

**November 10, 2016 Agenda**  
**NEISA Executive Committee Conference Call**

Motions:

1. None

Action Items:

- 1.) Reminder: NEISA Annual Meeting is Saturday December 3 from 9AM-12:30PM at MIT
- 2.) Review October call minutes
- 3.) Read Rules and Regulations document assembled by Assad et al. that is on the NEISA website
- 4.) Look over 2017 Schedule draft. Link to Google Spreadsheet is in the email signature of Frank Pizzo's scheduling emails

Minutes:

- 1.) Call to Order (Assad)
  - a.) Roll Call of Executive Board (online)
  
  - b.) Attendance
    - i.) Executive Board: Assad, Forsberg, Coakley, Reid, Pizzo, Charles, Swingly, Weidenbacker, Mollicone, Welsh, Florio, Lee
    - ii.) Other: Alex Levin (Midd), Taylor (Mitchell), Joe Morris (Yale), Greg Wilkinson (BC), Jeff Bresnahan (Conn), Skip Whyte (URI), Quentin Chaffee (Brown), Amanda Callahan (RWU)
  
- 2.) Approval of October Minutes (Assad)
  - a.) Motion to Approve minutes from October Executive Conference Call (Assad)
    - i.) Seconded
    - ii.) Swingly: Some statements misattributed
    - iii.) Coakley: Let me know what to change, I'll edit and resubmit for the December Annual meeting
  
- 3.) Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees
  - a.) Commissioner's Report (Assad)
    - i.) Updates to Bylaws and Rules and Regulations
      - (1) We looked through various resources to write current bylaws and rules and regulations to reflect our current practices and historical

traditions from older bylaws. We should be operating with a functioning set of bylaws so they can give us a set of rules to follow. Rules and regulations should be a functioning document that is updated year-to-year so everyone knows what the rules are in NEISA. New coaches could then read through it and not need the perspective of attending every executive committee meeting since 2006 to understand.

(2) I'd be happy to field any questions.

(3) Skip Whyte: Where do you have to go to find them?

(4) Assad: They were emailed to the Coaches list and uploaded on the NEISA website. Everything should be on that one document. I encourage everyone to take some time to look through that and make sure everything is reflected correctly.

ii.) Annual Meeting

(1) Will be 9AM - 12:30PM at MIT, December 3

(2) Minutes from last meeting reflect that everyone agrees a face-to-face meeting once a year is important. This is open to all members of the organization. The scheduling meeting can be attended virtually.

iii.) Standardizing 10:30 Sat/9:30 Sun. Report Times

(1) This is a discussion topic that we're looking at for the Annual Meeting.

(2) For ages in NEISA, we had 9:30 report times for basically every event. I think it is logical to move everything back to a 10:30 Saturday start time.

(3) Whyte: The venues with single fleets struggle when you lose an extra hour of competition time. We're finding that a lot of teams are still traveling on Fridays if they're far-away schools. Is this correct for Dartmouth and Bowdoin?

(4) Assad: Mostly not, when there is a 10:30 report time we generally stay on campus on Friday night.

(5) Whyte: Going to a standardized 10:30 time for all events will make it really hard for single fleet hosts to host attractive events. It won't be worth going to that long-distance venue because you won't get off enough races.

(6) Assad: That's reasonable and I think we need more discussion on that. Let's save it for the Annual Meeting when everyone is in the room together

(7) Bresnahan: I won't be at that meeting so I'd like to chime in. We are a single fleet venue, so this affects us. I like the 10:30 time

because it means we can be set up when everyone shows up and we can get started right away. I understand what Skip is saying about other single fleet venues, but you can just take advantage of racing for another hour. Skip did a great job at the Moody but with the tow-in and tow-out that might make it different from other venues.

(8) Whyte: We were racing at 10:40. It is a challenge, especially when we didn't have much breeze, to get enough races off to make people happy. I'm concerned that standardization is going to prejudice single-fleet schools.

(9) Assad: We hear you on that and there's a lot of validity to it. Let's save it for the Annual Meeting

(10) Whyte: Sounds good

iv.) Membership Update

(1) Preliminary membership report is on the NEISA website

(2) Pretty certain that Amherst College participated in a Coed event so we should make sure the document reflects that

(3) If you know of any NEISA teams that sailed events that are not listed there, let me know

(4) University of New England was a provisional team and I'm pretty sure they sailed a women's team this weekend, so we need to get the RP form filled out correctly to count them for our total number of teams

(5) We had roughly 40 teams last year and we're at 40 again if we bump Amherst up to a provisional team at the Annual Meeting

(6) Any team that hasn't sailed since 2015, we lose those and cannot count for next year. We should have an eye on those teams that are a couple years out and should actively reach out to them in the next year.

v.) 2018 Spring Championship Bids

(1) Championship Committee Update from National Championship Committee (Wilkinson)

(a) ICSA Championship Committee is going to bring 3 important things to the Winter Meeting

(b) New Spring Nationals rotation

(i) Proposal: SAISA, MAISA, NEISA, At-Large Bid (presumable from one of the other 4 conferences)

(ii) We are going to recommend that those bids be due 2 years out and when the initial bid is submitted; a championship-ready fleet must be in place. Those

are boats that must be able to work, in the ICSA's eyes, if a new order of boats doesn't work out

- (iii) Assad: Any gauge on the receptiveness of the non-NEISA and MAISA conferences on that?
- (iv) Wilkinson: The Committee was virtually unanimous on this recommendation
- (v) Fran Charles: It sounds like we may have a problem hosting nationals because our title sponsor won't provide boats. Is that our problem?
- (vi) Wilkinson: No, the problem is producing 36 boats. That is difficult in other conferences. 18 was a struggle and 36 is a considerably larger struggle
- (vii) Will Laser Performance be providing any boats in the future?
- (viii) Assad: Not sure. This is a good discussion topic for the Annual Meeting but it's hard to change in the short term, even though people are frustrated about the way that was negotiated

(c) 2018 Bids

- (i) Have an immediate need to solicit 2018 bids
- (ii) Charleston is taking 2017 championships
- (iii) Northwest is supposed to be hosting 2018 but can't get the boats, so we need a new host
- (iv) Will be an open bidding process for all conferences
- (v) We are soliciting 2018 bids that

(d) Shroud Adjustment

- (i) Proposal that there will be no adjustment to standard rigging at 2017 nationals
- (ii) This is a class rule to capture the intent that shroud adjustment is not something you can change without written permission in the SIs. Nationals should not allow shroud adjustments until they are permitted in the procedural rules
- (iii) We were settling on which regattas you could adjust at and the championship committee felt strongly that this would not be prohibited until it's allowed in the procedural rules. Until it's codified, we should not do this in the national championships
- (iv) Charles: Will this affect conference and interconference events?

- (v) Wilkinson: No. There is a class rule that plays into this. When you first got boats with sta-masters, you needed written permission from the ICSA President to allow adjustments in an event's SIs. The rule is written really poorly. The championship committee's intent on this is eliminating the testing we've been going through at some venues and the idea is that you get a notice on Monday that if a certain regatta is windy then you can adjust your shrouds. They want the rule to be more clear and for schools that allow shroud adjustments to follow the correct procedure. At the national championship level, it won't be allowed until it's obvious that you can do it wherever you go
- (vi) Charles: So it's not a movement to do away with it at a conference or interconference level, but to make sure you ask permission before you do it?
- (vii) Wilkinson: Exactly. It needs to be thought out and receive permission from the ICSA President.

vi.) ICSA Meeting Items

- (1) If we do have anything to propose at the ICSA level, we need to send it to Danielle a month before the Winter Meeting. Take some time to think about it and bring it to the NEISA meeting if you have anything you want discussed at the ICSA level.

b.) Scheduling Coordinator's Report (Pizzo)

i.) Scheduling Meeting Plans

- (1) Will do scheduling draft on December 8 via conference call.
- (2) Likely start at 2PM, will send out instructions next week
- (3) If you want to be there in person, it's at Dartmouth College. Let me know if you plan on attending
- (4) I created a draft of the 2017 NEISA schedule and have received feedback. Please look through it and let me know if you have any thoughts. We have flexibility with NEISA regattas but have less flexibility with interconference regattas.
- (5) We have a lot of regattas that need hosts for this spring and next fall
- (6) We will be soliciting bids for the 2018 Spring NEISA championships

- (7) Going out Monday are the penalty points that teams have accumulated for late drops and no shows. It's on the schedule document on a tab to the right.
- (8) Performance rankings are not finalized until after this weekend, so we will finalize draft rankings after that
- (9) Amanda Callahan: Could we do a flip-flop of the Hurst and Moody to make them more balanced?
- (10) Whyte: The Hurst weekend is our URI alumni weekend, so that would be a roadblock to move.
- (11) Callahan: The Hurst is a 3-division interconference and the Truxton is a 4-division interconference, while the Moody is just a 2-division regatta. It would make more sense to flip those so teams aren't stretched so thin
- (12) Assad: We can't change this for 2017 but can look into it for 2018

ii.) ACT/ACC/WACC

- (1) Assad: Some confusion about who can sail what regattas and whether you can sail both ACC and ACT, if you're in WACC could you enter a women's team at the ACT, etc.
- (2) Spoke with Mike Callahan about it and are thinking the following: ACC qualifying teams get the first set of berths there. The next 7 teams are offered berths at the ACT. The winner of the NEISA Fall Tournament gets a berth at the ACT. Then the remaining berths can go to the other team coed teams and then to the Womens teams.
- (3) Teams should not get multiple berths at the ACT
- (4) Confusing to explain over the phone but the three conferences want to come to an agreement
- (5) Bresnahan: If we're going to continue going to ACCs, we should talk about whether we should consider going to SAISA. We spend a lot of money on the conference sending teams down there for a fall championship. It's a budget issue.
- (6) Assad: That's true. Right now, SAISA only hosts every 6 years, but it is a real concern. I'll take that up with the other commissioners when I talk to them

4.) Old Business

a.) Club Team Symposium and Handbook (Forsberg)

i.) Handbook

- (1) We have 9 sections on what new teams would need to know in NEISA
    - (2) We still need to finish with some general information on NEISA and fundraising
    - (3) Should be ready to send out for people to look over it soon
  - ii.) Symposium
    - (1) Looking at having it after the Annual Meeting
    - (2) Book room at MIT
    - (3) Have panel discussions and discuss issues in groups
    - (4) 4 topics that most teams asked for help with
      - (a) Fundraising/Budgeting
      - (b) Team organization and implementation
      - (c) Scheduling
      - (d) Recruiting
    - (5) Attendance is critical, it won't be successful if we don't have many people
  - iii.) Weidenbacker: Wouldn't it be helpful to send out your draft so established teams can help pass along their knowledge?
    - (1) Forsberg: Yes, we have a committee of 6 people working on that
    - (2) Weidenbacker: Great, the varsity coaches will have good insights
  - iv.) Assad: We should have the same room booked for the symposium after the annual meeting, so people can just grab lunch and come back to the same place. Thank you to Jade Forsberg and Hannah Lynn, who have been working hard on this project
- b.) 2017 Spring Championship Updates
- i.) Whyte: Here is Ken's update for the New England Team Race Champs at Tufts
    - (1) Larks
      - (a) White Caps will make sure the boats are ready to go
    - (2) Umpire Boats
      - (a) In need of more
      - (b) Needs up to 6 more in addition to the ones he has and the ones he's getting from Medford Yacht Club
    - (3) Umpires
      - (a) Reasonably confident that they'll be in good shape
      - (b) Need 15-20, have a lot lined up
      - (c) Will be using Medford Yacht Club as umpire base
    - (4) Ken is currently in the middle of Mystic Lake at the Dark of Night Regatta

- ii.) Mollicone: Women's Championship at Brown
    - (1) Ordered our 18 Zim FJs
    - (2) They will slowly be delivered throughout March and April
    - (3) Dellenbaugh will be in one fleet of Z420s still, but will have FJs ready for Womens Championship
    - (4) Some alums lined up for judging, want a few more who are not affiliated with Brown
    - (5) May need a few boats to get coaches on the water
    - (6) Have not decided on Chief Judge yet but will hopefully have one by the end of the year
  - iii.) Wilkinson: Coed Championship at BC
    - (1) Have gone back and forth with Coast Guard about whether we need Marine Event Permits
      - (a) Have had mixed info in the past
    - (2) Will need help with powerboats
      - (a) Borrowing some from Coast Guard, BU, etc.
      - (b) The more boats we have, the more flexibility with rotations, racing area, and substitutions
    - (3) No Chief Judge lined up but do have PRO
- c.) Draft Committee Report
- i.) Pizzo: Looked at events with multiple hosts and making sure that hosts are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged in the draft.
  - ii.) Proposal 1: There should only be one host berth for the fleet race interconference regattas.
  - iii.) Assad: We don't have a quorum so we can't vote on a scheduling matter, so this can only be a discussion
  - iv.) Bresnahan: The draft was a huge success but there was one team that benefitted disproportionately because they hosted a few events with a lot of berths. That team will benefit even more if we open up co-host berths. We shouldn't try to fix a problem that will penalize other teams even more.
  - v.) Pizzo: We want a proposal that will allow only one co-host. For those regattas, they have to figure out who gets the host berth. Our second proposal was a way to even out what Jeff was alluding to, where some regattas in NEISA has 12-14 NEISA berths and that host teams don't have to take a host berth until 12-13 other teams have chosen other events. We propose that host teams must select their own event after 8 other teams chose their event. The goal is that hosts are not hurt or helped by the size

or popularity of the regatta. Thus, the hosts must select their own event after 8 other teams have done so and not wait until the very end.

- vi.) Assad: To clarify, there is a proposal from the committee for that second point?
- vii.) Pizzo: Yes
- viii.) Bresnahan: It worked really well last year when there just were no host berths. It was a hard pill to swallow but it was fair. If you take those host picks out of the draft, that makes the pool smaller and harder to get.
- ix.) Pizzo: We did have host berths last year, but the hosts had to take their own regatta when there was 1 spot remaining. You did have to draft your event
- x.) Bresnahan: If you're saying that you want to give the host an automatic berth, you lop off all of those picks in the draft before the draft has even started
- xi.) Assad: Jeff, I think we hear your point on this. Does anyone want to speak on this before Frank and Skip respond?
- xii.) Swingly: I spoke with Jeff about this the other day. You still have to draft your own regatta as a host, unless I'm mistaken about the proposal. It just means that 2-3 teams won't be able to select it. For the Thompson Trophy in particular, in the years that Conn. is supposed to host but Coast Guard doesn't get a non-host berth, we will not be able to host it. We cannot host a regatta if we don't have a berth. This significantly affects that regatta.
- xiii.) Charles: MIT will not be hosting events they are not participating in. We are happy to lend our facilities to other schools if we're racing, but we are not in the business of giving out our facilities to regattas that MIT is not competing in.
- xiv.) Wilkinson: I think we're going down the right road. Years ago, we defined how you get a co-host berth. It was something significant, like loaning an entire fleet or your facility. There are no shadow co-host berths anymore. We have tackled the co-hosting thing, but have been having trouble with the draft. If you're Coast Guard hosting the Danmark, you have to pick it after 8 others do but if you're Tufts hosting the Hood, you have to pick it after 17 others do. That's not how it should be. Popularity deals with how early events go, so the way to deal with this may be to allow the co-host berths to continue but to apply the second rule Frank was talking about to those berths. The host berths can be preserved but the 9th and 10th berths must be taken by the co-hosts.
- xv.) Weidenbacker: I agree, if you host you should get to play in your regatta. Thus, why shouldn't it be automatic?
- xvi.) Pizzo: That would favor the teams that historically host regattas.

- xvii.) Wilkinson: It used to be that being ranked first in NEISA guaranteed you your spot at any regatta. Now, you need to strategically pick events no matter how well you do.
- xviii.) Pizzo: How does this proceed? Do we have to do this at the annual meeting and then have it take effect at the draft the next week?  
Assad: Yes, so we can take a vote on items like this and then have time to plan out our drafts. We'll take a vote at the Annual Meeting
- xix.) Bresnahan: Somewhat unrelated; is there a virtual option for the Annual Meeting?
- xx.) Assad: We aim to make that meeting accessible to everyone. Maybe we can do a WebX type thing, but there isn't a really good way to have good audio from a room like that. I'm not super confident it will go very well. At the end of the day, the Annual Meeting happens once a year and it's each member's choice whether they attend it or not. We will do our best to provide a virtual option.

#### 5.) New Business

- a.) Tufts would like to host the Hap Moore (Tyler Paige)
  - i.) Assad: We'll discuss that at the Annual Meeting

#### 6.) Announcements and Time of Next Meeting (Assad)

- a.) Next meeting: Annual Meeting - December 3, 2016 at 9AM