

Quick recap

During the NEISA meeting, Frank Pizzo summarized the ISCA February board meeting, highlighting financial contributions for the booster tour, changes in All Academic team selection timing, and the need for more umpires at key events. The discussion also covered the 2025 Interconference scheduling, including the problem of unfilled berths early in the season. Efforts to enhance competition between NEISA and MAISA schools were discussed, with plans to organize more interconference competitions. The introduction of the Regional Team Championship to replace the National Invitational, with discussions on hosting locations and berth allocations, was also a key topic. Davin Thompson touched on the implementation of an 80% rule for regatta completion. Lastly, the meeting explored the complexities of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) policies in college sailing, considering their impact on student athletes and suggesting further research into these issues.

Summary

Introduction: ISCA February Meeting and Umpires

Frank Pizzo recapped the ISCA board meeting in February. The board approved a set amount of money to contribute to the booster tour and any additional costs would need to be covered by athletes or fundraising efforts. The ICSCA also made changes to the selection process for the All Academic team, opting to announce selections at the Nationals instead of October or November. Pizzo also highlighted the need for more help with umpires for various events, particularly the Sneer, Thompson Trophy, and Women's team race at Harvard. Zachary Leonard shared his experience of recruiting umpires for a team race, suggesting that starting early and leveraging alumni can be effective. Amanda Callahan mentioned how drone footage has been helpful in the protest rooms.

General Scheduling

In terms of scheduling, Carter Brock shared that the draft for the 2025 Inter Conference schedule is now on the ISCA schedule spreadsheet. Brock also questioned why there were many unfilled berths at high level events. Zachary Leonard brought up that he thinks they aren't filled because teams do not feel they will perform well due to a lack of practice early on. A discussion was held about whether not scoring these weekends would be beneficial. The team also discussed the challenges of balancing practice and scoring events, with Justin Assad and Amanda suggesting that the season is too long and teams may be getting burnt out.

Expanding Racing Between NEISA and MAISA Schools

David Thompson discussed the leeway made in expanding racing between NEISA and MAISA schools to increase competition within the two conferences. He and Justin discussed the plan for two weekends of competition on the open side and one weekend on the women's side. They proposed holding the open event on weekend 9 and the women's event on weekend 8. They also discussed whether or not to have a tiered system where top teams compete against each other. No final decision was made on that front. The next steps include gathering more feedback from their conferences and MAISA before putting together a proposal for possible changes to the schedule or competition structure. David mentioned that the committee would meet in the next two weeks to continue to formalize their proposal for each conference, and this should be done before the May 1st deadline for adding, removing, or adjusting events for the 2025 slate of events.

Regional Team Championship

Diana Weidenbacker then discussed the ongoing work of a subcommittee she is part of, which has elected to rename the National Invitational to the Regional Team Championship. They have chosen weekend 13 (April 27-28th), and are considering hosting it at Rollins in Florida, provided the boathouse is completed. The backup plan is for UNH to host the championship at Salve. Diana emphasized the need to encourage fundamental teams to compete on a regular basis to move them up to regional status. Diana noted that there are 18 berths available: three for MAISA, four for MCSA, three for NEISA, three for PCSSC, four for SAISA, and one for SEISA. She also shared that SAISA had the strongest average CSR score among regional teams. The possibility of NEISA getting more than the allocated three berths was discussed, but Diana believed this was unlikely. Diana discussed the ongoing development of the bid process for their event, with a focus on emphasizing diversity across conferences. She also addressed concerns about construction timelines, stating that the final decision of who will host the event will be made by April 1st at the latest.

80% Rule

David discussed the ISCA board passing the 80% rule which states that if 80% of the first round robin is completed, that constitutes a regatta. This is not in current procedural rules but should be when they are updated at the ISCA spring meeting. He believed it would be beneficial to have this rule standardized for their conference. Amanda suggested that standard language should be sent out for the SIs to address this matter.

NIL Decision

Michael Kalin brought up the topic of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL), and the discussion regarding the idea of student athletes in sailing being paid and how it could affect their

experience. Michael expressed doubt about its feasibility but suggested it might be appropriate to discuss. There was an example of a college sailor receiving a set of sails as a gift, which was deemed acceptable by their compliance team. Jeffrey Bresnahan suggested this could be used as a recruiting tool or to enhance a student's experience. He mentioned that some institutions are already creating their own NIL deals for their athletes. However, concerns were raised about how this would fit with college sailing regulations. Frank proposed researching the topic further and suggested forming a small group to explore this, with undergraduate perspectives also considered. The conversation also touched on changes in college sports, including the possibility of athletes unionizing.

Next steps

Frank will follow up with hosts to help secure umpires for upcoming events.

David and Justin will continue to work on the proposal for the Team Race League with MAISA.

Diana will continue to develop a plan for the upcoming event and ensure all pieces are in place by April 1st.

David will send out standard language for the 80% rule.

Frank will form a small group to explore the implications of NIL in college sailing.