



## 2019 AYC Race Officials Symposium Invitation to Attend and Call for Abstracts

Annapolis Yacht Club invites race officers, judges, and umpires to come to Annapolis on February 23-24, 2019 for a 2-day Race Officials Symposium dedicated to developing and improving race officiating in sailboat racing. We have recently completed a substantial expansion of our shoreside facilities including a new Sailing Center - and we are eager to use that new center to promote better sailing regattas.

This is not a standardized course, there are lots of those throughout the country. Rather we are inviting speakers to come present unique short sessions on a diverse set of race officiating - targeting the novice to the expert and all officiating disciplines.

In addition, we invite race officials to submit abstracts to be speakers. We are seeking officials and sailors to share their knowledge, experience, and innovations on race officiating in one of the following themes:

- Innovation in officiating
- Raising the bar - training and improving race administration skills, techniques, and equipment
- Recruiting, training and retaining new officials
- Connecting with sailors - promoting events through better communications and modern media
- Successes (and lessons learned) from recent events

In each track, we welcome abstracts for talks targeted at novices to experts, for race committees, judges, umpires, and organizers. Two lengths of sessions will be 30 minutes and 45 minutes.

Please forward this invitation to all your club's race officials - judges, race committees, umpires - whether they be newcomers to officiating or veteran officials, certified or just interested in getting better.

Cost for attendees will be \$75 per person and will include access to all sessions across both days, continental breakfast and lunch both days, and (no-host) reception Saturday evening with snacks. The symposium registration fee will be waived for speakers with approved talks that do not promote a commercial product.

Speakers or vendors wishing to promote a commercial product (ie., regatta registration program, race equipment, etc.), will pay a \$100 fee which **includes entry** in to the symposium and a display area (table/2 chairs). This fee will be required even if the vendor is an approved speaker. All vendors must be approved by the Organizing Committee of the 2019 RO Symposium.

If you are interested in attending or being a speaker, please respond to the attendees' survey at:

<https://bit.ly/ayc-rosymposium19-interestsurvey>.

If you want to be a speaker, please prepare and submit an abstract here:

<https://bit.ly/ayc-rosymposium19-abstractform>

Speakers will need to comply with the following schedule:

- **Initial deadline for submitting abstracts - 20 December**
- Confirmation of accepted abstracts (for those submitted on time) - 3 January
- Preliminary session schedule published 15 January
- **Submission of draft presentation slides - 4 February**
- Formatted presentations returned to speakers for final edits - 11 February
- Final submission of presentation slides - 18 February