

NEISA Conference Call October 11th

1. Motions:
 - a. No motions

2. Call to Order:
 - a. Roll Call of Executive Board
 - i. Roll Call of Executive Board Online
 - b. Attendance
 - i. Executive Board: Assad, Coakley, Welsh, Pizzo, Wilkinson, Mollicone, O'Connor, Paige, Morin, Lynn, Schwerdtfeger, Morin, Astiz
 - ii. Member Schools: Hendrickson (UCONN), Thompson (Dartmouth), Downey (BC), White (SHU/FF), Weiner (Midd), Leonard (Yale), Callahan (RWU), Chafee (Brown), Lindblad (MIT), Bailey (BYS)

3. Commissioners Report:
 - a. Assad: Membership has been updated more closely. On the coed side, we still have four teams outstanding, Brandies, Holy Cross, Amherst, and Wellesley. We are pretty certain Brandeis is going to sail a women's team at the McGill Cup. Then Wellesley Jeff Duschek is working with them closely. That will take care of another women's and coed team. We have had a bunch of other women's teams show up since our last call. We are at twenty-nine women's team right now. We are only short one from last year. I haven't run the number for other districts yet but remember it is based off of the number of teams in the district as a percentage.
 - b. Mollicone: We had the women's invite a couple weeks ago. Providence college recently came out but their B team wasn't able to finish the event. I don't know how that applies
 - c. Assad: That should be fine I don't know why it is not showing up right now. Thirty-two women's team is pretty good. We are just reviewing the membership reports right now. We have a number of undergrad reps on the phone. Kevin please remember to remind Walter that you guys should start helping plan the club team symposium. This is a VP job. We want to use the undergrad reps so we can
 - d. Kevin: All Coaches if you have experience working with developing teams please reach out.
 - e. Justin: We had a great presentation that Frank put together for different ranked teams. We have a very tangible way to build teams in the conference. I don't have anything else to report on. Any Question for me.

4. Scheduling Coordinators Report:
 - a. Pizzo: Don't have much to report. We have some regattas we need to filling. But I think in terms of the scheduling stuff. Some things the conference needs to consider. We have had some very low-level teams sailed out of conference. Many have dropped a week before the event. NEISA needs to consider a restriction for low level teams. It is worth while talking about. I would continue people to check both schedules for openings. Do we want to impose new rules for teams that are late dropping?

- b. Assad: Do you want to talk about it now?
 - c. Pizzo: Let's do it offline.
 - d. Assad: Frank do you want to talk about the ACT?
 - e. Pizzo: The ACT will be held at Eckerd this year.
 - f. Assad: This is going to be a great event. Flights can be relatively cheap. It is their turn to host. Just a reminder we are still looking for championship hosts. We will make it an open bid process. We'll take proposals till November 30th and we will vote on it at the annual meeting.
5. Old Business:
- a. Match Race New England's:
 - i. Lindblad: I think we are in pretty good shape. Corinthian is very excited along with MIT. I don't know there is an update to competitors that is going out today. Each team will be asked to provide a personal vhf. Coaches will be on the large committee boat near the race course. Communication will be difficult. What I want to do is have coaches and teams talk on the phone. So, sailors don't have to try and get close. Any questions?
 - ii. Pizzo: Can teams pay with credit cards?
 - iii. Lindblad: If I can get a check from NEISA for the entry fee that goes to the Corinthian. I think it would be best for those teams for it to be part of the entry fee.
 - iv. Pizzo: Let's try and do it like the North U clinic
 - v. Lindblad: Agreed the only thing we really need a credit card for is for the damage deposited. Danny Rabin was extremely helpful with putting together the umpire corps.
 - b. 2019 National Championships:
 - i. Assad: Mollicone and I have been researching the sail Newport option.
 - ii. Mollicone: It looks very positive that we can do it at Sail Newport. We are still waiting to hear back regarding pricing. Hopefully we'll have an answer soon. Justin and I have talked about getting more teams involved with.
 - iii. Assad: That is the key part. Having Rhode Island based teams. We don't want to limit it to just Rhode Island teams. We want to incorporate a variety of different schools. We think that is the ideal way to run that.
 - iv. Callahan: How would NEISA feel if Roger Williams ran one of them?
 - v. Assad: What's the boat situation?
 - vi. Wilkinson: I think we the events are broken up over two venues.
 - vii. O'Connor: Harvard would be interested in running an event if it is in Newport.
 - viii. Assad: I would not be opposed to shifting things around. Our initial thought was to have different things switched around.
 - ix. O'Connor: I think if we have different teams host that would be good. Harvard would be up for hosting one part.
 - x. Zach: I think one reason why we are going to Sail Newport. Are these events being massive. We need a large amount of parking infrastructure that is the

best part of Sail Newport. Yale would be interest in hosting a semifinals or finals.

- xi. Mollicone: Sail Newport was very receptive to doing it. The pricing we are still waiting on. If we can lock that in then we start with the Rhode Island's schools. If we have to go outside we can. We should get it lock in first.

c. 2018 Fall Schedule:

- i. Assad: There are a couple challenging things. We need to figure out how people can qualify for the showcase events. Also, we need to figure out the A level events. Lastly, we need to figure all the events. Then the last nothing we need the performance committee to adapt it how we pick regattas. I emailed the coaches list and this was one option. The top twelve teams qualify than a couple teams do a sail off. Option two was to have a spring sail in based on performance ranking for three weekends. Option three. Two teams qualify from one event then two teams qualify the next weekend. Everyone was in favored of option 1. Have qualified teams from the performance rankings but then have the rest do sail ins. I felt pretty comfortable about all of this. I think it gives fair opportunities for teams 13-32 to potential sail in to the regatta. It gives the opportunity to everyone. Any feedback? I know Jeff wanted to see a straight sail in type of system but given we have a three to five-week period I think that a hybrid is a little more practical.
- ii. Mollicone: The top 12 performance rank teams would be based on those few weekends. We would not go back to the previous year. It would be the in-conference weekends.
- iii. Assad: No, we would be going back to last year's results. We need to lock down a solid weekend for this to happen. Specifically, a weekend with no other qualifying opportunities.
- iv. Pizzo: It would have to be weekend four for coed. There is no conflicting match race or signals that weekend.
- v. Assad: I would think that we would to figure out women's. Maybe the hosting opportunity would go to 18 boat fleets starting with the 13th ranked team.
- vi. Wilkinson: Justin be careful with the hosting thing. We have all our teams host different level events. I think we should leave the hosting opportunities open. I don't think you want to limit the hosting. Because there could be years where you give up a lot of great hosts.
- vii. Mollicone: What is the negative of having five qualifying spots from the first three weekends.
- viii. Pizzo: Simply you would just be qualifying the whole time.
- ix. Wilkinson: Are we finalizing this?
- x. Assad: Next call
- xi. O'Connor: The old school system mixed with a hybrid might be ideal.
- xii. Assad: If there is one qualifying event for teams that are not qualified then everyone can focus on qualifying. I am not a fan of that system.

- xiii. Coakley: This seems counterintuitive compared to what we just shifted to. Are we not trying to provide options for rest weekends?
- xiv. Assad: it is not our responsibility to develop rest weekends. If people have other ideas please do share them. We want to do what is best for the conference.

d. Scheduling:

- i. Pizzo: My vision is to preserve the systems that we have created. Continue to have the draft for the intersectional. Then for all in conference regattas do it off performance rankings. Just continuing how we schedule in the past. It doesn't reinvent the wheel.
- ii. Wilkinson: We went to the unconference draft for the in conference intersectional regattas. We are now sailing the first year of that correct?
- iii. Pizzo: Yes
- iv. Wilkinson: If the draft was an improvement shouldn't we keep the draft then.
- v. Pizzo: I think the draft focused on the top 18 teams of our conference.
- vi. Pizzo: We will have more access to things.
- vii. Assad: Do we need to be concerned about the B level events?
- viii. Pizzo: Until B level is filled it won't be an issue.
- ix. Mollicone: The first three weekends of the fall will be based off last year's result. Then the Schell and Urn will be based off rankings.
- x. Pizzo: Again, I think it is about conserving a lot of what we have already done
- xi. O'Connor: Can we get a gifted whiz kid to plug in a system what each regatta would look like?
- xii. Assad: That's a good idea.
- xiii. Pizzo: Are you asking what the teams would be at this event?
- xiv. O'Connor: Yes

e. Defining the roll of NEISA rep

- i. Assad: I have Stan and Jeff working on defining the roll of the NEISA rep. I'm trying to find a couple more people to get involved with it. I'm trying to get people who are not already involved with committees already. Mostly what are their responsibilities. We are going to put it in the rules and regs. If anyone has any good people please email me. We are looking to add four more people.

6. New Business

a. Rankings:

- i. Assad: I know that some people in the conference are frustrated that the rankings don't reflect performance. Instead focuses on how strong their historical performance and roster is. I have long advocated for the system where three people do a top 20 that is worth 60 percent while the other forty is a poll. I think the rankings can be much better developed. I don't have a strong opinion.
- ii. Wilkinson: Rather than getting bogged down with the details of ranking teams maybe we should approach this is how should ICSA do the rankings.

Maybe take the rankings in house. We don't need a magazine to distribute the rankings. We should be able to administer ourselves.

- iii. Assad: There is a value to having rankings in the magazine. While it can be frustrating to work with them they do get it done.
- iv. O'Connor: Maybe we do the rankings and they publish.
- v. Leonard: We were doing the rankings with a panel of three people and a couple coaches complained about the system. I suggest you look up who complained last time.
- vi. Assad: Roger that.

7. Next Meeting:

- a. November 8th at 11 am