

# AYC Race Officials Symposium – 2019 Sessions and Speakers

## Black Flag & U Flag, Best Practices and Pitfalls

A quick review of the Rules for both the Black Flag and U Flag. Examine the guidance provided in the Race Management Handbook and then discuss and explore “best practices” for use of these tools. Questions to explore:

Does U render the black flag obsolete? How does a PRO decide which to use? When should a PRO postpone shortly before the start? When should a PRO not postpone shortly before the start? Is it ever unfair to use a Black or U flag? Other specifics raised by participants.

## Steve Kling

Steve began sailing on the South Shore of Long Island with his father at age 6, and began racing on the Chesapeake at 14. Since then he has been continuously active in racing both one-designs and handicapped boats at all levels. Steve has served as PRO since the early 1980’s.

## The Candy Race: why doing away with some formalities can enhance motivation for young juniors

The “Candy Race” was the biggest hit of a few Vanguard 15 Mid-Atlantics for a few years. This V15 event evolved from solely high-powered cut-throat racing to an event which inspired a love for sailing. Kids as young as three years-old took part in the fun. There were several lessons learned including: 1) flexibility with timing and format; 2) three-minute dinghy starts and short courses; 3) safety boat considerations; and 4) approaches to drafting sailing instructions (with the inclusion a 6-year old in the process). From a sport psychology and developmental perspective, this discussion will also address real-life examples of how extrinsic rewards (e.g., candy and awards) can be used strategically to enhance engagement while still avoiding an undermining of intrinsic motivation. A must attend to grow the sport!

## Dr. Tim Herzog, CMPC

Dr. Tim Herzog is a Certified Mental Performance Coach (CMPC), a member of the USOC Sport Psychology Registry, Board Certified in Biofeedback (BCB), and a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor. His practice consists of both therapy and performance clients. Tim works with a wide range of clients in person, and does distance consulting- particularly with competitive sailors. Having coached sailing to various degrees for over 25 years, he taught at seven different yacht clubs, most recently last summer as Director of Junior Sailing at Tred Avon Yacht Club. His coaching career also included stints as Head Coach of Boston College (5th at North Americans + 4 All-American honors) and Assistant Coach at the US Merchant Marine Academy (where he ran a National Championship). Tim holds masters degrees in both counseling/sport psychology and in clinical psychology, as well as a doctorate in counseling psychology. In a volunteer capacity, Tim has also served on the Severn Sailing Association (SSA) Junior Sailing Committee for several years, and has been SSA’s Vanguard 15 Fleet Captain. He successfully led local efforts to make the V15 fleet more conducive to fun parent/child sailing.

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### **Certifications for Race Officers - What are they and are they for you?**

We will start with an overview of race official certifications in the US and discuss what is available for entry level and higher level race officials. I will also cover aspects of certification that event organizers may want to consider for various levels of events. The presentation will start with lecture and include time for questions and discussion.

### **Mark Murphy**

Mark Murphy has been running races in and around Annapolis for many years. He is a member of Eastport Yacht Club and Annapolis Yacht Club and has served on the race committees for both clubs. He is certified as a National Race Officer by US Sailing and as an International Race Officer by World Sailing. He has served on the Race Management Committee of US Sailing since 1999, with a focus on race officer training and certification.

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### **Communicating with the Sailors - before, during, and after racing**

Discussion of the importance of clear and frequent communications between the PRO and the sailors. Best practices for how a great PRO will connect with sailors before racing, while on the race course, and back in the boatyard after racing each day. What the PRO can learn from sailor communications that will improve the quality of racing.

### **Kevin Reeds**

Kevin is an experienced racing sailor and served as the Navigator aboard the practice boat for the AmericaOne syndicate during its 1999/2000 America's Cup campaign in New Zealand. He holds the GPS patent for the Sailtrak System (GPS-based sailboat race management system) that was used by ESPN to graphically illustrate the America's Cup beginning in 1991. He is a National Race Officer and Certified Judge. Kevin lives in Annapolis Maryland and is a member of both the Annapolis and St. Francis Yacht Clubs.

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### **Cross-Club Collaboration- Event Planning and Safety**

This presentation will discuss myriad considerations when two (or more) clubs decide to work together to host an event. Areas of focus include establishing a baseline agreement, communication, financial arrangements, and implementing a leadership structure. Keith Jacobs was actively involved in creating and administering multi-club events with Annapolis Yacht Club (Annapolis Labor Day Regatta) and Severn Sailing Association (I-505 World Championship).

### **Keith Jacobs**

Keith Jacobs served as Eastport Yacht Club's Race Committee Chair 2014-2018. He worked with Annapolis Yacht Club in the development of the Annapolis Labor Day Regatta, and with Severn Sailing Association hosting three I-505 events: the East Coast Championship, North American Championship, the World Championship. He has also worked to foster cooperation among local clubs to provide sailors with enjoyable regattas, with consistent race management, regardless of which club hosts the event

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### **Developments in AmCup and other major world events**

Tucker will give us his view of the some of the latest highlights and trends in the sport of sailing from all around the world

### **Tucker Thompson**

Tucker Thompson was the official Host of the 35th America's Cup. He is an award-winning TV commentator, producer, and public speaker and has hosted over 1,800 sailing shows including three America's Cups, the Volvo Ocean Race, and the World Match Racing Tour. A former champion sailor, Tucker sailed with America True during the 2000 America's Cup in New Zealand.

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### **Effective use of video in race officiating**

Sandy has been using video as a race officer, judge and umpire for several years now. In this talk, she will describe what has worked well, some lessons learned, and what tools and skills are needed to take effective video as a race official, and make that video useful to sailors and other officials.

### **Sandy Grosvenor**

Sandy is an international race officer, umpire, and judge. She is currently the Annapolis Yacht Club Race Committee Chair, and Chair of the CBYRA Appeals Committee. Further, she is a self professed geek and enjoys playing with new technologies to see how we can do a better job as officials.

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### **Finishing Line – Tips and Tricks**

The Rush Hour of Finishing: you Make the Call. An interactive discussion of how to handle the finish line when they are trying to finish at once. From proper prior planning, to handling the rush, to recovering and getting things scored afterwards

### **Taran Teague**

When Taran is not racing her Farr 30 out of Annapolis or powering around in a motor boat she is running races. As a National Race Officer and Judge she has the opportunity to serve as Race Officer for Orange Bowl, CORK – Kingston, Charleston Race Week, US Sailing Youth Champs, Opti ACCs and US Junior Women’s Champs. Taran is actively involved on the Board of Camp Sea Gull and Seafarer and the National Sailing Hall, and past member of the US Sailing Board. She serves on the US Sailing Race Management Committee and is an Advanced Race Management Instructor. As an advocate of racers running races Taran mentors sailors to become race officers and she consults and teaches numerous race management seminars across the country.

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### **Handling post-race issues in Race Management**

Short lesson learned.... By asking a few questions and listening the race officials are able to clarify issues and provide creative solutions to make racing even better! Join us to discuss best practices from the judge!

### **Brooks Zerkel / Jim Walsh**

Brooks Zwerkel is a Regional Race Officer and Judge out of FBYC. He has raced and campaigned a Mobjack with son and served on the Board at FBYC. Currently he crews in various PHRF races. Enjoy working Charleston race week, NOOD, Screwpile and Southern Bay Race Week.

Jim Walsh is a National Race Officer and a National Judge. He has served on the US Sailing Board for many years and is currently the US Sailing Area C Regional Admin Judge. A longtime racing sailor Jim grew up sailing on Barnegat Bay and Block Island. He travels to serve as PRO or as a Judge for US national and regional events. He also teaches race management and judging seminars throughout the country. In his spare time, he competes in Triathlons and has finished 4 Ironman triathlons.

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### **How to set marks and square gates quickly.**

Everything you need to know about setting weather marks and gates. What equipment do you need -- A show and tell of mark set equipment including danforth and mushroom anchors, chain, different lengths of line, etc. Best practices for mark sets for various venues and weather conditions.

### **Eric Feigel/ Jim Walsh**

Eric is a Regional Race Officer and currently serves as the US Sailing Area C Race Officer. He has run a variety of regattas from World Championships to local government mark races, from Maryland to Rhode Island, from Newport to Bermuda. He has seen a lot and will be sharing best practices. Jim Walsh is a National Race Officer and a National Judge. He has served on the US Sailing Board for many years and is currently the US Sailing Area C Regional Admin Judge. A longtime racing sailor Jim grew up sailing on Barnegat Bay and Block Island. He travels to serve as PRO or as a Judge for US national and regional events. He also teaches race management and judging seminars throughout the country. In his spare time he competes in Triathlons and has finished 4 IronMan competitions

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### **In Hot Pursuit**

Bruce will discuss pursuit races and other non-conventional / alternative race formats for inshore and offshore racing. Review how to set up start times for pursuit courses in various start sequence formats and some ideas on how to score unconventional races.

### **Bruce Bingman**

Bruce has creatively designed and implemented numerous 'alternative' race courses and formats to keep juniors as well as adults in the racing game. He is a National Race Officer, Certified Basic and Advanced Race Management Seminar Instructor, immediate past Chair of US Sailing PHRF Committee, past Chair US Sailing Offshore Committee, winning skipper at FIGAWI, NOOD, Bacardi Cup and Crab Cup Pursuit races, PRO Blue Circle at STC Block Island Race Week and PRO Annapolis to Newport

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### **Introduction to Match Racing for Race Officers**

Bill focuses on the course and race officer responsibilities in match racing. 10 slides will be presented as a test of timing and theory. This will be a leading edge talk as it will be the first time material from this seminar is presented. Feedback will help us refine the seminar before formal rollout.

### **Bill Simon**

Bill is the Chairman of the US Sailing Match Racing Championship Committee. This Committee runs the Rose Cup or USYMRC, the USWMRC and the USMRC and the 8 qualifiers. He has worked at Oakcliff Sailing for 8 years and ran 40% of the graded match races in the country. We welcome Bill as a recent resident to Annapolis.

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### **Introduction to Umpired Fleet Racing**

Status of Fleet Race Umpiring  
Oakcliff approach versus other approaches  
Appendix Q  
Current goals in Fleet Race Umpiring do not necessarily mean to cover every episode on the course rather to cover as much as we can with the available assets. The SIs allow for umpires or sailors to refer an incident to the Protest Committee. Staffing of umpire boats  
Number of umpire boats based on number of competitors  
How to handle multiple classes on the same course  
Different theories of umpire boat positioning.

### **Bill Simon**

Bill is a Club Race Officer, Judge and Umpire. For eight years he was the Race Program Director at Oakcliff Sailing. Over the past five years he ran Olympic class regattas for five of the Olympic Class boats. Fleet Race Umpiring was introduced that was less restrictive than Appendix Q. There is a big difference in Fleet Race Umpiring based on the number of boats involved and the number of classes on the course.

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### **Measurement and rating system use for Sailors and Race Committee**

Local and regional big boat racing events in the US are struggling to energize and maintain interest in non-one design classes. Part of the problem lies in continued use of stale race course formats, but another is the widespread use of empirical local handicapping methods that struggle to create fair ratings for the typical diverse fleet of boat designs that range from new Sportboats to older Cruiser-racers. The purpose of this talk will be to give an overview to race managers, other race officials and interested sailors on how these systems work in principle on a variety of race courses, present concrete examples of their use, offer software options on scoring, and present a new guidebook on best practices that has been battle-tested both in the US and around the world.

### **Dobbs Davis**

Dobbs Davis is a US Sailing certified Measurer, Communications Director for the Offshore Racing Congress and Technical Editor for Seahorse Magazine. His 30 years of diverse experience in big boat racing as a pro sailor, boatbuilder, technical consultant and race official in events ranging from local to international levels gives him a unique insight on how to use new tools for sailors and race managers to understand and organize fair and transparent handicap racing.

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### **OMG – I’m the RC, there’s no PC and I just got handed a protest!**

How do you handle the realities of regatta management where you must juggle many responsibilities from RC to PC. This session walk you through the steps to process a protest.

### **Ric Crabbe**

Ric is a US Sailing National Judge and also races keelboats in Annapolis harbor. He is the former Area C Regional Area Judge and is now the head of the Annapolis YC Judges. His additional responsibilities include being a Dad, as well as a professor at the US Naval Academy.

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### **Post-race Video for Competitors and RC**

While Carlos and I continued to investigate how we could use drones in competitive sailing we discovered that the post-race video galvanized the fleet, and provided insights for the RC. Carlos combined drone footage with camcorder video to provide a split screen view with commentary. These videos were shown at the club during the evening cook out (immediately following racing) and published on the SSA website and Youtube. We found the number of competitors on the starting line and at the post race festivities continued to grow through the season. These videos provide evidence of good sailing and good race management, and appear to be the springboard for discussion long after the racing has concluded. Carlos has made the editing more sophisticated with three boat length circles overlaid on marks and lines on starting lines. We will discuss what assets we find essential and others that just make it cooler. Carlos will present the components of the editing and presentation process so that videos are available in a timely manner. We will also discuss the evolution of the organization of our drone team.

### **Juliet Thompson, Carlos Linares**

Juliet Thompson is a former racer turned race committee. Participates in race management at Severn Sailing Association and other clubs from Charleston to Nantucket. Regionally certified and enjoys being the Principal Race Officer in the NOODs, J24 East Coast Championships as well as Tuesday Evening One Design at SSA and J World Thursday night racing. Currently developing new methods for the education and preparation of the race committee for SSA. Also active member of the SSA drone team. Carlos Linares is an Information Technology specialist. He is an active member of the 505 and laser fleets. He has been flying drones for nearly 10 years. He specializes in the editing and presentation of video on a variety of platforms.

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### **The PRO Tool Kit - what every PRO needs to take on the water daily**

This session will explore inventory for a good PRO's personal tool kit and discuss all of the tools, supplies, and items that every PRO needs to own.

### **Kevin Reeds**

Kevin is an experienced racing sailor and served as the Navigator aboard the practice boat for the AmericaOne syndicate during its 1999/2000 America’s Cup campaign in New Zealand. He holds the GPS patent for the Sailtrak System (GPS-based sailboat race management system) that was used by ESPN to graphically illustrate the America’s Cup beginning in 1991. He is a National Race Officer and Certified Judge. Kevin lives in Annapolis Maryland and is a member of both the Annapolis and St. Francis Yacht Clubs.

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### **Proper Use of Weather Apps for Race Managers**

The proliferation of weather apps has brought a wealth continuously updated information accessible to Sailors and Race Managers. While this is a great advancement in the delivery of weather information, there is a danger of "meteorological apathy" - the tendency to depend on technology without a basic meteorological understanding of the meteorological science and principles at play. This talk will discuss the advantages/disadvantages of apps and how to respect what the information can and can not tell you about what wind and weather you can expect on the race course. You will learn what you need to consider in order to add value beyond the weather app in running races safely, efficiently, and on fair courses.

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### **Race Committee Volunteer Tracking**

All three clubs have moved to online volunteer management systems to manage our RC volunteers: how they sign up for events, mixing the right skills with the right event, communicating, tracking and giving our hard working volunteers the credit they deserve. This talk will look at the systems each club uses and describe the strengths and weaknesses of each.

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### **Reaching Sailors and the Media**

This plenary session will give some insight into the latest in how modern media can be used to promote our events, reach our sailors, and grow excitement for our sport

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### **Chris Bedford**

Chris Bedford is respected world-wide for the 30+ years of experience and expertise in marine and coastal meteorology he provides to the world's most accomplished and successful sailors. He is sought out for his straight-forward, honest, and practical approach to using weather knowledge as a competitive advantage. Bedford's sailing weather experience is extensive and successful including 9 America's Cup cycles (winning in 1987, 1988, and 2010), 5 Volvo Ocean Race/Whitbread teams (winning in 2002, 2009, and 2015), 5 US Sailing Team Olympic campaigns, numerous long-distance sailing records and thousands of hours of weather instruction to a wide range of audiences from beginning sailors to world champions.

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### **Tom Stalder, Barbara Vosbury, Sandy Grosvenor**

Combined, our speakers have nearly 100 30 years of RC experience in Annapolis and various venues across the country. Tom has been active on the RC with Eastport YC and NASS for nearly 30 years. Barbara has been part of SSA's race management team for over a decade and is now the Chair of the SSA Standing Race Committee. Sandy has been part of the race committees at EYC, SSA, and AYC and is now Chair of the AYC Race Committee.

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### **T2P Productions**

Bruce Nairn and Ashley Love have been all around the world doing media and video productions with T2PTV. Bruce co-founded T2PTV back in 2000. Ashley joined the team in <>

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## **Recreational Boating and the Environment**

We know our waters are under increasing stress—from polluted storm water, plastics, and even air pollution. While recreational boating is a small contributor to these problems, boaters have a direct connection to the water and unique ability to help. This session will discuss ways in which recreational boaters, marinas and yacht clubs can reduce their environmental impact—and even make positive headway in cleaning up our waters. This talk will cover a variety of topics—from fueling practices to running clean regattas and events. The overarching theme will be that the care we show for the environment in other areas of our lives easily translates to our time on and around the water. More than almost any other people, sailors and boaters directly benefit from—and can contribute to—cleaner water. Boaters are also directly impacted by polluted waters. This session should be educational for those who already practice clean habits and for those wondering where to start.

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## **Safety Equipment Regulations - What OAs need to know**

The US Sailing Safety Equipment Regulations (US SER) provide guidance on safety equipment, standards, and training for boats racing in different bodies of water – from protected rivers to offshore ocean racing. This talk will review the SER and talk about organizing authorities and race committee should know to make best use of these regulations.

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## **Donna Morrow**

Donna is a life long boater, raced competitively for 15 years, and has overseen the Clean Marina and Clean Boating Initiatives at the Department of Natural Resources for 20 years. She also oversees the department's grants for marine sewage pumpouts, and is a state co-lead on the mid-Atlantic working group on marine debris reduction strategies. Donna also holds a 50 ton USCG master's license which she hopes to use again one day in retirement. Previously she used her license to drive water taxis and tour boats around Annapolis. She currently co-owns the BC-27 "Problem Child."

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## **Bruce Bingman and Jahn Tihansky**

Bruce Bingman is a life long offshore racing sailor (and a decent race officer to boot). He is past Chair of US Sailing PHRF Committee, past Chair of US Sailing Offshore Committee and a long time member of the US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee. Recently he has been a contributing member of the US Sailing Safety Equipment Regulation (SER) working group. Jahn Tihansky has been in charge of the Offshore Program at the USNA for many years and has had responsibility for sending midshipmen out on the ocean with proper training and on well prepared boats. Both presenters have personally been person-in-charge or on crews involved with recovery from rig failures, steering gear failure and overboard situations.

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### **The Starting Line Race Committee Responsibilities**

Preparation, preparation, preparation! How to be Start Line crew chief.

### **John E C Patmore / Sharon Hadsell**

John is a member of AYC and Sailing Club of the Chesapeake. He actively raced from 1984 to 1991 and has served on the Sailing Club of the Chesapeake Race Committee since 1995. As Chairman for three years he developed the R C program to the current level. Served as a Club level PRO for the SCC regattas. Recruited PRO s for SCC R C. Have managed the WNR and Frostbite R C Equipment for the last 10. He also scheduled the Committee Boats. Over the years John has logged about 3000 starting sequences on the starting line. Sharon Hadsell is a National Race Officer, Past Commodore of Eastport YC and current Co-Chair of the EYC RC. She teaches numerous race committee classes including the upcoming US Sailing Race Management Seminar hosted by EYC. Additionally Sharon is proficient as a mark boat officer and is an original BIMBO from the Savannah Olympics 1996.

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### **SYRF Race Tracker & Analytics Mobile App - coming soon to your smartphone**

Join Dina Kowalyshyn for an early look at the upcoming SYRF Race Tracker & Analytics Mobile App, your one-stop-shop for on-the-water race management. Scheduled for release ahead of the 2019 summer sailing season, the Sailing Yacht Research Foundation (SYRF) is developing the mobile app to give more sailors access to real-time race tracking and analytics. This talk will introduce you to the capabilities of this app.

### **Dina Kowalyshyn**

Dina is a local Chesapeake Bay sailor, SSA Past Commodore, International Measurer, Chairman of the WS Equipment Committee, Board of Directors of the SYRF, Naval Architect.

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### **US Sailing's Update on our Sport**

US Sailing President Sertl will give us her view on the state of our sport and the role of race officials in it

### **Cory Sertl**

Cory Sertl is the current President of US Sailing. She is also a former Olympian, multiple Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year with too many World and National Championship to list! She is also a former Annapolitan.

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### **What do the sailors want? Best practices for collaboration and communication.**

Panel discussion to gather feedback, break down communication barriers and improve collaboration amongst sailors, race officers, judges and organizers. Best practices and successes on ways to build sport through better communication and collaboration.

### **Matt Beck**

Matt Beck, Jenn Wulff, Chris Larson, Dick Neville, Bob Oberg, Pete McChesney

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### **Handicap Racing Application – Scoring/Timing/Highpoint**

A brief discussion of the various handicap systems available, when each type of system is most useful, and the methods used to score them. Also a discussion of Time-on-Time versus Time-on-Distance and the relative advantages and disadvantages of each.

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### **World Sailing Race Management Policies: Are They Useful for Us?**

Using the latest World Sailing Race Management Policy document, discuss which of the policies are the same as what we do now, which of them might be good to look at, and which of them do not apply to racing at levels below the Olympics.

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### **You Make the Call on the Starting line**

The last 60 seconds before the start..... YOU Make the Call on the Start Line. Stand in the shoes of a Race Officer. An interactive use of photos, audio and video to help understand and assess setting the start line, start penalties, and to make calls on OCS, UFD and BFD. Racers and officials alike will learn tips and tricks to set a fair line, identify early set-up on the line and methods to identify and verify on the course boats. A few 'volunteers' will be called upon to Make the Call. OCS is a stiff penalty: we want to get it right!

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### **Bruce Bingman**

Bruce has extensive sailing and race management experience in inshore and offshore racing. Past chair of US Sailing Offshore Committee, Offshore Team Committee, and various handicap rule committees. Bruce is a US Sailing National Race Officer and an Advanced Race Management Instructor.

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### **Mark Murphy**

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### **Taran Teague**

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