

YA Race Officials' Courses and Qualifications

Information Sheet No 5

NATIONAL TEAMS RACING UMPIRES SEMINARS

SEMINAR OUTLINE

Yachting Australia is able to coordinate the conduct of the "National Teams Racing Umpires Seminar".

The Seminar is based upon ISAF's International Umpires Seminar, and participants are taken through the full range of umpiring facets that will provide a strong foundation for new umpires and further advance the abilities of existing umpires.

FORMAT

An Umpiring Seminar is conducted in conjunction with a proper teams racing event, timed so that the lecture days immediately precede the racing.

This Seminar comprises two full days of lectures plus not less than three days of umpiring. The days of practical umpiring on the water are an essential part of a Seminar.

During the days of umpiring the participants will be assisted and "assessed" by the instructor on a number of essential skills including boat handling, boat positioning, communication, concentration, anticipation, signalling, temperament, radio use, rules knowledge and understanding of teams racing manoeuvres.

SUITABLE PARTICIPANTS

The Seminar is specifically designed for those intending to advance to National Teams Racing Umpire, however State Umpires, persons still aiming for State Umpire accreditation, and persons just wishing to improve their own knowledge of teams racing umpiring will also be rewarded by attending.

The Seminar is not a "rules seminar" so to obtain maximum benefit from the seminar participants should already possess a good understanding of the racing rules and a working knowledge of the Teams Racing Appendix.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

An optimum number of participants appears to be about 10. This enables the seminar instructor to establish a beneficial one-on-one rapport with each participant and to carry out the required individual instruction and assessment while umpiring together on the water.

ARRANGING FOR A SEMINAR

MYAs wishing to have a seminar conducted will need to submit their request to YA. This will trigger liaison between YA, the MYA and the instructor so that preferred dates and location and other matters can be arranged. The responsibility for principal publicity and invitations will rest with the MYA, but YA's resources will also be available.

The practical organisation of the Seminar will be the responsibility of the MYA, embracing the venue, seats and tables, refreshments, whiteboards, PowerPoint projector and screen, photocopying facilities and any local office administration.

INSTRUCTORS

It is essential that the principal instructor at a National Teams Racing Umpires Seminar be a Senior Umpire already experienced in instructing. The Seminar instructor will be appointed by YA.

Other qualified umpires will probably be umpiring at the match racing event and it is usual for those umpires to support the Seminar participants by giving guidance when umpiring together.

WRITTEN TEST

The Seminar has a written test, and participants may choose to sit the test or not. Confidentiality of the test questions is of prime importance so, except when candidates are sitting the test, only YA and the approved YA instructor has access to those questions.

Completed test papers are first marked by the instructor then returned to the National Umpires Sub-Committee of YA's ROC for final scoring. The pass-mark is set by the NUSC.

NATIONAL UMPIRE STATUS

Whereas attendance at a National Teams Racing Umpires Seminar (or an International Umpires Seminar) and a successful test result and assessment are important considerations in recommending appointment to National Teams Racing Umpire status, appointment is not automatic. As is explained in YA Information Sheet "National Teams Racing Umpire Conditions of Appointment" there are additional factors which must be considered and actual teams racing umpiring experience is a major requirement.