

Leadership on the Water: Building Your Race Committee A Team

Your Speakers

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Recruiting Volunteers

Lots of options here:

- Local sailors
 - Either out of the goodness of their hearts OR
 - Required as part of the Notice of Race
- Yacht Club members
- Junior sailors
- Friends of volunteers
- Anyone looking to spend time on boats
- Local marine industry professionals (sail makers, etc)
- Make your own!

Proper Event Planning + Class Interaction

Let's start at the very beginning....

- Event bid document or MOU
- Class PRO
- Class Representative
- Approval of Jury
- Budgeting: travel/accommodations for RC/Class reps

Proper Event Planning + Class Interaction

Class Course Requirements

- Trapezoid, W/L, unusual race requirements? This will determine the # of volunteers & skill levels
- Safety concerns -
- Youth or Adult regatta? Certain individuals work better with certain age groups
- Class Rules for Conducting Championships & other document templates

Proper Event Planning + Class Interaction

The best PROs & race committee members are those who understand they are there for the sailors

Communication between the RC & Class before everyone arrives at the event is the key to a smooth & fantastic event

Training

Depending on what you are looking for, there are a lot of pathways that provide the type and level of training you are looking for.

- US Sailing Race Management Seminars
 - One and Two Day options
- US Sailing Judge and Umpire Seminars
- US Powerboating Safe Powerboat Handling, Safety and Rescue Boat Handling and Mark-set Boat Handling
- Mentoring – most learning ultimately happens on the water

Managing On the Water Expectations

What do the competitors really want?
How is your team going to give it to them?

Make sure your A-Team is fully aware and prepared:

- Quantity of races
- Length of races
- Forecast
- Required equipment
- Know their role(s) and encourage cross-training
- Emergency procedures

Troubleshooting On the Water

The best Race Committees know to expect the unexpected and how to come up with viable contingencies for any potential mishap. Most importantly, they stay calm and collected and focus on the solution.

- Wrapped props
- Broken down boats
- Drifting marks
- Missing flags
- Malfunctioning guns/horns
- Results overboard!

Visitor Involvement

It is becoming more common for outside volunteers and sometimes paid help to be brought in for events.

Whether you're an established local team with someone new coming in or if you are that visitor, a few key rules apply:

- Set roles and responsibilities early
- Everyone wants a high-quality event
- Learn from one another
 - Tampa methods are different than Chicago methods
 - Many ways to place bags of air in the water
- Respect one another
 - Relationships created are incredibly beneficial
 - Better events, club recognition, happier sailors

Old Salts and Curmudgeons

This group can be the biggest help or deterrent to getting a great team together.

- How do you manage the ‘it’s always been done this way’ stance?
- Have anyone that won’t share the tasks with newbies?
- Yellers?
- My favorite – marksetters who put the mark where they think it SHOULD go, not where you asked them to put it

Keeping the A-Team

Find out what motivates your volunteers beyond the free lunches and shirts.

- Don't underestimate the importance of the social aspect to keeping people interested.
- Keep challenging your team so they don't get caught in the same role when they are ready to move on.
- Helping them move to the next level if they are working towards certifications
 - Make sure they have access to the training they are looking for
- Exchange program with other organizations

Your Opinion Matters

Please open the **Sailing Leadership Forum app** and complete the **session survey** found in the **menu bar**.

Thank you for attending this session