

Getting Involved with Race Management



Sail Canada | Voile Canada
Canada's National Sailing Authority | L'Autorité nationale de la voile



Where to Start

- Newsletter (club, class, etc.)
- Posters (club, regattas, etc.)
- Volunteer website applications (CORK, regatta, club, etc.)
- Volunteer coordinator (Duty skipper program, etc.)
- Other RM volunteers
- Word of mouth
- A plan...

The plan

- Requires time, energy, creativity
patience & persistence
- List all types of volunteer opportunities
- Promote the regattas you need
volunteers for
- Volunteering only a few days good too
- Describe what the volunteer can gain
from helping with race management

My plan...

Just Ask

- People don't want to volunteer
- People want to be asked
- Find people that you think have the right skills & will enjoy working with others on the RM team to fill the positions

Who to Ask

- New club members
- Family affair (spouses / significant others / children / grand children / siblings / friends)
- Ex-sailing instructors
- Ex- sailing coaches
- Ex-racers
- Friends of existing RM volunteers

When you ask, tell them...

- About the job that they will be doing to be sure they would like to do it (**Join the Race Committee Team!**)
- That positions may test their 'physical skills'
- That positions may test their 'mental skills'
- What they need to wear
- What equipment they need to bring

When you ask, tell them...

- Your contact information in case they have questions beforehand
- Great way to keep in sailing & stay 'social'
- Great way to spend a wonderful day on the water with people who share the same interests

When they agree

- People agree more often to a short term commitment with an end-date in sight
- Place them in a regatta ASAP
- People catch the vision & are willing to work with someone with a passion for doing RM

When they say 'No'

- Sometimes means 'not now' rather than no – put them on a list to ask again
- Ask them if there was something else they would prefer to do e.g. scoring remotely, scheduling duty officers, jury secretary, measurement, etc.

When they volunteer

- Have an existing volunteer ‘show them the ropes’ for a positive experience
- Have them understand how their role contributes to the goal of running a ‘good race’
- Have them do the ‘job’ according to their style / ability (not because we have always done it this way)

When they volunteer

- Tell them when they have a great idea
- Find a job that allows them to perform well (utilize all their talents)
- Answer any questions promptly
- Have them feel that they are part of a team
- Include them in planning of future events

When they volunteer

- Ask if the job met their expectations
- Recognize all volunteers at awards presentation
- Let them know where to find more information (e.g. SC / provincial websites for seminar information)
- **THANK THEM** & show your appreciation for having them volunteer their time

What not to do

- ‘We don’t need you after all.’
- ‘We’re not ready for you yet.’
- ‘We don’t have the time to explain your job to you.’
- ‘Sorry we’ve kept you a lot later than we said we would.’
- ‘You’re doing it wrong!’

What **WE** need to do

- Need to be passionate about RM & show that we want to do it 'right'
- Be willing to delegate
- Be willing to mentor people
- Let them know they can bring a friend or relative next time
- Be tolerant of mistakes (that's what the AP is for!)

What **WE** need to do

- Keep in contact with people you've asked to help out
- Let them know there are established certification programs available at all levels
- Contact them when there is a RM seminar in their area
- Organize RM seminars & invite new volunteers personally

What **WE** need to do

- Have fun!!



Alpha Team – Pan Am Games



Medal Race Team – Pan Am Games

