

NEISA Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting Notes
October 29, 2020

Action Items

- 1. NEISA Specific Action Items**
- 2. NEISA Action Items involving the ICSA**
- 3. ICSA Action Items**

Motions

1. None

Next Call: TBA

Meeting Notes:

I. Meeting called to order at 1:00PM

- A. Roll Call: Mike Kalin (Commissioner), Frank Pizzo (Graduate Secretary), Brian Nelson (President), Jack Valentino (Secretary), Taylor Martin (Scheduling Coordinator), Greg Wilkinson (BC), Preston Anderson (At Large/TIDE), Cori Radtke (Bowdoin), Ken Legler (Tufts), Moose McClintock (URI), Justin Assad (Dartmouth), Ali Blumenthal (Dartmouth), Doug Clarck (USCGA), Matthew Lindblad (MIT), Bill Healy (Yale), Caroline Patten (UVM), Carter Brock (Northeastern), Dalhousie Sailing, David Thompson (Dartmouth), Diana Weidenbacker (UNH), Emilie Blinderman (Conn College), Emmet Smith (Tufts), Gary Hendrickson (UConn), Jeff Bresnahan (Conn College), John Mollicone (Brown), Michael O'Connor (Harvard), Rebecca McElvain (Dartmouth), Dave White (SHU)

II. Commissioner's Report - Mike Kalin

- A. Kalin: We're going to need to meet again Nov. 12th. I know that's a fast turn around, but there's some new information we'll need to talk about like membership categories. Cross-regional, regional, and fundamental membership categories need to be filled. Legler, Callahan, Radke, and Mollicone have been tasked with assigning teams to those categories and making sure we're within the ICSA guidelines. They'll put together a document with all the allocations and we'll vote on it. Mitch has contacted me to see if NEISA could host singlehanded nationals in the Spring. Moose McClintock was interested in running point and hosting that nationals. They're thinking the May 1st/2nd weekend.
- B. McClintock: Yeah, SailNewport doesn't seem like a problem. But I was wondering if NEISA was interested in having their singlehanded championships there this Spring too.

III. ICSA Update - Greg Wilkinson

- A. *Wilkinson not present, section skipped*

IV. Graduate Secretary Report - Frank Pizzo

- A. Pizzo: I talked to Taylor briefly about some scheduling things, but other than that no updates from me at this point.

V. Scheduling Coordinator Update - Taylor Martin

- A. Martin: There's obviously more questions than answers, but we need to wait to see what the ICSA is saying in terms of testing protocols. Will your programs be able to compete at all? If so, can your school compete with the NEISA and ICSA testing protocols in place? We'll start with the same spreadsheet about whether schools are allowed to compete and we'll go from there making a list of available schools. Coaches should talk to their administrators and see what their Spring will look like and get back to me by December. We should have a schedule put out by hopefully January for the Spring season (whatever that may be).
- B. Pizzo: There were two events in NEISA that we should learn from that sailed this Fall. It took a lot of institutional support, but we should take some information from those teams going forward. I suspect that regattas will have less schools competing and only the schools that have similar testing policies to each other will compete with each other.
- C. Bresnahan: It just so happens that BC and Conn have the same testing lab, so that was helpful for us to schedule and host this Fall with the limited schools available we had. We should be thinking about two- and three-team geographical events (ie: scrimmages) and reporting that information.
- D. Lindblad: Jeff, is there a precedent at your athletic department of other teams at Conn competing against other schools?
1. Bresnahan: We're the first team at Conn to compete. When we compete we're not doing scrimmages, they're events coordinated with the opponent's Athletic Department. We're hoping to live stream on NESAC TV the internal sailing events we do with ourselves and with other teams this Spring. I envision Conn setting something up with Bowdoin, for example, for a Saturday competition this Spring just because they're in our NESAC conference.
- E. Lindblad: Does your whole team have to do the PCR test? Or just the team arriving?
1. Bresnahan: They're required to test both teams entirely within 24-hours before the event.
2. Lindblad: If you're traveling with 6- or 8-people, do you just have to test those sailors or the entire team?

- a) Bresnahan: Once you test them and label them as “traveling” to an event then you cannot mix traveling sailors and non-traveling sailors when you practice throughout that week.
- F. Bresnahan: Conn is likely able to host events with anywhere between one to three teams this Spring. But only if they are “like” teams that test similarly and can communicate easily with our Athletic Department. We’re not sure if we can attend a Spring championship that is single-handed because testing that small of a pool is possibly cost prohibitive.
- G. McClintock: They’re socially distanced on shore and SailNewport is OK with it if people are traveling and sailing by themselves. That regatta (New Englands and Nationals) is easier than a double-handed regatta in that way.
- H. Bresnahan: The hurdle is that the organizing body for this regatta needs to have a standard protocol and all teams needs to abide by it.
- I. Martin: Is Conn more comfortable with taking more Conn sailors with less teams competing or they’d rather send less people and more teams?
 - 1. Bresnahan: Definitely more boats from less schools than more schools and less sailors from each school.
- J. Martin: Understood, the reason I ask is we’re trying to avoid cost-prohibitive, wasteful, extraneous testing.
- K. Kalin: Can you explain the structure for the day?
 - 1. Bresnahan: We run it like a junior sailing event. You leave at a certain time and come back no later than five hours later. You pick your best conditions, no rotations, no lunch break, no bathroom breaks. Eco-Lab made my junior sailing program (Shelter Island Yacht Club) some acid solution that has an eight second kill rate that I also recommend.
- L. Kalin: I think we’d all love to read a write-up if you could send it in the NEISA listserv.
- M. Thompson: We hosted Kings Point last weekend and found that two teams is the easiest way to run it and it makes all the logistics much easier to split. Adding three or four teams definitely makes it more logistically more difficult than with just two teams. There’s a lack of space at many of our venues, so we should keep that in mind before expanding to high-capacity team attendance at events.
- N. Martin: The timing of the spring season is going to differ from school to school, so please communicate the information on your academic calendar to me as soon as possible.

VI. Women’s Team Racing Update - Justin Assad

- A. Assad: We’re still on schedule for Women’s TR Nationals in the Spring of 2022. We’ve been directed to put that all on hold, but we have a few events at the local level and regional level that we are moving forward with around weekend 11 of a

Spring season to have some Women's TR regattas. There is a certain cost-prohibitive nature to the pushback against this from ICSA, but with that line of argument we should get rid of Match Race and Singlehanded Nationals too. So I think we shouldn't put a hold on equity in the sport because of cost.

- B. Bresnahan: I'm happy to host a Women's TR event and we should try and host a New England Championship even if ICSA isn't ready for a Women's TR Nationals.
- C. Kalin: Teams are apprehensive about taking on this depth to their roster, but it inspires 12- and 13-year old girls in Opti's and Sabot's to see Women's TR as a path other than just becoming a co-ed crew and being pushed down that route.
 - 1. Bresnahan: Build it and they will come.
- D. Martin: This is a programmatic decision and shouldn't be legislated at the conference level if there are teams willing to do it.
- E. Assad: Seems like there's consensus in supporting Women's TR being adopted at the ICSA level and, if not, please speak up now.
- F. Pizzo: Anything else from the ICSA Competition committee?
 - 1. Assad: That was all mostly put on hold because of COVID, but we're finally getting back to talking about competition possibilities in the Spring. The bar for entry this Spring is going to be really high (financially and logistically). We're also talking about how people qualify for Nationals in 2021. We were forming a possible selection committee option or maybe some events that qualify you for it, but we're considering a lot of options.

VII. NEISA TIDE Update - Preston Anderson and Izzy Cox

- A. Anderson: [Attached NEISA TIDE October update.](#)
- B. Anderson: Teams are finishing or are about to finish their educational programs this week or next week. Our feedback has been really positive and seems like a lot of people found it impactful. The VR Match Racing will start up this week, we're also starting a movie club where we're going to first watch *Maiden*. We have our last all-TIDE meeting on November 30th where we'll rotate out our senior (class of 2021) members out for younger sailors who will be here next year. On the ICSA level, we launched the affinity groups (LGBTQ+ and BIPOC) so please have your sailors email pride@collegesailing.org or BIPOC@collegesailing.org to join those affinity groups. ICSA has an education subcommittee where we're targeting coaches and student leadership this Spring. We have a few goals for the Spring, but if you have any suggestions for NEISA TIDE's Spring agenda please email me at panderso@bowdoin.edu. Finally to be clear, NEISA TIDE is only focusing on social issues and not correcting competitive balance or competition-based issues.

- C. Radtko: We have a lot of respondents from NEISA, but we need more of you to fill out that demographics survey. I'm happy to talk about the survey offline.
- D. Assad: I can't find the link for the coaches, I'm looking at the ICSA email but don't see the link. I'll hunt around in my inbox for it, but I'll let you know if I can't find it.

VIII. Team Development Symposium Update

- A. Kalin: Taylor and I led the first one, but there weren't that many people that went to it. Who led to the second one?
- B. Anderson: Jack Valentino, Emi Ruth, and Hollister Rhone
- C. Valentino: Not a great attendance, but great conversation. Fortunately, they'll go up on the website and we're looking forward.
- D. Kalin: How about the third one?
- E. Assad: I'm a little skeptical and disappointed that more people didn't attend these symposia. Maybe we should condense it all into one day again. We should reduce the frequency and increase the duration of each. Eric and Preston have been working hard, so it's certainly not lack of effort. But the undergraduate teams don't seem to be using it.
- F. Carter: We [Northeastern] really liked the ones that occurred over the Summer, but we have a team meeting at the same time as the NEISA Team Development Symposia.
- G. Anderson: We do have one more scheduled on November 10th and it's about Team Culture. That was listed on the survey as the most popular one people wanted to hear. I'll definitely try to advertise it to the TIDE group too.
- H. Assad: It was a great idea and I thought it was going to be a knockout, but unfortunately it wasn't. So thinking to next Fall, how can we maximize the turnout?
- I. Kalin: What was the turnout last year at MIT?
 - 1. Assad: The first couple were really popular, but then it kind of withered a bit (total of 12-15 teams attending). Having it on a weekend in the fall will likely be the most effective when we can meet in person again. But I kick it to the undergraduates because they're the consumers of this information.
 - 2. Wilkinson: This might be a tough climate to judge the effectiveness of the Development Symposium model. We should measure the success of it during a non-COVID season to get an accurate result.
- J. Anderson: It is midterm season, so that was tough. Maybe we do this instead at the start of the Fall instead?
- K. Pizzo: The timing of it is not good either. 7PM is an impossible time for students who could still be in class or coaches who would still be on the water.
- L. Kalin: Team culture is the last one?

1. Anderson: Yes, at 7PM but that time is flexible.
- M. Kalin: Who are the guest lecturers?
 1. Anderson: Not locked down yet, but Nicole [Boston College] and I will be planning it.
- N. Kalin: We'd love it if all the coaches could direct their kids to join that call.
- O. Valentino: One other thing. The issue we might have is that the teams that want to hear this information don't know about the listserv. They didn't know that there is such a thing, so we'll do some research and target specific schools for the last call that haven't been showing up.
- P. Anderson: Yeah, and I can also leverage the NEISA TIDE listserv to get that information out.

IX. Meeting adjourned by Kalin at 2:04PM

X. Next Meeting Time: TBA