

NEISA Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting Notes
2019-09-18

Action Items

1. NEISA Specific Action Items

- a. Greg: Next steps in drafting changes to PR 26 and develop criteria to deny appeal at ladder events

2. NEISA Action Items involving the ICSA

- a. Frank Pizzo to follow up about the Rudkin TR and President's Trophy

3. ICSA Action Items

Motions

- 1. Motion to approve meeting minutes from May call
 - a. None opposed
- 2. Motion to draft a change to PR 26 and bring it to the winter meeting. It should capture that extreme cases is lack of reasonable care in handling boats, including willful intent, and the requirement that they consult the ICSA president or commissioner before enacting the rule.
 - a. None opposed
- 3. Motion to develop criteria to deny appeal at ladder events, and that we bring it to the winter meeting.
 - a. None opposed

Next Call: October 9th, 2019

Meeting Notes:

I. Call to order

- A. **Roll Call:** Justin Assad (Commissioner), Paige Clarke (President, Coleen Ross as proxy), Coleen Ross (Secretary), Frank Pizzo (Schedule Coordinator), Greg Wilkinson (Competition Comm), Diana Weidenbacker (N. Region Rep), Mike O'Connor (C. Region Rep), John Mollicone (S. Region Graduate Rep), Lizzie Russell (At Large), Stan Schreyer (BU), Taylor Martin (Maine Maritime), Cori Radtke (Bowdoin), Mike Kalin (MIT), Ken Legler (Tufts), Jeff Bresnahan (Conn College), Caroline Patten (Vermont), Emmet Smith (Tufts), Dave White (FF & SHU), Matt Lindblad (MIT), Zack Leonard (Yale)

II. Commissioner's Report - Justin Assad

- A. If we don't get to the old business on this call, we'll postpone that until October (it's not incredibly time sensitive).

- B. Motion to approve meeting minutes from May call. I didn't post them until today, but there is not much in there - I move that we approve those minutes anyway.
 - 1. Mike Kalin: Second
 - 2. No one opposed
- C. Skipping the Commissioner's Report because we have a lot to cover today.

III. Scheduling Coordinator's Report - Frank Pizzo

A. 2020 Rudkin TR

- 1. Justin: Did we get the Rudkin on the intersectional schedule?
- 2. Frank: I have to follow up - I believe so, with 2 SEISA and 6 NEISA.

B. 2020 Presidents Trophy

- 1. Frank: I haven't made any progress on this since the Spring, I'll follow up on that.

C. Second Teams

- 1. There are a lot of different rules about adding second teams in different events. Adding the "Please don't add second teams after Wednesday" rule has been really helpful to me; Also, remember host teams, you can refuse to add the second team to your regatta if you'd like (it's not just a done deal).
- 2. For NEISA only A level events: you can add second teams. It goes in order of rank and you get one opportunity, and then it moves on.
- 3. Womens Interconference: no second teams
- 4. Co-ed Interconference: second team must be all women to be added

D. Showcase Alt Finals

- 1. Finals will be hosted at Connecticut College. It's on the schedule for CGA, but they informed us over the summer that they are not able to host.
- 2. Later on we are going to talk about establishing some sort of rule/penalty about backing out of hosting after you have committed, because this really messes up our schedule.
- 3. I reached out to a lot of teams - only places that could potentially host it are Salve Regina and BC.
 - a) Salve has a fleet of FJs - they were used in the '14 Nationals, so they are a little older. They're getting a fleet of Larks ("super larks"), similar to the Tufts boats; Salve does not have smaller sails for that boat yet, so some conditions would prevent them from using those boats. Sail Newport is a great facility and it's one of the best venues to host, but I know there will be pushback from MAISA and some of NEISA about using Larks, especially when it could be windy in Newport as it often is.

b) BC - Greg needs to know by ~3pm tomorrow. BC is an open water venue, they have two fleets of boats, and they have hosted these events before, but are not sure if they can do it yet. I think we should see if BC can host it and then do an Executive Committee vote - we also need to let MAISA know this is the reality of the situation (that we may just have to host the showcase in Larks)

(1) ????: Why can't CGA do it?

(2) Pizzo: I think they have had a lot of personnel changes this year and were not comfortable hosting the event (they are hosting two other regattas). We asked if we could have another team run it out of their facility, and they said no.

(3) Ken Legler: Just a comment - Salve's Larks are better than ours; though they don't have storm sails, you simply luff the sail more and sit back, so it's possible to race them even if it's windy. It is better for the sailors that we expose them to these different kinds of boats as well.

(4) Justin: They are skeptical because they assume that there is an advantage because we get to sail them more.

(5) Ken: The nation's fear that we sail something other than an FJ or 420 is dumb - It's only the college nationals where we were limited to those boats because of that contract. We should take advantage of the opportunity to sail these different boats when we get them - Coaches should not be biased and say "these boats suck we don't like them" when the kids like sailing them and want to try something new.

(6) Justin: I understand where you're coming from and I agree, but we need to be realistic about it - the rest of the country thinks we are not playing nice in the sandbox when we do this.

(7) Jeff Bresnahan: If anyone wants to reach out to CGA to see if they will budge, go ahead, but I think we should continue with Frank's plan.

E. Match Racing

1. We are going forward with Match Racing at Sail Newport. We'll definitely need teams to bring powerboats for umpires, as well as a race committee boat. We will need support making this event possible but it will be great when we get it together.

2. Weight limit: 660 lbs, need one female

F. Sister Esther & Smith Trophy moved weekends

1. Sister Esther is now the 28th & 29th
2. Smith Trophy is now the 5th & 6th

IV. New Business

A. 2020 Spring Championships

Let's vote for the hosts. David sent an email for the bids, and there's a tab on the google sheet called "Championship Voting".

1. Staake - teams that this affects will decide amongst themselves as is usually done.
2. Dinghy Tournament - Middlebury.
 - a) We will need a backup host, but no need to figure that out now.
3. Team Racing (Fowle)
 - a) John Mollicone, Brown: Would be very similar to how we hosted the women's championship. Last year we hosted the women's championship right off the dock, and got 120 or so races off; There are no power boats that time of year so we have the full venue. We will use both FJs and 420s. We would be psyched to host it, but would need teams to bring power boats.
 - b) Mike, Harvard: We would host it in our z420s and new FJs if we get them in time, and if not, MIT FJs. I don't know who the PRO would be yet, but I would work with them; I feel like our requirement where it must not be a coach isn't the best rule -
 - (1) Justin: not a rule, it's a guideline.
 - (2) Mike: Oh, then I'd probably be PRO. We haven't had a championship like that on the river in a while.
 - c) Zack, Yale: Last time we hosted this was in 2003 or so; We would tow docks out into the course, and use our new fleet of z420s and our FJ fleet. We have two 15ft inflatables as well, so there will be enough room for bringing all of the coaches out and doing rotations on the water. I already talked to a lot of umpires and other experienced people like Dave Dellenbaugh and they seem on board to help; Given we'll be sailing at Lake Pontchartrain at Nationals, where it will likely be wavy and choppy, I think Yale will be a good place to host the event.
 - d) Any questions:
 - (1) Ken: No, but a comment - Yale last hosted in 2006, Brown in 2008, and Harvard in 2015
 - e) **Winner: Harvard**
4. Women's New Englands:

- a) John, Brown: Our venue is similar to Lake Pontchartrain; we get some good chop that time of year (It would be great to mimic nationals at this event). We would sail our z420s, which got new mains last spring, and we will probably be getting new FJ sails this year. We get nice southerlies that time of year - I just want to make sure we're eligible to host it, I think we last hosted it in 2016 or 2017.

(1) Ken: it was 2017. Conn College hosted it last in 2007.

- b) Jeff, CC: We're excited to host - our new z420s will have year old sails, our FJs are the boats from nationals, with the full color sails. As for a PRO, I think it's better that the coach from the college is PRO so the host is not on the boat blowing whistles.

c) Winner: Brown

5. Coed New Englands

- a) Justin: We've heard from Jeff - do we have a rep from MIT on the call?

(1) Jeff: I'll go again if you want!

- b) MIT: It'll look a lot like Womens NE last year; we'll likely have a different PRO who is not a full time MIT employee, who is well practiced at running a college event. We'd borrow Harvard's z420s which are pretty much brand new, our FJs that are older, but well maintained. Our FJs got new sails last year (blue ribbons).

c) Winner: MIT

- 6. Justin: Thanks to everyone for putting in bids! We're lucky in NEISA, I think we have a lot of good championship hosts.
- 7. Greg: Before we move on - do we need to vote on hosts for the singles & match race championships or does that happen later?
 - a) Justin: No, that happens at the scheduling meeting.

B. PR 26

- 1. Greg: I have a couple pieces of new business hopefully push through to ICSA. A few weekends ago, my team was disqualified under PR 26 - in addition to being disqualified, this rule allows for teams to be kicked out of the regatta. If you're not familiar (which you probably are not) you should read it; We were disqualified and kicked out because of how the rule was interpreted by the hosts; we need to clarify that rule so it's not up to interpretation, and someone like the ICSA president, commissioner or chief judge is involved before a decision like that is made.
- 2. I request that we incorporate language that clears up the "extreme cases" phrase - lack of reasonable care in handling boats vs extreme cases of

damage are and can be two different scenarios. We need some language that captures the interpretation that a team can only be kicked out if it is willful intent to cause harm or damage.

- a) Matt, MIT: Another thing that might be good is to say something about consulting with the conference commissioner or ICSA president. If one of those parties was involved they would likely have talked down this extreme scenario.
 - b) Justin: I think that's a good idea.
 - c) Matt: I agree where if judges feel they can't communicate the situation properly they should talk to someone.
 - d) Jeff: In this scenario specifically, they did talk to the president and the head ICSA judge, but BC was not privy to those discussions. The coach that made the decision was swayed by both; BC has grounds to reopen this decision because they should have been privy to that conversation from the start.
 - e) Greg: I was intending to look at this on a "moving forward" basis, putting the past behind us and modifying the rule for the future. I think adding "with consultation with the commissioner or ICSA President" is a good safeguard.
 - f) Justin: To move forward I think we need a motion to support the direction; You can make the motion, Greg
 - g) Greg: I move that NEISA draft a change to PR 26 and bring it to the winter meeting. It should capture that extreme cases is lack of reasonable care in handling boats, including willful intent, and the requirement that they consult the ICSA president or commissioner before enacting the rule.
 - (1) Justin: Second
 - (2) Any opposed?
 - (3) Passes unanimously
3. Greg: The right to appeal is denied at all ladder events and that's good. But I think the ICSA made a mistake - normally, any regatta that wants to deny an appeal has to apply to US Sailing, and US Sailing has criteria it uses to approve or deny that appeal. When US Sailing gave the ICSA the right to deny an appeal, they waived their normal criteria; ICSA has a blanket waiver for the appeal process.
4. We should create our own criteria that a regatta has to use to deny the right to appeal. I propose NEISA develop ICSA criteria that hosts must meet to deny appeal going forward. For example, the right to appeal could be denied when there are not qualified judges to hear it - Though we don't

always have judges and sometimes our venues are remote, we have the internet and phones and can talk to judges from anywhere. Then we can keep the right to appeal in all of our ladder events.

5. Justin: Questions? - Greg, want to make a motion?
6. Greg: I move that NEISA develop criteria to deny appeal at ladder events, and that we bring it to the winter meeting.
 - a) Any opposed? - passes unanimously
7. Greg: Lastly, from Championships committee, one thing I uncovered is that one thing was missing - which means we are able to appeal that decision. The terms of the blanket waiver state that we need to put a notice on it in the PR and Sailing Instructions, as well as have it posted to the notice board (just for hosts of championships). Any ladder event needs to reference the deny appeal process.
8. Justin: That's a general requirement right?
 - a) Greg: Yes
9. ????: If it's in the SIs and the SIs are posted, does that count?
 - a) Greg: No, I don't think so. The waiver requests being redundant (posting it in 3 different places) so I'd be redundant.
10. Justin: Thank you for your leadership on this - I know you're doing a lot to move forward from this negative outcome and we appreciate your work on it.

C. Harman and Pine added to Championship Committee Purview

1. Justin: Lastly resulting from these, we realized these two events need to be considered under our championship committee. This will help provide leadership in running these events and ensure they meet the standards that our other events - like the Staake and Match Race NE do.

D. Showcase Failure to Host

1. Justin: We need to figure out a penalty for a failure to host the showcase. In this situation we can talk about waiving it, and we don't need to decide on it now, but should begin thinking about it for the next meeting.

V. Old Business

A. 2020 Singlehanded National Championship

1. As of 2 weeks ago the plan was to have this regatta in Florida, and US Sailing was going to help us run it. Greg has since left US Sailing, so we'll need to connect with them again to make sure it's still a part of the vision.
2. I want to continue to emphasize that we will need leadership from NEISA (whoever is in charge) or a team to step up and help run this regatta. I will get it all set up and ready to go as I think this is the right step for the

championship, but I don't know if I personally can be the point man on this.

B. Id like to table the other items we have (Team Racing Competitive Imbalance and 2020 Women's National Team Race Invite), and move that we adjourn.

1. Mike: Second

2. Justin: any opposed? (None)

VI. Closing

A. The next call will be October 9th, 2019.

VII. Meeting Adjourned