

APBA

RACE AND RULES MANAGEMENT

JANUARY 28, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Howie Nichols, at 8:30 PM.
2. Roll call was taken. In attendance were: Howie Nichols, Chris Fairchild, Chas Dodge, Lisa Jennings, Jeff Brewster, Mark Wheeler, Dutch Squires, Robin Shane, Becca Nichols, and approximately 50 guests.
3. Rule Change Submissions for Discussion
 - a. Cell Phone Usage. A lengthy discussion was held on the pros and cons of permitting cell phone usage on safety and patrol boats. Discussion centered around the idea that videoing races while in a safety/patrol boat is a problem, but having cell phones available on these boats for communication was a good thing. During the discussion it was decided that Referees should advise that no videoing should be done and even state that "no cell phone videos taken by people in rescue or safety boats will be considered in any driver's appeal". After discussion, there was no motion to create a rule.
 - b. Incident Reports. Discussion was held on the need to ensure that all incident reports are completed and turned in. It is the referee's responsibility to see that this happens. Discussion was held on how to get information when the driver is transported; how to get the information when the referee is not near the pits during the race day; whether it would be advisable to have someone else fill out the forms and then the referee can sign the forms and send to APBA; the advantage of adding pictures to the reports of damage to boats helmets, etc. After this discussion there was no motion to create a rule.
 - c. Definition of a Race Committee. A proposal was submitted to change General Racing Rule 1.1 to remove the starter and add the assistant Referee to the Race Committee and to also add the "Chief" before Time, Scorer, and Inspector. After discussion, a motion was made by Jeff Brewster, seconded by Robin Shane to remove the words "timer" and "starter" from the existing rule. A suggestion to add the word "chief" before scorer and before inspector was agreed to by both the motioner and the second. Then motion failed. Chas Dodge made a motion to send this to committee to come up with simple verbiage. Seconded by Lisa Jennings. Chairman Nichols stated that this committee should also look at Rule 19-4 in the Yellow Card System. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Other Matters
 - a. A proposal from Bob Wartinger representing the Safety Committee to revisit the Board of Directors decision to extend capsule training certifications through 2021 be rescinded. A 2nd request was submitted by Katelyn Shaw that this extension be changed to a virtual training in the pits where drivers would be in their own boats and use all their own equipment to go thru the muscle memory of the training. There was no motion.
 - b. A question was raised on the requirement for physicals for some categories. It was stated that physicals are very difficult to get in 4 states and perhaps the physical requirement should be suspended for 2021. After a brief discussion, there was no motion.
 - c. Chairman Nichols stated that the OPC category had passed a new rule requiring air and this will need to be fixed in the General Safety Rules.

- d. A request was passed on from the Safety Committee meeting which requested that the word “recommend” be replaced by the word “may” in the General Safety and General Racing Rules. Chairman Nichols said he can do this but nothing will be changed without a vote on this. There was no motion.
 - e. Mark Hodorek of Thundercat stated that they are working with a new class (P750) which has different rules from other categories with regards to cut suits and helmets and these rules need to be harmonized with APBA’s safety rules. He also asked that scoring tests for Thundercat be reinstated. Chairman Nichols asked that these be sent to Thundercat Chairman Robin Shane so they could follow the correct channels.
 - f. Scott Glossner asked for an explanation on which gun jumpers were allowed back in restarts for stopped heats. Chas Dodge explained that they are a legal starter until they cross the line and then they are a penalized started. In some categories the penalty is an additional period of time added to their time. The penalty then goes away if the heat isn’t completed.
5. There being no further business, motion by Mark Wheeler, seconded by Jeff Brewster to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Williams