

# Quick Start!

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## A Newsletter for RCA- Atlantic Region's Umpires

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Hi all,

Just a few quick notes to keep you all updated on other umpiring issues... regattas, and beyond!

*Please note* – your local members of the *RCA Umpires Members-At-Large Committee* are

- *Linda Lee* (Nova Scotia; [linda\\_margaret\\_lee@hotmail.com](mailto:linda_margaret_lee@hotmail.com)),
- *Louise Beland* (New Brunswick; [lbeland@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:lbeland@nbnet.nb.ca)),
- Newfoundland's position is currently vacant (Doreen Hamlyn, [doreenhamlyn@nl.rogers.com](mailto:doreenhamlyn@nl.rogers.com)).

If you require a *Refresher* course, please contact your Provincial representative...

If you know of someone interested in *becoming an RCA Umpire*, please contact your Provincial representative...

If you have not received your 2007 *RCA Rules of Racing* updated inserts, please contact your Provincial representative...

If your contact information (mailing and electronic addresses) has changed, please contact your Provincial representative...

If you would be interested in *becoming a FISA Umpire*, please contact your Provincial & National representative...

## Henley Regatta & National Championships Notes –

### ALL CALL!

The RCA Umpire's Working Committee is seeking nominations for positions of the Jury for the National regattas of the – Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, Canadian Masters Championships, and the National Rowing Championships.

\*\* If interested, please submit a *letter of intention* outlining your experience and availability, to your provincial umpire representative (and cc' your provincial rowing association president), by **01 May 2008**. Once your provincial rowing association has decided their priority of candidate selection, I would ask that you please forward your top two names to me (as your Regional representative to the National committee).

I will put forth your selected candidates to the RCA National Umpires' Working committee for Jury participation at the National Regattas.

### Upcoming Regattas –

#### May

- 17<sup>th</sup> NSRA Icebreaker Regatta – Dartmouth, NS
- 24<sup>th</sup> KRC High School Regatta – Saint John, NB

#### July

- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Crew Classic - Fredericton, NB – **may be CANCELLED**
- 12<sup>th</sup> ERA Regatta – Montreal, QC
- 19-20<sup>th</sup> NSRA NS Sprints (*Bud Myra Memorial Regatta*) – Dartmouth, NS

#### August

- 5-11<sup>th</sup> Royal Canadian Henley Regatta – St. Catharines, ON
- 15-17<sup>th</sup> Canadian Masters Championship – Guelph, ON
- 16-17<sup>th</sup> Eastern Interprovincial Rowing Championships (EIRC) – Montreal, QC
- 24<sup>th</sup> MicMac Around the Lake Regatta – Dartmouth, NS

#### September

- 20<sup>th</sup> North West Arm Regatta and 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cogswell Medal Championship – Halifax, NS
- 27-28<sup>th</sup> Head of the Four Bridges and Rowing Tour – Fredericton, NB
- 26-28<sup>th</sup> Rowing Canada Aviron National Championship (St. Catharines or London, ON)

#### October

- 25<sup>th</sup> NSRA "Really Chili" Regatta and Atlantic University Championship – Dartmouth, NS

#### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> weekend? CURC, University Rowing Championships (Fort Langley)

And if you happen to be passing through Quebec, and would like additional regatta experience just let me know and I can forward your contact information to CORAQ.

- 10<sup>th</sup> May, Eastern Rowing Association regatta *Scolaire, Club Aviron de Montréal, Bassin Olympique*
- 5<sup>th</sup> July, Eastern Rowing Association regatta, *Club Aviron de Montréal, Bassin Olympique*
- 12<sup>th</sup> July, *Coupe provincial de l'est, AQA, Bassin Olympique*
- 24<sup>th</sup> August – Sherbrooke RC's *Fête de l'eau* Invitational Recreational Regatta, Sherbrooke
- 6<sup>th</sup> September – Montréal RC's Invitational Recreational Regatta (with the much coveted *Prize d'Oar*),
- 12<sup>th</sup> October – Boucherville RC's "*Tête au Courant!*", Boucherville

## Other *very* interesting items -

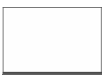


The proper 'Start' flag is a *red flag containing a white, diagonal cross*.



The proper 'Finish' flag is *any color* but red or white! ... usually *orange*.

*\*\*There are no official flag dimensions – just large enough to be visible, and not too large to be cumbersome.*



A *white flag* is used to correct potentially dangerous crew courses – but never to steer a crew intentionally. A *white flag* is used to "Stop racing" for one boat, and to signal boat alignment at the Start by the Aligner.



A *red flag* is used to "STOP racing the ENTIRE event!", accompanied with a sound device such as an air horn.

A *yellow card* is formally awarded to the crew – and if possible, they are *immediately notified* of the rule infraction *and* informed of the reason *why*.

During the 2-minute "start" roll call – the 'Yellow carded' crews are informed of their "Yellow card" status, and boat-holders will flip up or place a yellow card at the base of the lane dock (or don a yellow hat). ... Remember that 2 yellow cards = an exclusion from that race event.

A *disqualification* is a much more serious infraction by a crew, coach, club – wherein they are removed from the entire regatta.

Chief Umpire is responsible for the safe and fair running of the Regatta according to the *RCA Rules of Racing*. They are supported by at least two other members of the Regatta Jury (usually Judge at the Start, and Finish, or Commission Control). *\*\*If not all of the RCA sanctioning items are not in-place the day of the regatta, or if conditions deteriorate and become unsafe – it is the duty of the Chief Umpire to cancel the regatta.*

*\*\*If RCA Regatta Sanctioning is not in place, or not appropriately respected and upheld, RCA Umpires may not officiate at the un-sanctioned regatta. If these persons continue to officiate at*

an unsafe, unsanctioned regatta, these persons assume all legal liability for the event. *It is not lawful for a Provincial Rowing Association to knowingly sanction on behalf of RCA an unsafe regatta, and to place RCA Umpires and RCA athletes at risk in an unsafe, unfair environment.*

**A minimum of 4 licensed RCA Umpires are required for RCA regatta sanctioning.**

`Local rules' or exceptions to the *RCA Rules of Racing* may not be done for non-negotiable items of safety and fairness – such as less than 4 licensed umpires, lack of communication devices, enough safety boats, first aid, lessening the minimum weigh-restrictions of coxies, biased lane draw assignments, ...

Commission Control (CC) the Judge is responsible for verifying the athletes' identity, age, and proper weights and coxie 'dead weights' (*ensuring athletes' eligibility to compete!*),

- checking boat safety – bow ball, less than 7.5 cm of give on foot stretchers, & no electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, etc = coaching devices... (written paper instructions are okay). .... & I would also add, ensuring that decking "plugs" are in place as well!
- Checking uniformity in crew uniform, and the amount, dimensions and placement of advertising on equipment and uniforms.
- Checking on the general health of the athlete prior to departure (i.e. watching for signs of heat stroke, heat exhaustion, as well as hyperthermia, etc.) – to the same level as an Umpire checks at the Finish of a Race.

Before attaching the bow marker/Lane number card.

- CC is responsible for verifying and communicating crew changes in athletes, equipment or uniform colors, bow markers to the Judge at the Start, the Finish and Umpires – for identification purposes.
- CC is also responsible for the weighing of lightweight athletes & coxswains, and to communicate the weigh-in results to the Judge at the Start.
- CC is also responsible for the retrieval and registering the proper return of the coxie 'dead weights', and bow markers after racing.
- And also identifying the requested athletes to the Anti-doping commission.

At the Start – the Start Judge will call 5, 4, 3, and 2 minutes of time notice. Alignment of crews is done by the Aligner usually between 3-2 minutes.

- The Judge of the Start will also check the presence of the coxie "dead weights", and acknowledge boat alignment has been achieved by the Aligner's raised white flag.
- If a crew is not at the Start at the 2 minutes prior to racing (without a reason, and prior notification from the CC)– they are then officially awarded a Yellow Card, for being Late to the Start.

- At 2 minutes – the Roll Call is given – after which no further notice of crews will be taken (unless they do not have a good line of course – please check that as you call their crew)
  - .. *the ROLL CALL is simply the names of the crews in order from left to right (or lanes 1 to 6...) by crew name only.!*

Details of the event may be given at the 5 minute time call, or prior – as the Judge of the Start invites the crews ‘into the Start area’.

- All notifications of Yellow Card awards must also be communicated to the Commission Control.

Umpires on the water – are responsible to follow the race, and ensure fair and safe conditions for the race... on return, and while following the race – these umpires also look for debris & identify potential water hazards....

- Designate a Lead (Primary) and a Follow (Secondary) umpire boat,
  - & listen for audible evidence of unpermitted ‘coaching instructions’ to competitors.
  - Within the first 100m there is the monitoring of ‘the broken equipment rule’... and also that crews maintain their proper course of racing...
  - It is important NOT to steer crews (but use your judgement when dealing with novice crews, who may need some guidance, to avert disasters!).
  - It is also important not to place your umpire boat directly in line, alongside, or in the centre sight-line of racing crews... and always watch your line of “wake” for trailing crews.
- All notifications of Yellow Card awards must also be communicated to the Commission Control & Finish Judge.

At the Finish of the race, the Lead Umpire will canvas the crews for Protests, and general well-being, check with the Following Umpire for any ‘potential issues of note’, and then raise the flag (white or red, as appropriate).

Judge at the Finish – registers the placing of the crews, captures race times, and notes if there has been a Protest registered by the Umpire from the water at the Finish of the race (white or red flag), whether the race results are good to post, or whether further action is required (protest registered, followed by an objection, or a re-row , etc.); and communicates these results with the Chief Umpire.

Please refer to your *RCA Rules of Racing* for full details of Umpire regatta duties and responsibilities.

## Reminders:

Please review prior to each regatta the newest 2006 edition (with the 2007 inserts of changes) of your *RCA Rules of Racing* prior to each regatta. There have been some changes within the past 3 years, particularly to umpire duties, Chief umpire regatta safety responsibilities in conjunction with the LOC’s and formats of presentation (*i.e.* The Start procedures, and on-course flag use).

This year RCA will be reviewing the *RCA Rules of Racing*, and changes will be proposed at the end of 2008, in accordance to the *FISA* review of rules that follows every Olympic Summer Games. If you

have any suggestions of rule improvements please forward them to your provincial member of the *RCA National Umpires' Members-At-Large committee*, and myself as your *representative to the RCA National Umpires' Working Committee*.

\*\* There are new *RCA Regatta Sanctioning* procedures and forms, available online as of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008. Please refer to the RCA web page. Also the *RCA Rules of Racing* are now available in French.

If you have any questions, requests, need for clarification on items,... etc. Please do not hesitate to contact me, at [trecia.schell@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:trecia.schell@mail.mcgill.ca).

*As an RCA umpire we are beholden to follow the standard procedures as outlined in the RCA Rules of Racing, such that when athletes row in Halifax, Nova Scotia; Saint John, New Brunswick, or Victoria, British Columbia – they will experience the same official RCA racing procedures.*

Cheers all,  
Keep your flags at the ready!  
& have an *Awesome Summer of Racing*,

Yours in Rowing,  
*Trecia.*

Atlantic Regional representative to the RCA National Umpires' Working Committee, and an RCA Umpire clinic instructor & examiner.  
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