INTRODUCTION TO GUIDELINES FOR RO WORKSHOP

Introduction:

Reference: (RRS Basic Principle, 2, 44.1, A5, 63.1)

1.1   All sport has it set of rules. If we have rules than we must have a means of enforcing them. We must also have guidelines for those that run events to follow. The most common way of achieving this is to have an umpire who is impowered to enforce the rules to ensure the event is conducted fairly and within the rules. Radio Sailing (RC) racing differs from most other sport in that is designed to be self-policing. The basic principle of RS competition is that competitors agree to be governed by a body of rules which they are expected to follow and enforce. The sport is built on the premise that if a competitor breaks a rule, he will promptly get clear of the fleet and do the required penalty, which may be to retire. Unlike an umpire, with a few exceptions, the RO has limited powers to take action which will affect a boat's score and is not burdened with enforcing the rules when the competitors themselves fail to do so. These duties are the responsibility of the protest committee which in most events is conducted by the skippers themselves.

1.2   Many skippers believe that if they are not called by an official or protested by another competitor, they are not required to do a penalty for a breach of the rules. This, of course, is incorrect and goes against both the letter and intent of the rules.

1.3   It is in the best interest of the sport to have our regattas conducted by officials with a sound knowledge of their duties and responsibilities. If we are going to grow our sport, we must identify and train a number of members who are prepared to perform the duties of a Race Officer and a Scorer.

2.   Aim:

2.1   The aim of this workshop is to provide potential Race Officer (RO) with guidelines for the conduct of RS events to ensure the standard of racing expected at these events is maintained.

3.   References:

3.1   Another common misconception is that the Race Officer (RO) is in charge and can do whatever they want. His is also untrue. The RO is restricted by the same

rules as the competitors. Throughout this workshop we will be referring to the following references:

A. Racing Rules of Sailing 2021 - 2024 (RRS):
B. Standard Notice of Race (SNoR)
C. Standard Sailing Instruction (SSI)
D. Currently approved Heat Management System (HMS):
E. Class Rules:
F. Equipment Rules of Sailing (EROS):
G. ARYA Race Management Manual 2017 (RMM)

3. RO Workshop:

3.1 During this workshop we will be discussing:

SER	SUBJECT
1.	REFERENCES
2.	RANKING EVENTS
3.	CHANGES TO STANDARD SAILING INSTRUCTION
4.	DEFINITIONS
5.	EXCLUSION OF BOAT OR COMPETITOR
6.	ROLE OF THE RO
7.	SETTING A COURSE
8.	COURSE BOARDS
9.	RO SIGNALS AND HAILING REQUIREMENTS
10.	STARTING AND FINISHING
11.	STARTING PROCEDURES
13.	INDIVIDUAL RECALLS
14.	GENERAL RECALLS
15.	U FLAG AND BLACK FLAG
16.	SHORTING OR ABANDONING A RACE AFTER START

17.	**FINISHING**
18.	**TIME LIMIT**
19.	**TIME OUT LIMIT**
20.	**RACES WITH OBSERVERS**
21.	**CALLING CONTACTS**
22.	**PROTESTS AND REDRESS**
23.	**PROTEST BY RO**
24.	**PROTEST BY ONE COMPETITOR AGAINST ANOTHER**
25.	**TAKING A PENALTY**
26.	**DISQUALIFICATION WITHOUT A HEARING**
27.	**REQUEST FOR REDRESS**
2.	**FLEET RACING**

4.   Levels of Events:

4.1   Club racing generally consist of:

    a.   Scratch Racing,

    b.   Handicap Racing, and

    c.   Novelty Events (Long Races etc.)

4.2   Ranking Events are conducted in accordance with the ARYA Ranking Event Policy and are classed as either:

    a.   Regional.

    b.   State or

    c.   National events

5.   Ranking Events:

Reference: (RRS, SNoR, SSI, HMS, ARYA Ranking Regulations)

5.1   Ranking events are to be managed in accordance with ARYA Ranking Regulations which can be downloaded from the ARYA website and:

    a. Current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

    b. Standard Notice of Race (SNoR) – ARYA web Site;

  c. Standard Sailing Instruction (SSI) – ARYA Web Site; and

  d. Currently approved HMS or SHRS (For multi-fleet racing) – ARYA web Site;

5.2 The guidelines we will discuss today are contained in the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other reference material we discussed.

6. Ranking Events:

Reference: (RRS, SNoR, SSI, HMS, ARYA Ranking Regulations)

6.1 Ranking Events are normally conducted as either:

  a. Single Fleet events. (These are normally less than 20 entries.)

  b. Fleet (Heat) Racing:

6.2 Two systems are currently approved by the ARYA for the conduct of Ranking heat racing which we will discuss in this workshop. These are:

  a. Heat Management System (HMS). and

  2. Simple Heat Racing System (SHRS)

7. An RO is Not:

7.1 In our discussions today, it is important to keep in mind that the RO is not a:

   a. Referee,

   b. Judge,

   c. Coach,

   d. Social Director, or

   e. God. Contrary to the expectation of many of the competitors, he does not control the weather.

8. Conclusion:

8.1 The guidelines we are going to discuss today are not what I prefer or suggest should happen. The are based on and are supported by the RRS and other supporting documents. For ranking events, club rules, skippers or RO preference are irrelevant. Decisions and procedures must be based on the requirements of the RRS and the supporting documents.

8.2 This workshop only covers the theory side of running an RS event. It is important that you gain the practical experience required by volunteering to assist in the running of events.