Chair of the NCC should have a meeting, preferably before the Skippers Meeting, in order to iron out any last minute issues that may have surfaced in the few days before the event. Judges will normally have questions for the PRO and will want to come to some understanding as to what to look for on the water, and under what circumstance the PRO will welcome comments or suggestions during the course of events.

Race Days

- a. At the end of each day, the Chair of the NCC and the PRO should have a short informal meeting to discuss the day's activities. This is an opportunity to give the PRO any feedback that would help him adjust the RC actions for betterment of the event. For example, maybe the courses are too long/short, RC boats on the course, mark placement, signal visibility, something that causes confusion or anything else that might affect the quality of the event.
- b. The NCC should not try to dictate to the RC. At this point, it is the PRO's responsibility to run the event. Positive feedback in good spirit is all that is needed.
- c. The NCC should feel free to discuss the day's activity with the Judges, recognizing that the Judges are in control. They are always willing to listen and if there are ways they can help to make adjustments in the course of events, they most often will.

This document is meant to serve as a guide. The NCC, Regatta Chair, and the Judges should all work together to make the regatta a memorable occasion. The skipper traveling back home will be making a decision as to whether he will come back to the next regatta. We want him to feel that everything was done on the water, and on shore, in a manner that will make him want to return next year. At the end of the week, if there have been no redress requests, and the judges have only heard boat-to-boat protests, then the NCC, Judges, and PRO will have done their part to make the regatta a success.

Prepared by: Bill Ross

Revised by: Dan Goldberg 12/7/04

Files: wbr\docs\FSSA\NCC and Regatta Officials 041207