

Boats and Safety Report 12/03/2016

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Observations from around the conference.

Wetsuits or Drysuits may be required by the host

This topic needs a bit more discussion. Currently there is no definition of a wetsuit and it needs clarification. Should it have minimum coverage? A shorty with 1.5mm is not going to offer as much protection against heat loss in the first week of March as a thicker suit with full legs and complete torso enclosure.

Skip Whyte from URI has proposed a more definitive look at what an acceptable wetsuit should be. He suggests that we have a 2mm minimum with farmer john style. The farmer john should have complete torso coverage and have short sleeves as a minimum. In other words, the armpits and shoulders are covered. Might we have some discussion on why this is better than nothing (as now exists) or if we should consider other alternatives?

If hosts feel that a team is not dealing with the conditions and struggling, they can always direct them to return to shore. If there are not adequate safety boats for the conditions combined with the skill level in attendance, then they can always suspend racing for all participants.

Head injuries from students getting hit on the head by booms is still quite common. With better awareness by coaches combined with protocol by athletic departments, it appears that more injured sailors are staying out of competition for longer periods of time.

Is there an answer or a remedy?

Might helmets reduce the severity of the hit and will we see more programs requiring the usage of head protection for the students which they are entrusted with their health and safety?

Should ICSA have a discussion on changing the mainsail sailplan height or overall weight of booms by modifying class rules? Higher and lighter booms might reduce the frequency of hits. Should NEISA enact a rule to be phased in over eight years (or the lifetime of existing boats)?

Why will our title sponsor of national championships deny potential customers an option to have a taller mast when the added cost is incidental or non-existent?