

## NEISA Executive Committee Conference Call – February 18, 2015 at 4:00pm

### Minutes

1. 4:00pm – Call to Order
2. 4:01pm – Roll Call of Executive Board
  - a. Commissioner Assad (Dartmouth) established that the roll call will take place online using a Google sheet. Additionally, Commissioner Assad laid out the ground rules for voting during the call using the Google sheet.
3. 4:03pm – Approval of January Meeting Minutes
  - a. Commissioner Assad made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the January NEISA Executive Committee Conference Call. The motion was seconded, moved to a vote, and carried unanimously.
4. 4:05pm – Call for new business
5. 4:05pm – Officer Reports
  - a. 4:05pm – Commissioner’s Report (Assad)
    - i. Membership report:
      1. Commissioner Assad explained that UMass Boston will be downgraded from a regular member.
      2. Commissioner Assad identified the following teams as candidates for changes in membership status: Trinity College, Colby College, and Dalhousie University
        - a. **Commissioner Assad asked that all NEISA members reach out to any schools that are candidates for changes in membership status.**
      3. Mr. Legler (Tufts) explained that he has a list of NEISA teams that were once members.
      4. Commissioner Assad also highlighted several potential women’s teams.
      5. Commissioner Assad explained that there is a “Starting a Team” document on the new conference website that NEISA teams should use as a reference when reaching out to schools.
    - ii. Website update:
      1. Commissioner Assad explained that the new conference website is live and functional. **The Commissioner asked that people send any comments or concerns regarding the website to him directly.**
    - iii. Additionally, Commissioner Assad reported that he is working with Bobby Martin to re-establish the conference’s 501(c)(3) status. According to the Commissioner, this is likely to be complete by the end of the calendar year.
  - b. 4:10pm – Scheduling Coordinator’s Report (Pizzo)
    - i. Mr. Pizzo (Bowdoin) explained that he and Peter Bailey (Brown) have been helping to fill in early season conference regattas.

- ii. Additionally, Mr. Pizzo explained that weather is likely to affect many early season events.
- iii. Mr. Pizzo noted that Bowdoin is trying to find an alternate host for the Staake Trophy.
  - 1. Jeff Bresnahan (Conn College) offered to be the backup host for the Staake in the event that Bowdoin cannot host due to weather.
  - 2. No other potential back up hosts came forth at this time.
  - 3. Mr. Pizzo suggested that there be a two-week notification buffer: schools must be notified if the host for the Staake is to be changed to Conn College at least two weeks in advance of the event.
- iv. Greg Wilkinson (BC) suggested that a similar notification deadline be exercised for all early season regattas.
  - 1. **It was agreed that a two-week notification deadline of any weather-related change in venue for early season regattas will be exercised.**
- v. Diana Weidenbacker asked why she cannot find the NEISA live schedule on the website.
  - 1. According to Commissioner Assad, the link is currently there but incorrect; he will work to get it fixed.
- c. 4:20pm – Report from ICSA Committee on shorter seasons (Pizzo)
  - i. Mr. Pizzo reports that the Committee, which was tasked by Mitch Brindley to look at the duration of the ICSA season, has had 1 conference call and is in the process of scheduling another.
  - ii. Mr. Pizzo explained several of the general thoughts of the Committee; however, he emphasized that they are not prepared to publicize any recommendation.
  - iii. Mr. Pizzo elaborated on several preliminary thoughts:
    - 1. The Committee has discussed whether or not college sailing includes too many events (fleet racing, team racing, singlehandeds, match racing).
    - 2. The Committee has also looked at the timing of events in the spring and the possibility of moving early season events to May when teams might have time off.
  - iv. Mr. Pizzo emphasized that the Committee is in the preliminary stages of making its findings and that they are prepared to have several recommendations before the ICSA Board at the annual meeting at the spring nationals.
- 6. 4:30pm – Unfinished Business
  - a. 4:45pm – Proposal to enact 3 year limit on hosting sites for New England Spring Fleet Race Championship
    - i. Commissioner Assad proposed that we enact a three-year hosting limit on Spring Fleet Racing Championship. Commissioner Assad’s motion was seconded.
      - 1. Commissioner Assad clarified that this rule would apply to both women’s and coed fleet race championships.

- ii. Commissioner Assad explained the reasoning behind such a rule. According to Commissioner Assad, there are at least three ideal hosting locations for each venue type, so such a rule would not limit the conference to venues that do not line up with the venue-type of nationals.
  - iii. Mr. Bresnahan called into question validity of the vote taken on the January conference call in which the participants voted, separately, to 1) clarify the state of the five-year rule and 2) eliminate the five-year rule.
    - 1. Mr. Bresnahan explained that he believed this move to be invalid because the majority of the conference was not involved with the call.
    - 2. Additionally, Mr. Bresnahan stated that he believes the five-year rule to be beneficial to the conference as it incentivizes the growth of smaller teams.
      - a. Several other participants echoed this point, regarding smaller team.
  - iv. Mr. Wilkinson stated that he thinks that the conference can handle not having a rule, which would rely upon implicit trust amongst the members of the conference.
  - v. **The motion was seconded and moved to a vote. The motion carried by a margin of 12 to 3.**
7. 4:49pm – New Business
- a. Commissioner Assad presented one additional item of new business. The Commissioner explained that at ICSA meeting, he was charged with asking the conference about the possibility of an 8 weekend competition limit per season for each competitor (not including national championships).
  - b. Mr. Legler (Tufts) voiced his concern that this would eliminate teams’ ability to scrimmage early in the spring when they cannot practice on their home venue.
    - i. Additionally, Mr. Legler said that he thinks this might also be a moot point given that there is a Committee investigating shortening the length of the season.
  - c. Commissioner Assad explained that he thinks of this potential rule as a sort of band-aid – not a sustainable, permanent fix.
8. 4:58pm – Announcements, time of next meeting, and adjournment
- a. Commissioner Assad emphasized prior to adjournment that his door is always open if anyone would like to speak about anything that took place on the call
  - b. Date of next call: March 11 at 4:00pm**
  - c. Conference Call adjourned at 4:58pm.