

The Flatwater Racing Rules - 9. Specimen Examination Questions and Answers for qualification as an ICF Flatwater Race Official

The examination is based on knowledge of the ICF Statutes, the ICF Flatwater Racing Rules and practical regatta experience gained over at least 5 years as a National Regatta Official. Candidates must be extremely well prepared. A successful candidate is eligible for immediate selection as an Official for a World Championship or Olympic Games. Therefore, the examination is necessarily extremely demanding, candidates being required to be near perfect in their answers and the completeness of those answers. A wrong answer will probably invite four further questions of a related nature to ensure the candidate has a complete and correct understanding. If the Examiners are not entirely confident that the candidate has the necessary attributes to work in any officiating role allocated to him, the candidate will fail. The examination will take about 45 minutes.

Questions

The Statutes

1. Where is the headquarters of the ICF?
 - a. the country of the President
 - b. the country of the Secretary General
 - c. the country of the Treasurer
 - d. the country decided by the Board of Directors
2.
 - a. What is the supreme authority of the ICF?
 - b. How often does it meet?
 - c. What is the maximum number of persons permitted in a delegation?
 - d. How many votes does a delegation have?
3. What is the period of office members of the Board of Directors serve between elections?
4. Who has the authority to appoint or dismiss the Secretary General?
5. How many Officers of the ICF are there? Name their Offices.
6. How is the ICF managed on a day-to-day basis?
7. What are the languages of the ICF?
8.
 - a. List the Standing Committees of the ICF.
 - b. How many members does each have?
 - c. When or how are they elected or appointed?
 - d. For what period?
 - e. If a Standing Committee has any co-opted members, who co-ops them and for what period?
9. Can you list the 12 duties of the Flatwater Racing Committee?

The Flatwater Racing Competition Rules

Course layout and marking signs

10. Describe the minimum required layout of the Finish Line for an International Regatta and how this differs from the requirements for a World Championship.
11. What is the minimum number of flags required on a turn for a long distance event and what colour must they be?

Boat measuring and control

12. A competitor about to embark for the start has a watch strapped to his boat.
 - a. Is this permitted?
 - b. Can he wear a watch on his wrist?
13. A competitor refuses to wear an individual race number because it also contains a symbol or advertising that he objects to. What should be the ruling?
14. At boat control after a race, the knee-block of a C1 falls out of the boat, and the boat is therefore underweight. It is stated that the block was fixed at the first weighing but must have come loose since that time. What is the ruling?

Starting

15. You are the Starter at a non-championship competition. A competitor arrives at the start with a boat carrying the wrong lane number. What should you do?
16. What does the Starter say after “Start within ten seconds” and before giving the start signal?
17. Demonstrate how you would start a race from the time you have the Aligner’s signal.
18. Before the start signal, a competitor:
 - a. may be paddling but not moving forward, or
 - b. must be motionless?
19. Who is permitted to call a false start?
 - a. Aligner
 - b. Starter
 - c. Chief Official
20. A competitor breaks his paddle in the first few strokes at the start. Do you:
 - a. recall the start
 - b. allow the race to continue and why?

Umpiring

21. What is the most difficult infraction for an umpire to call?
22. In a World Championship Final, two umpires follow the race in Lanes 3 and 7. Explain the main responsibilities of the umpire following in Lane 7.

23. In a World Championship competition what aid is available to you in judging the five-metre rule?
24. You are the umpire following in Lane 7. Feeling there is an infraction by the boat in Lane 4 on the boat in Lane 5, you move into Lane 6 to confirm the infraction. What must you be most careful to avoid in your responsibility?
25. At the end of this same race (question 24), what should you do:
 - a. when the race has finished?
 - b. if the umpire following in Lane 3 shows:
 1. a red flag?
 2. a white flag?
26. In what language must the umpire's report be written?

Long distance races

27. Three competitors land to empty their boats of water. What is the ruling in each case?
 - a. Number 1. empties his boat and then assists
 - b. Number 2. to empty his.
 - c. Number 3. is assisted by a young member of the public.
28. Two boats are negotiating a turn with the bow of the outer boat 2 metres behind the bow of the inner boat. The inner boat goes off at a tangent, forcing the outer boat out beyond the line marked by the turning buoys, and allowing a pack of boats to catch up. What is the ruling?

At the Finish

29. In the absence of a photo finish (or should it fail), how is the order of finish decided?
30. Can a film recorded through an ordinary video camera be used for a photo finish?
31. Which finger should be used for starting and stopping a stopwatch and why?
 - a. thumb
 - b. forefinger
 - c. middle finger
32. What is the official time when three timing systems are used?
 - a. the average of the three times
 - b. the middle time if all are different
 - c. any two identical times
 - d. the longest or worst time

After the Finish

33. When can a protest be made?
34. Can a protest be lodged immediately on completion of a race?
35. The K4 World Champions break a rudder wire during this World Championship Final. The crew finishes the race with difficulty. The team appeals claiming their boat has been sabotaged and demand the race be rerun. What is the ruling?

The Answers

1. d.
2.
 - a. Congress
 - b. Every even year
 - c. Three
 - d. One
3. 4 years
4. The Board of Directors
5. Six. - President; First Vice President; Second Vice President; Third Vice President; Treasurer; Secretary General
6. The Executive Committee formed from the Officers mentioned above but the Secretary General being a non-voting member
7. English, French, and German
8.
 - a. Flatwater Racing; Slalom Racing; Wildwater Racing; Marathon Racing; Canoe Sailing; Canoe Polo; Dragonboat Racing; Medical; Athletes Commission
 - b. Five
 - c. Chairman elected by Congress and four other members appointed by the Board of Directors
 - d. Four years
 - e. The Board of Directors and for two years
9. For this answer refer to Article 33 of the Statutes, paragraph numbered 3.
10.

For an International Regatta the start and finish line must be at right angles to the course which must have a clear width of at least 5 metres for each boat with an overall width of at least 45 metres. The start and finish lines must each be marked by red flags mounted on buoys to show the extremities of these lines.

For World Championships lanes must be marked by buoys along the length of the course with the width of the lanes being 9 metres. The last buoys must be between 1 and 2 metres beyond the finish line. These last buoys must be marked 1 to 9, the number clearly visible from the finish and on the competitor's right hand side. The actual finish line must be marked on its extremities by red flags as above.
11. Six. Diagonally divided, one half red and the other yellow - international signal flag letter "O"
12.
 - a. Yes *(Provided it is a simple timepiece. Care must be taken to ensure a*
 - b. Yes *watch with a multifunctional facility does not infringe Rule 8.4.)*
13. If the organising national federation provides personal numbers, they must be worn. Offending advertising may be covered over with tape, except when the advertiser's name forms part of the title of the competition, i.e. J.V. Motors International Canoe Regatta, or should the advertisers be the main sponsor for the

event. In such a case, all invitation documents should contain the full title of the competition or the name of the main sponsor.

14. The boat fails scrutiny. Reason:
 - a. everything making up the weight of the boat must be fixed in it by the team;
 - b. anything loose or lodged in a boat must be removed;
 - c. if when turned over something falls out of the boat it must stay out;
 - d. competitors are responsible for their own equipment.
15. Have the wrong lane number removed and carried in the competitor's boat. Inform the finish of the position.
16. Nothing
17. **"Start within ten seconds"** *Must be spoken in a calm, relaxed, unhurried voice*
 After between three to five seconds say: *Do not rush*
"Go" *It must be loud and sharp*
18. b.
19. b.
20. b. There is no provision in the rules for this and competitors are responsible for their own equipment
21. The five metre rule
22. Notwithstanding that both umpires are separately required to umpire the whole race, reporting any infraction they may witness, an umpire following in Lane 7 is mainly responsible for covering competitors in Lanes 5 to 9 inclusive, with the other umpire mainly responsible for covering Lanes 1 to 5 inclusive.
23. Lanes are 9 metres apart. Therefore, if a competitor is half a lane's width from another competitor, that is an infraction. The measurement of the 5 metres is gunnel to gunnel.
24. That you do not neglect your main responsibility to cover Lanes 5 to 9. You must view your competitors every two to three seconds and if you are the least concerned of an infraction developing in your main area of Lanes 5 to 9, you must quickly move back into Lane 7, leaving responsibility for Lane 4's infraction to the other umpire.
25. a. If satisfied there has been an infraction by the competitor in Lane 4 show a red flag and make your own written report.
 b.1. Show a red flag and make your own written report
 b.2. Show a red flag and make your own written report

You must remember that umpires, although working together, are severally required to umpire the whole race and report any infraction they may see. Competitors depend on both officials for fair outcome of the race. You cannot be sure what the other umpire may put in his report and it may be that by not filing a report on what you have seen, simply deprives other competitors from their rightful positions.

26. English. However if this is not your first language you must not be put off in filing a report. There is plenty of help, which the Chief Official will find, to assist with translation into English.
27.
 - a. No infraction
 - b. No infraction - not in receipt of assistance outside the race.
 - c. This is an infraction - outside assistance.
28. It is an infraction. If the competitor claims he did paddle as close to the buoys as his equipment would allow, that is no excuse. Competitors are responsible for their own equipment.
29. The Finishing Line Judges must decide by simple majority. In the case of equal voting, the Chief Judge has the casting vote.
30. No. Video films must not be used as a substitute for photo finish.
31.
 - b. It is considered that much quicker and consistent reaction is achieved by use of the forefinger.
32.
 - d.
33. Within 20 minutes of publication of the result.
34. No. Only after the result has been published.
35. The result stands. No matter what evidence may be produced, teams are still responsible for their own equipment.

Well, how did you get on? In an examination based on these questions, you will be expected to get over 30 of the 35 questions correct (85% of the sub-questions), with questions - 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24 and 25 totally correct in every detail.

This is just a sample of the type of questions you may be asked. You will have noticed that many of the answers cannot be found in any rulebook, but are based solely on your practical regatta experience; and the examination is intended as a real test of your experience. The Examiners will need to be left with total confidence that you are able to act correctly in any eventuality.

Far too many candidates take the examination totally ill prepared, not appreciating exactly what is at stake or having any concept in the responsibilities of an International Official. Not surprisingly there are very many failures, far too many. As I explained at the beginning of this paper, candidates must be extremely well prepared. I hope this set of *Basic Guides to Officiating* helps. But, please remember this is only the start. I have only been able to set out the essential information in the Guides and there is vastly more to learn. Officiating is a never-ending learning process in the service of the athlete.

Rowland Jones
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The Racing Rules - Basic Guides to Officiating

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