**NEISA JUDGING/UMPIRES UPDATE**

**Spring Report**

**May 5, 2015**

**SPRING SUMMARY**

Team Racing

The primary focus of my time in the spring is towards team racing. The key events we try to secure umpires for included:

* The Friis – ended up without umpires as we did not decide on the event location until the last minute and did not have the infrastructure in place to utilize umpires
* SNETR – mostly filled umpires through the regatta’s requirement for teams to supply an umpire, I secured 1 of the team’s umpires
* Marchiando – had 4 umpires on Saturday and 3 on Sunday (1 supplied by host). Sunday was more of a challenge because of Easter.
* Team Race New England’s – very successful. 8 umpires both days – a good mix of “US Sailing Umpire Types” and recent alums. About half of the umpires supplied through JC.

In addition, we funded two umpires at the last minute for the Staake at the request of the host.

Fleet Racing

Not a lot of requests for help on finding judges for fleet races this spring. JC needed to assist a bit for Dinghy New Englands.

* Dellenbaugh – host supplied
* Owen – host and JC tried extensively but could not secure judges (the last I heard)
* Emily Wick – host supplied
* Thompson – no report
* BDC – no judges, no requests for judges
* Women’s New Englands – host supplied
* Dinghy New Englands – host and JC supplied

**UMPIRE COMPENSATION REVIEW**

It’s still early days to declare success or failure in the effectiveness of compensating umpires. It was not meant as a pancea, but I can say that it clearly added to the number of resources we saw this spring. There were several young alums who umpired for the first time, and the compensation carrot certainly helped the plea for help. It was also noticeably easier for teams to secure umpires for the SNETR this year as opposed to last – not necessarily directly related to compensation, just an observation. Personally, it was actually more difficult for me to get judges than umpires this spring. I am highly in favor of continuing compensation for umpires, adding just a few resources to the pool really moves the needle.

**LOOKING TOWARDS THE FALL**

As it stands now, I think we are still very challenged for the Match Racing New England’s event. I don’t think we really did anything at the December meeting to solve for the problems around the event. I propose the following or some combination of the following:

* Umpire surcharge to teams attending event
* Require teams to supply an umpire (not a coach)
* Compensate umpires
* Organize an event dinner on Saturday