

2012 NEISA Fall Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2012

1. The meeting was called to order by President, Ryan Mullins '13 BC, at 7:03pm.
2. Roll call was performed by Ryan Mullins. The following Executive Committee Members were present: Mike O'Connor, Ryan Mullins, Isabel Ruane (proxy for Ben Lamont), Jeff Bresnahan, Alex Rudkin, Max Caballero, Brian Swingly (proxy for Mark Zagol), Alex Giordano, John Storck (proxy for Justin Assad), Alden Reid (proxy for Greg Wilkinson), Evan Woodford, Frank Pizzo, Dan Rabin (proxy for John Mollicone until he arrives). These people were also in attendance: Amanda Callahan, Emily Mademann, David Thompson, Fran Charles, Ken Legler, Nick Ewenson, Zack Leonard, Matt Largess.
3. Additions to the agenda:
 - A. Fran Charles requested that the Boats and Safety Committee look into compiling statistics on concussions in collegiate sailing.
 - B. Ken Legler asked that the Priddy and Nickerson Trophies be added to agenda item 7-B-v.
4. Commissioner O'Connor made a motion to accept the Minutes from the 2011 NEISA Annual Meeting, which had been distributed electronically earlier in the week. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
5. The Commissioner reported that he is asking the Finance Committee to prepare a budget for NEISA to be approved at the 2012 Annual Meeting.
6. Treasurer Bresnahan reported that we still have \$11,000 in dues still outstanding. He is working on the budget for 2013.
7. Performance Ranking System (PRS) Report.
 - A. Mr. Swingly stated that the PRS Committee is considering changes in the following areas
 - i. Possible reduction in the scoring value of C-level regattas to accurately reflect the number of teams at those regattas. They are currently scoring as if 12 teams are at each regatta even when there may only be 7.
 - ii. The committee will also consider adjusting the value of scores at lower level women's regattas.
 - iii. Mr. Mollicone requested that the PRS Committee consider adding ICSA Singlehanded Nationals in the slate of regattas to count for the PRS.
 - iv. He also requested that the committee consider adjusting the value of the Hap Moore Team Race.
 - v. Ken Legler suggested that Match Race Nationals should be included in the PRS also.
 - vi. Fran Charles suggested that week 10 could be removed from the PRS altogether.
 - a. Dan Rabin suggested that only B-level regattas are counted that weekend; i.e. RI State Champs.
 - B. Mr. Bresnahan proposed that the PRS reduce the number of coed regattas counted from 7 to 5 in order to eliminate the pressure to sail your top players every weekend. He claimed that counting 5 regattas would enable teams to give players a weekend off, while still be able to achieve the ranking your team desires and deserves.

- i. Mr. Ewenson asked if the results would vary in counting only 5.
 - a. Bresnahan did some of the math and stated that there would be no changes in teams 1-6, but we would see some changes in the 7-12 range
- 8. Schedule Changes
 - A. John Storck reported on Justin Assad's behalf that ICSA is considering a new schedule framework that divides the fall season into three segments wherein the first three weeks are all intraconference competition, then the next four weeks are interconference competition and the last three weeks are for championships. He pointed out that part of the impetus is to make intraconference competition better in conferences other than NEISA and MAISA.
 - i. Commissioner O'Connor pointed out that there are difficulties with adjusting the schedule, because traditional hosts will not want to change the dates or formats of their regattas. He also pointed out that this would not weaken the level of competition in NEISA and that intraconference competition within NEISA would be far better than any other conference.
 - ii. Amanda Callahan asked from which conference this initiative arose.
 - a. Storck replied: NEISA and MAISA
 - b. Callahan asked what the effect would be on minor trophy regattas. Mr. O'Connor responded that our regattas would not need to change much.
 - c. Colin Merrick attempted to broaden the discussion by proposing a fall team racing qualifier. Mr. O'Connor commented that he did not like that idea, because, as coach, he wants more time to develop his team prior to qualifying for Nationals.
 - d. Zack Leonard asked if this is a band aid for larger scheduling problems.
 - e. Alden Reid (holding proxy for Greg Wilkinson) argued that changing the fall schedule will not fix the spring. O'Connor added that "fixing the fall" might be the first step towards "fixing the spring".
 - f. Mr. Legler posits that he likes the idea of the first phase of intraconference regattas because it saves money and our competition will be just as good.
 - g. O'Connor pointed out that the goals of this proposition are: reducing the travel burden on the student-athletes and improving intraconference competition throughout ICSA.
 - h. Leonard fails to see the point if doesn't save money. The spring is more problematic; fixing the fall is only worthwhile if it will help to fix the spring. Legler responded by saying the problem in the spring is that MAISA can team race earlier than we can so they qualify earlier. They are unwilling to qualify later because of academic constraints on weekend 14.
 - i. Mr. O'Connor suggested that coed semifinals operate like women's on the days preceding the championship, thereby freeing up weekend 13 for conference team race champs. He added that this needs to figure out in NEISA and brought to ICSA at the Midwinter Meeting.

- j. Mr. Bresnahan suggested a weekday meeting in Boston prior to the ICSA Midwinter Meeting to finalize this proposal.
- B. Mr. O'Connor stated that we need to discuss removing the Urn from the Interconference Schedule with MAISA and SAISA before we take their berths away. He also asked how many NEISA teams did not get to sail the Urn that wanted to.
 - i. Mr. Legler emphasizes that IF we need this change, it is good. But DO we need it?
 - ii. O'Connor sees merit in having equal qualification systems for coed and women.
 - iii. Mr. Leonard counters that there are fewer quality interconference regattas for women's sailors that there are for coeds; therefore, we need to keep the Urn as a competitive interconference regatta.
 - iv. Mr. Reid suggested that we take a careful look at how many NEISA teams attend this regatta and want to attend before making this change.
 - v. Mr. Leonard said considering the state of affairs with berth negotiations with MAISA, we shouldn't be taking away berths here.
 - vi. Mr. Pizzo countered that Vermont was shut out this year and that is a shame.
 - vii. Mr. Bresnahan does not think subtracting these berths would rock the boat. He thinks the team racing berths are a separate issue.
 - viii. Commissioner O'Connor stated that he will talk with MAISA and SAISA to gauge their desire to have those berths before proceeding.
- C. Mr. O'Connor moved the discussion to adjusting the number berths at interconference regattas.
 - i. Mr. Reid stated that the recent shuffling of berths with NEISA and MAISA including team race berths is problematic because of SNETR. That is the only team race in our conference that they want to come to. They want more berths. We want more berths.
 - ii. Mr. Charles pointed out that Friis/Marchiando and BDCCC have been swapped to encourage MAISA teams to come up here for another weekend.
 - a. Reid states we need to keep MAISA happy so we can have berths at SMC TR.
 - b. Rabin says we shouldn't bend over backwards for MAISA
 - c. Reid: Do we have a third team race regatta on the SNETR/Ferrarone weekend
 - d. Leonard argues that we add a third event and limit teams to sending a team to either SNETR or Ferrarone, thereby forcing their B teams to go to the third regatta. We need to compromise with MAISA and be able to take advantage of their warmer weather is a fair way. We need to negotiate with a plan and effort.
 - e. The third regatta is well received throughout the room
 - f. Bresnahan thinks it is not a berth issue, but it is an umpire issue. We do not have enough people to umpire three regattas on a weekend.
 - g. O'Connor asks, will a third regatta with berths for MAISA's lower teams appease them?
- D. Mr. Reid explains that his research indicates that there is sufficient time in the allotted three days to run a 16 team regatta at the ICSA Team Race Nationals. The expansion to 16 teams is a good first step in getting more NEISA berths at Nationals.

- a. Leonard points out that berth allotments must change otherwise we are just adding bad team to the championship ergo making it worse.
 - b. O'Connor suggests that we need to figure out who would get the berths before we go any further.
 - c. Commissioner O'Connor tables this discussion until later (see section F. below).
- E. Selection of host colleges and sites for 2013 NEISA Championships and Qualifying Regattas
- a. Mollicone proposes Brown host Coed Dinghy Champs in 2 fleets (420s and FJs using PC's boats with RWU's sails)
 - 1. Upon hearing this Mr. Charles withdrew MIT's bid.
 - b. Mr. Legler proposes Tufts host Women's Championship
 - 1. Bresnahan asks if we can make the Duplin a fleet race this year.
 - c. O'Connor proposes Harvard host Team Race Championship, as does Conn College.
 - 1. It was brought to a vote. Harvard won (8 in favor; 1 opposed)
 - d. Mr. Mollicone makes a motion to eliminate the five year hosting restriction. It was seconded by O'Connor, who said that very few sites can host this regatta well, so we shouldn't limit them from so doing.
 - 1. **The motion to remove the five year hosting restriction was brought to a vote; it passed (11 in favor; 2 opposed)**
 - e. There are no offers to host the NE Dinghy Tournament. Commissioner O'Connor will seek out a host.
 - f. There are no current proposals to host the Match Race Championship
 - 1. Legler points out that Sail Maine and Sail Newport are both potential hosts. Sail Newport is a better venue, but it would cost much more. Leonard and O'Connor agree that it would be worth the cost.
 - 2. Mollicone said that NYYC will host it every other year; perhaps CGA could do it on their off years. Swingly said CGA can do it in 2015, not before.
 - g. MIT proposes to host the Priddy Trophy as a one day regatta on spring weekend 12.
 - h. Tufts proposes to host the Nickerson.
 - i. Men's Singlehanded's: Yale
 - j. Women's Singlehanded's: BC
 - k. No bids for hosting the ACT. O'Connor will find a host.
 - l. O'Connor made a motion to approve the slate of host sites as outlined above. It was seconded and brought to a vote; it passed (all in favor).
- F. Mr. Reid points out that if ICSA expands the field at Team Race Nationals, we need to change the berth allotment formula for NEISA to get another berth. He suggests that the two new berths could remain at-large and be appointed by ICSA. **He made a motion to request that ICSA expand the field to 16 teams at the ICSA Team Race Championship; O'Connor seconded.**

1. Leonard suggested that in the proposal ICSA should be asked to examine the competitiveness of Team Race Nationals given the existing berth allotment formula
 2. Reid amended his motion to include Leonard's clause listed above (F-1). The motion was brought to a vote. It passed (11 in favor; 0 opposed).
- G. Commissioner O'Connor opens up the discussion about creating a document defining the role of the NEISA Rep at regattas.
1. After some discussion, not all of which was on topic, O'Connor suggested that the Competition Committee look into drafting such a document/rule.
- H. O'Connor stated that NEISA is due to host the ICSA Singlehanded Championships in 2013. As of now the venue is Sail Newport. The host is either Brown or Harvard.
9. New Business
- A. Amanda Callahan suggests that we need to begin paying our umpires just like officials in other sports. It would improve the quality of umpiring and it would increase the pool of umpires and judges. She suggests that they be compensated in a manner similar to other officials: \$125-\$200 per day.
1. Mr. Healy proposes that competing teams either bring volunteer umpires or pay for umpires.
 2. Mr. Storck argues that payment would not increase the pool that much, but it would make it easier to hold them accountable.
 3. O'Connor asked is this proposal for ICSA or NEISA only? Will the added cost drive teams away from our regattas?
 4. Ms. Callahan notes that all varsity teams have budget line items to pay for officials. Teams should have no problem arguing this point with their administrations.
 5. Mr. Legler disagrees. He thinks paying umpires will force budgets to be reduced in other areas or additional funds will have to be raised.
 6. Mr. O'Connor states that if we want to make umpiring better, we may have to pay more.
 7. Mr. Leonard suggests that we make the change in NEISA first and cover the out of conference teams at our regattas. If it works in NEISA, MAISA and SAISA will follow suit. So we are talking about three regattas: SNETR, Friis/Marchiando and New England Championship.
 8. Mr. O'Connor asked the Finance Committee to look at costs and see if we can budget for it.
- B. Mr. Charles brings up his vehement objection to the new sponsorship contract between ICSA and Laser Performance and the manner in which it was negotiated. He believes that ICSA President is not allowed to make a change in the conditions of the championships, which this amounts to.
1. Mr. Charles would like NEISA to ask that the contract be reviewed and approved by the ICSA Board of Directors. He does not want to bring up the issue of the contract itself, he is concerned that the BOD did not have a say in the signing of the contract.
 2. Mr. O'Connor confirmed the ICSA Executive Committee did approve the contract via email.

3. **Mr. Charles made a motion to request that a Special Meeting of the ICSA Board of Directors be convened to review the contract and the manner in which it was negotiated. It was seconded by Alex Rudkin. It came to vote and passed (10 in favor; 0 opposed)**
- C. Mr. Bresnahan removed his proposal regarding moving team race nationals to the fall
- D. **Mr. Reid made a motion to request that ICSA change the conditions of the National Championship to allow transportation of the perpetual trophies to the Championship sites**
 1. There would be significant costs. \$1000 for a case per trophy plus shipping.
 2. **The motion was seconded by O'Connor, It came to a vote. It passed (11 in favor; 0 opposed)**
- E. Interconference Regatta Protocol
 1. Mr. Leonard points out that hosts should not be allowed to end racing at interconference regattas prior to the 3:00pm end time.
 2. He also brought up the problem of not having umpires or judges on the water at major regattas, such as the Danmark, Navy Fall and the Urn.
 - a. He posed the question, who is responsible for getting judges and umps on the water? The Coordinator or the host college. The answer came from Mr. O'Connor; Host colleges are ultimately responsible.
 - b. The system is not working. We need to establish more formal protocol with respect to recruitment of judges and umpires.
 - c. Mr. Mollicone proposed the creation of a shared document (Google Doc) so that coaches can work with the Jury Coordinator to ensure quality.
- F. NEISA is slated to host the spring nationals in 2015. We need to have a formal proposal for the ICSA Midwinter Meeting.
 1. Brown and Salve Regina co-host at NYYC; 5/25-6/3/15
- G. NEISA Bids to host Coed Semifinals in 2014 and beyond
 1. 2015 Boston: Charles River Basin
 2. 2016 CGA and Yale: 2 fleets at each venue.
- H. Bids to host ICSA match Race Championships in 2014 and beyond.
- I. Concussive Injuries. Mr. Charles would like for the Boats and Safety Committee to ask each team to obtain any available data on head injuries from their respective Sports Medicine Departments.
 1. Swingly and O'Connor will assist in the compilation of said data.
- J. Date of next meeting: December 1, 2012 at MIT.
- K. Adjournment: 9:33pm