

2020 NEISA Annual General Meeting Notes
December 5, 2020

- I. Call to Order (President: Brian Nelson USCGA '21)**
- II. Roll Call**
 - A. Full meeting attendance is available by [clicking here](#).
- III. Commissioner's Report (Mike Kalin, MIT)**
 - A. 2020 Nationals Slate -- As per Mitch Brindley report: *"It is the intent of the ICSA Executive Committee to recommend to the Board the adoption of temporary Championship Conditions for the governance of the ICSA Championships for 2020-21 academic year. These Covid Championship Conditions would replace the ICSA General and discipline specific conditions for this year."*
 - B. The ICSA Championship Committee will draft the necessary final document.
 - C. It is intended that the 2020-21 Championship Conditions will feature the following:
 - 1. General:
 - a) Schedule will be confirmed by the Championship Committee to include a recommended date and a secondary option.
 - (1) Singlehanded Championship May 1-2, 2021 (Option A) or May 8-9 (Option B)
 - (2) Women's Dinghy, Coed Dinghy, Team Race: Women's will take place during May 18-21 block, Team Race and Dinghy Championships will take place during June 1-4, with a secondary option during June 7-10.
 - 2. Eligibility will be based on normal General Conditions. Variances include:
 - a) Greater flexibility granted to member conferences to select teams. (GC 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 will be altered or eliminated).
 - b) An At-Large selected team shall have participated in a minimum number (TBD) of ICSA regattas during the year.
 - c) All participating teams shall follow ICSA COVID Testing Protocols and Best Practices as recommend ICSA Medical Advisory Committee
 - d) All participating teams shall submit their Declaration of Adherence prior to competing in their first ICSA regatta of the year.
 - e) Eligible teams will opt-in for ICSA competition. It is this number that will be used to calculate berth allocations.
 - f) General Conditions 3-6, & 9 will be unaltered.
 - g) Conference Failure to Compete- GC 7 will be deleted or made more permissive.
 - h) Filling A Vacated Berth- GC 8. This will likely be changed to allow for a vacated berth to be filled as an At-Large Berth.
 - 3. Match Race- To be Canceled for 2020-21
 - 4. Men's & Women's Singlehanded Championships
 - a) Schedule- Not to exceed 2 days. May 1-2, or May 8-9
 - (1) NEISA host venue preferred (URI/Sail Newport)

- b) Entrants: Championship will be an open entry registration event.
 - (1) Number of entrants per conference or team shall not be restricted, except that entry caps may be imposed by the host due to Regional COVID event size restrictions.
 - (2) All participating teams shall meet eligibility conditions above.
 - c) Boats: BYOB Laser Radial (Women) and Laser Standard (Men)
 - (1) TBD – limited LaserPerformance charter boats provided proportionally to competitors travelling greater distances.
 - d) Format
 - (1) No rotation
 - (2) Single division per championship
 - (3) Maximum of 14 races
 - (4) Target time 25 minutes.
5. Women's Dinghy
- a) Scheduling:
 - (1) Host USNA, Annapolis, MD
 - (a) Teams will be assigned to launching from 1 of 4 locations (USNA, AYC, SSA, Naval Station)
 - (2) Not to exceed 2 days TBD within May 18-21
 - (3) Single-Stage Event
 - b) Entrants: Automatic Qualifiers from conferences to be determined by formula and at-large selection, with no more than 18 teams.
 - c) Participants:
 - (1) Each contesting college is required to have a minimum of 4 team members.
 - (2) The roster size of the contesting teams will be limited to 7 team members.
 - d) Format:
 - (1) No Rotation
6. Coed Dinghy
- a) Scheduling:
 - (1) Host USNA, Annapolis, MD
 - (2) Teams will be assigned to launching from 1 of 4 locations (USNA, AYC, SSA, Naval Station)
 - (3) Not to exceed 2 days (TBD within June 1-4)
 - (4) Single-Stage Event
 - b) Entrants: Automatic Qualifiers from conferences to be determined by formula and at-large selection, with no more than 18 teams.
 - c) Participants:
 - (1) Each contesting college is required to have a minimum of 4 team members.
 - (2) The roster size of the contesting teams will be limited to 7 team members.

- d) Format:
 - (1) No Rotation
- 7. Coed Team Race
 - a) Scheduling:
 - (1) Host USNA, Annapolis, MD
 - (2) Teams will be assigned to launching from 1 of 4 locations (USNA, AYC, SSA, Naval Station)
 - (3) Not to exceed 2 days TBD within May 18-21
 - (4) Single-Stage Event
 - b) Entrants: Automatic Qualifiers from conferences to be determined by formula and at-large selection, with no more than 12 teams.
 - c) Participants:
 - (1) Each contesting college is required to have a minimum of 6 team members.
 - (2) The roster size of the contesting teams will be limited to 9 team members.
 - d) Format:
 - (1) 12 Teams
 - (2) substantially similar to normal Team Race Championship Conditions
- D. 2021 Spring Scheduling Meeting - **Thursday, January 14 (4-6PM)** -- If there is a good enough reason to delay at that time (impending decision regarding many school's ability to participate, we might delay this meeting).
- E. 2021 Fall Scheduling - TBD (likely June 2021) -- there really isn't a hurry to get this done. We are likely going to use fall 2018 performance rankings to determine scheduling order. While imperfect, the fall schedule meets the needs of most teams, and even for the most sought after event (Danmark), there is a sail-in qualifier.
- F. 2020 Discussion on membership classification and re-written by-laws for vote. -- An attempt to pass a new by-law into legislation was thwarted, mostly in the interest of time, to await subsequent discussions on the voting process, and to ensure appropriate language in the by-laws. The agenda item was tabled to the January meeting -- **Wed Jan 13, 2021.**

IV. **President's Report (Brian Nelson, USCGA '21)**

- A. Nelson: It was a weird year with nothing on-the-water, but I did want to highlight the TIDE committee for their hard work this year, especially Preston Anderson. A lot of work has been going on with the Executive Committee and the new classification system, and they deserve some congratulations. I'm especially excited about Nationals to happen this year, so thank you to the Executive Committee for their work on that.

V. **Treasurer's Report (Ryan Mullins, BC)**

- A. Attached in advance, [click here](#).
- B. Mullins: We had a solid reserves budget, but COVID diminished that a bit. But we're still in a stable position as a conference. My best estimate is that Spring 2021 is somewhat impaired and Fall 2021 is an unknown. So the budget attached here is a worst case scenario. We need sailing to bring revenue back to NEISA. The judging and umpiring

just didn't happen this year and those are our biggest expenses, but we do have a fixed cost model to account for in the conference where we have to spend money on things regardless of how much sailing we do. In summary, my proposal is a worst case scenario and this budget can only get more positive if we do have more sailing than I anticipate. We talked about this last year about how we should start to talk about fees from teams and things like that. 2020 has laid those all out to bare. My first proposal is to approve the 2021 budget, especially waiving billing and sailing fees for 2020-2021. However, we would increase NEISA dues from \$60 to \$100 per team. That small increase will go a long way in balancing our fixed cost model. My second proposal is to increase competition fees for teams proportionally to where they rank on the PR. The bottom two ranking brackets do not see an increase, but the top ranked brackets will see a 10% increase in their dues (which is on parity to what we did in 2017). This proposal reasonably distributes the weight of the organization across the teams that use the most NEISA resources. My final proposal is increasing the fees for specific events. We charge officiating fees to teams for specific events and officiating is our largest expense.

- C. Assad: Is this a long term strategy or is this a stopgap to reverse COVID-related financial issues?
1. Mullins: I think this is a long term strategy. I don't see any expenses between now and March, but I don't see our cash-on-hand number to return to \$40,000+ in a normal business cycle. I don't think it's an immediate concern if we don't accept this budget, but long-term when we host nationals we'll need the cash-on-hand. The proposals I have only take effect if there's sailing.
 2. Assad: I think we should switch that. The bulk of our income comes from the top 16 teams, so we should be charged even if there's no sailing. We've had a year of breathing room, but we need to start funding the organization.
 - a) Dusek: I think the increase in dues is reasonable, but I wonder if we should put in a fee waiver system for smaller teams that cannot pay it. Some way for them to not pay, not sail, but not lose their status in NEISA.
 - b) Assad: I agree that we should make that a streamlined process. Maybe it's a two year window we'll allow that. But I trust the commissioner, graduate secretary, and treasurer to make those calls.
 3. Martin: Are we at a point where we can use our new classification system instead of the PR rankings?
 - a) Mullins: At this point, no. But I see us switching to that maybe in a few months.
 4. Assad: Does approving this begin billing in the Spring 2021?
 - a) Mullins: Yes, the \$100 billing would be sent out in March. The officiating fee increase would also take effect this Spring.
 5. Dusek: I propose that we add an amendment to this report that we can exempt fundamental or regional teams that don't have the ability to pay the fees because of athletic/club sports office restrictions.
 - a) Mullins agrees.

- b) O'Connor seconds.
- c) Vote passes.

VI. NEISA Scheduling Coordinator's Report (Taylor Martin, MMA)

- A. Martin: No update beyond what Mike said earlier.
- B. McClintock: Have we figured out who will qualify for the Spring qualifiers?
 - 1. Pizzo: Not yet, we're waiting on ICSA guidance.
- C. McClintock: Will we have any non-qualifier regattas?
 - 1. Pizzo: Yes some invitations among teams that can compete regardless of the vaccine. We'll figure that out on January 14th.

VII. NEISA Awards Committee Report (Brian Thompson, CGA)

- A. Kalin: David Thompson has done some great work, and Bill Healy will take over his role in 2021 now that David's term has expired.
- B. Wilkinson: Can I make a request that the second we can compete and sail we start up "sailor-of-the-week?" We need to show the world that we're up and running and that we look like other sports and conferences?
 - 1. Kalin and others on the call acknowledge that's a good idea.

VIII. Judge Coordinator's Report (Amanda Callahan, RWU)

- A. No report.

IX. Performance Ranking Committee Report (Mike Kalin, MIT)

- A. No report.

X. Championship Committee Report (Mike Kalin (on behalf of John Mollicone))

- A. Brown (Women's Team Race Nationals, April 2022)
 - 1. Kalin: Brown would like to put in a bid to host the first Women's Team Racing in 2022. Sent this via email:
 - a) *"Brown would like to put in a bid to host the first Annual ICSA Women's Team Race National Championship in 2022 out of the Ted Turner '60 Sailing Pavilion at the Edgewood Yacht Club. We have 18 2017 Zim FJs (new Jibs in 2020 and new mains hopefully by Fall of 2021) and 18 2014 LP Z420s.(new mains in Spring 2019 and 2018 jibs). Our fairly new sailing facility will offer plenty of space and amenities for all teams and spectators and racing would be as close to the docks as possible to allow ease of rotation and great spectating. Umpires would be organized by the NEISA Judge/Umpire Coordinator and the host. We would most likely pursue an outside PRO to run races with help from the Brown University coaches, student-athletes, and alumni. Brown hosted the 2019 Women's Team Race National Invitational with 13 teams and 126 races over the two day event in a wide range of conditions."*
- B. Assad: The ICSA gave us a greenlight to stay on the timeline for Women's team racing despite the other COVID setbacks. The only issue is that we were going to roll out a regular season of Women's Team Racing this Spring, so that'll have to be figured out. I want to thank Charles Higgins, John Mollicone, Amanda Calahan, Frank Pizzo, Clinton Hayes, and Mike O'Connor for all their hard work making this happen through COVID.
- C. Assad: *shares screen* and shows a prospective Women's TR schedule.

D. Assad: This is not a scheduling document, but just to gauge interest. There's still some Women's fleet racing (ODU Women's, Wick, Dellenbaugh, etc.) that we'd like to preserve. A lot of these events are flipping to team races (USF Women's, Phoebe Corkran, Charles River Team Race, Navy Women's, Duplin, Seahawk Women's, Boston Area Women's Team Race). That's kind of a mark-up of what a schedule could look like. Importantly, we're looking to change the Reed Trophy to weekend 16 (traditionally weekend 11) and to move our Women's TR Championship to weekend 12 (historically reserved for Women's Fleet Racing Conference Championship). The thinking there was we wanted to move our Women's Team Race Nationals as late into the schedule as we could because it is a national championship and we'd like to make it as close to the end of the season as we could. That's a bit of the background on the decision making. The 12-team team racing will have entrants chosen by whatever format the ICSA competition committee chooses to operate under for the Nationals selection process. We'll mirror that for women's events. Ideally, we want this women's team race event to look identical to its co-ed counterpart in three years or less. One last thing is we do need to find a host for this Boston Area Women's Team Race, I'm curious how the numbers will look. I think people agree that a 12- or 16- team team race is inefficient and you don't get a lot of sailing in compared to a 6-team team race. I don't know what that'll look like yet, but we'll work on it. One challenging thing I don't have a good answer for is that there really isn't a good weekend for a women's conference-specific championship event. The one that makes the most sense is the Duplin, that's the event I identified in a conversation with other NEISA leaders as the likely time that will be used for such a conference-specific championship event. We think that it's tricky. We're already sailing 4 championship weekends in April, and this would be a fifth weekend. But we need to figure out how to select our conference representatives.

1. Wilkinson: Justin, can you go over the dates one more time?

a) Assad: Sure. So historically weekend 13 is our co-ed dinghy championship. It's usually the last weekend in April or the first weekend in May. The weekend prior to that has historically been the women's conference fleet race championship. We're proposing that it becomes the women's conference team racing championship instead. Weekend 11 historically had the Owen and the Oberg, but that will be our proposed women's fleet race championship weekend.

2. Weidenbacker: How will women's team racing be impacted by the new team designations? Can you compete in these cross-regional events if you're a regional team?

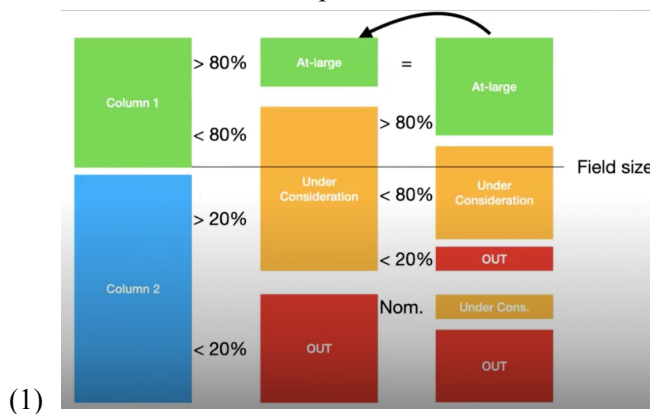
a) Assad: Great question, let me pull up my screen again.

(1) *Justin labels the following events as likely open to regional teams, but stresses this is just his best guess: Boston Area Women's Team Race, Charles River TR, Duplin TR, and Seahawk TR*

co-ed ones. I would rather see a mechanism for an exemption for a fundamental team to sail at a regional women's team race than to say your best option is to go to a co-ed event.

1. Assad: I think that, under the new classification system, fundamental teams can attend regional events. So if there was a space, then they can absolutely join the regional women's team race events. I think my concern would be that it would be harder to get a berth initially. It may be tricky to figure out the demand in the first few years. But it's our goal to accommodate a team just like you're describing, but it's just tough to forecast what the demand will look like without having a trial year to see where we need to create, remove, or move events to match demand.
 2. Dusek: Say I'm able to get six girls to go from Wellesley to a Team Race event. I'm not sure if there's any rules-based mechanism to do it, but I think the messaging that "oh you can always just go to this other thing" is a bit exclusionary and I don't know if it's necessarily the right way to build momentum for this women's team racing event.
 - a) Assad: Points well taken and I agree. The least experienced fundamental team shouldn't have to compete at a harder event to break into a new division. We'll need to look into that.
- I. Assad: Motion to accept bid from John Mollicone.
1. Weidenbacker: Seconded.
 2. Yays win with verbal lack of Nay votes.
- J. Kalin: Greg or Justin, can either of you update us on the ICSA plan for nationals qualification?
1. Assad: Part of our changes in the 2021 and beyond plans is a change to the qualification structure for the national championship. It used to go based on a participation scheme, but the change at the last winter meeting is that it's now based on competitive excellence. Each conference gets at least two representatives at each nationals, but there are two models for creating a qualification system beyond that. One is a pure selection committee and the other is a scheme that allows winners of conference regattas to get individual spots followed by a selection committee for the rest of the spots.
 2. Kalin: Can you make a projection about how many ranked teams would have to chase down qualifications?
 - a) Assad: There will be two teams from each conference that qualify for fleet race nationals, then seven sail-in spots, and a small selection committee to fill the rest of the spots.
 - b) Wilkinson: Can you explain the level of detail that's been done on that? The committee has come up with a system that allows every team to actually get considered. Big picture of what it is is that it's a structured selection committee. The committee is given a strict structure and through rounds of selection. It guarantees that every team will get a look.
 - c) Assad: *Shares this image* There's an initial cut from column one and two, then another cut and another cut until we have a final group of who

is in the event. When we mocked this out in the Spring, you get into a situation with four teams competing for the last two spots at the end and two teams for one other final spot at the end.



3. Dusek: One of the things that make me fearful is that the previous version of berth allocation incentivized conferences to bolster growing teams. That incentive structure goes away with this new system. Have there been any conversations at the ICSA level about how to maintain resources for developing teams in your conference?
 - a) Wilkinson: Yes, those have been a large part of the discussions for a while. There has been a culture shift starting around 2005-2008. That culture shift centered around whether that “development” associated with nationals berths was actually an effective development tool. ICSA started to shift in a way that recognized that it’s not an incentive or tool for development. For example, RWU is a relatively young team at the ICSA. But they’re a super strong team and won’t go away. Similarly with Fordham. The national berth system incentivized conferences to accelerate schools that can’t make that jump too far through the hoops just to get an extra berth for their conference. The old system has incentivized conferences to create teams out of thin air (aka barely no interest from the team) where you can advance teams too quickly through membership levels.
4. Patten: Can we make it transparent so we know where we fell short in the committee’s eyes? Will that be available on the website?
 - a) Assad: We haven’t discussed that yet, but it’s an important consideration.
 - b) Martin: I agree, we need to make it more transparent without hurting the integrity of the process.
 - c) Assad: We’ll bring it to the committee and see what they think.
5. Wilkinson: Are you asking the selection committee to publish their documents after the fact?
 - a) Patten: Yes I think it would be good for team development and goal setting to know why a team didn’t make the cut in a given year.

6. Martin: Justin, why can't that committee publicize that information for all 98 teams?
 - a) Assad: There's a limit to the level of work and documentation we can do, but we hear the concern about transparency and we'll bring it up. Caroline, I do think it's reasonable for specific teams to ask about "why" but maybe not practical to release information for every team without a request.
7. Pizzo: I don't think it's practical for us to do that for all the teams that don't make it.
8. Assad: We absolutely hear your concerns and we can hope to do something similar to what we did with the "classification" discussion of having a zoom and hearing all the concerns.
9. Anderson: The criteria for College Football Playoffs are not included in their presentation, but are available on their website for each team.
10. Leonard: I drastically favor the system that doesn't force us to travel around the country defending spots that we shouldn't have to defend against other conferences.
 - a) Assad: It favors my team to do the traveling because we have the funds, but it's not fair to UVM, for example, who can't afford to just jet around the country to a different conference just to qualify for nationals.
11. Wilkinson: We need input from NEISA on what you want Justin and Greg to advance at the ICSA Winter meeting in January?
 - a) *Straw poll taken*

1. Which qualification system does the conference support Justin and Greg in advancing at the ICSA level?

Conference champions + Qualifying Interconference regattas + At Large (10 Conference Champs + 7 Qualifying Regattas + 19 At Large) (16) 52%

10 Conference Champions + At Large (15) 48%

b)

- XI. **Boats and Safety Report (Fran Charles, MIT)**
 - A. No report.
- XII. **TIDE Committee Report (Preston Anderson, Bowdoin '22 and Izzie Cox, Brown '23)**
 - A. Report can be [found here](#). We're taking a break from meetings for right now for the holidays. *report read by Preston*
 - B. [LinkedIn proposal introduced](#) and strongly supported verbally by commissioner and the rest of the executive committee and conference.
- XIII. **Election of 2021 NEISA Executive Board**
 - A. President: Preston Anderson '22 Bowdoin
 - B. Vice President: Jack Valentino '22 Bates

1. *Candidates:*
 - a) *Julia Reynolds '22 Brown*
 - b) *Jack Valentino '22 Bates*
- C. Secretary: Julia Reynolds '22 Brown
 1. *Candidates:*
 - a) *Julia Reynolds '22 Brown*
 - b) *Sam Lowry '22 McGill*
 - c) *Elizabeth Phelps '23 UNH*
- D. Northern Region Representative: Alli Fischman '23 Bates
 1. *Candidates:*
 - a) *Alli Fischman '23 Bates*
 - b) *Trevor Donovan '22 McGill*
- E. Central Region Representative: Declan McGranahan '22 Boston College
- F. Southern Region Representative: Molly Matthews '23 Roger Williams
- G. At-Large (Assistant Scheduling Coordinator): Sam Lowry '22 McGill
 1. *Candidates:*
 - a) *Sam Lowry '22 McGill*
 - b) *Elizabeth Phelps '23 UNH*
- H. At-Large (Social Media/NEISA Awards): Nicole Moeder '22 Boston College
 1. *Candidates:*
 - a) *Nicole Moeder '22 Boston College*
 - b) *Gigi Diserio '22 Bowdoin*

XIV. Discussion of Membership Classification: Cross-regional/Regional/Fundamental

- A. Report sent in advance, [click here](#).
- B. Martin: We'll table this until the January meeting for the sake of time. I wanted to have a discussion about the metrics of how this will work. But I think we should email Mike and everyone else on that committee with our thoughts so we can talk on the January call.
- C. Assad: It might be worth sharing that information and having a little discussion since we have the committee on the call here now to preview this for the January meeting.
 1. Kalin: John [Mollicone]'s not on the call. Is Ken on the call?
- D. Wilkinson: We should do what Taylor suggests. Doing this over email is a lot more organized to prepare for the January meeting. ICSA has it's criteria and they're already thinking it should be more detailed. We could publish that, and I know Justin wrote a document, we could publish that. We could then have a discussion about what our metrics are in January. This is done, by the way. This has already been voted on and passed at the ICSA level, so now we're just figuring out the metrics and mapping of this system onto our conference. This isn't urgent, it's already been passed at the ICSA level and now it's up to just us to make decisions.
- E. Kalin: Can you or Justin discuss what the feedback was from ICSA about that?
 1. Wilkinson: NEISA submitted a slate of schools and which classification they fell in. Every other conference also did so and it was aggregated into a list. Committee members reviewed our metrics and realized our metrics could use more detail (which we'll send out soon). So we looked at our metrics and

everyone was allowed to ask questions and questions got sent back to conference commissioners. Then, conference commissioners gave feedback to the competition committee and the competition committee deliberated the teams on the national scale and we're voting now. We had an electronic vote to ratify the entire slate and clarify where we think teams should go. The only questions the competition committee asked NEISA were about how some of the "bubble teams" got designated as Regional. They asked for the rationale behind Maine Maritime and Mass Maritime being regional. The basis of the questioning was... the reason they asked was because those are both varsity teams. So, I think they were wondering if there's something organizationally with those teams... like are things going south on those teams that we don't know about that would force them into Regional status instead of Cross-Regional. Like was it a lack of organizational excellence? Or was your decision based on results? Which the competition committee has access to. The competition committee could identify those teams as bubble teams, but they asked about it because they were curious why two Varsity teams were in the cross-regional status. The answer we had for them was that they are organizationally excellent and that NEISA's decision to put them into regional status was results-based. In other conferences, many more questions are being asked and they're being kicked back to those commissioners because the results were questionable for teams that were being assigned cross-regional statuses in their conferences when compared with similarly categorized teams in NEISA and MAISA. One conference submitted no cross-regional teams. Every conference is entitled to one. The competition committee went back and actually found one that met the criteria and they made them cross-regional for their conference (Northwest). So it was kicked back to that team and the team was asked if they were willing to take on the higher dues and the other obligations that come with cross-regional status. That's how the whole process has gone and is going.

- F. Kalin: Thanks Greg, when is that all going to be published?
 - 1. Wilkinson: Justin do you know?
 - a) Assad: I think we're voting next week.
- G. Assad: The only thing I would add to what Greg said is that the committee is sorting out aspirational goals v. actual performance in making these decisions. That's tricky and it's what we're trying to navigate now.
- H. Kalin: Just to clarify there is an appeals procedure even at the ICSA level, correct?
 - 1. Wilkinson: Yes, appeals go to the Executive Committee. Maybe another thing we should consider at the January meeting is making the appeals and original committee separately. We should follow the ICSA procedure and make the Exec Committee handle appeals and I would just withdraw myself from that appeals process since I'm on the competition committee.
- I. Martin: I think we should stick with our by-laws on who gets to vote on that. We have written metrics and we should follow that when voting on membership categories.
 - 1. Kalin: Ok, sounds good.

- J. Assad: For what it's worth, I sat on the appeals process but wasn't on the original process. It was a nice disconnect and made it more fair.
- K. Pizzo: I don't agree with what you just said, Taylor. I think putting category disputes to the whole conference, especially if it's a results based thing, on a Zoom call. That doesn't make any sense to me. There's a lot of work that goes into that vote, so I think it makes sense to have one committee that does the slate and the Executive Committee with appeals. But there's way more work involved in that to prepare for an appeals hearing for a category reassignment than most people come to the table with for these meetings. Especially if it's a results-based thing where you have to analyze a year's worth of results.
- L. Leonard: Maybe we can do something like three-minute justice where the team that's appealing can pick a coach or administrator from another NEISA team and the Executive Committee chooses a third person and they all do research together.
- M. Kalin: It's certainly a lot of analysis. Any other input on that before we move on? We'll spend some time in the NEISA January meeting for that.

XV. Discussion of SEISA proposal for 01/23 ICSA Meeting

- A. Kalin: Informally this proposal has been referred to as a "season splitting" proposal. This is not splitting the season, Charles Higgins wanted me to be very clear about that. According to him, the impetus for this came from his fundamental and regional teams who felt like the proposal would give them more opportunities to sail at events and a culminating NIT nationals in the spring that would be more beneficial to those teams. I made that [spreadsheet](#) to take information and critiques. I entered a lot of that information and others contributed. I was trying to gauge people's stances as a conference. If you haven't heard of this yet, it's really dropping a lot on you. Please read through that proposal if you haven't had a chance to yet. SEISA is planning on bringing this to a vote at the Winter ICSA meeting, so we need some guidance as a conference to know how to vote for this at the Winter ICSA meeting.
- B. Clark: This proposal is being presented under the premise it will benefit the fundamental and regional teams and that the only remedy is moving the Coed and Women's Fleet Racing to the Fall. I disagree with that, there are plenty of ways to increase the quality of late-season sailing for fundamental and regional teams other than this season splitting. Some of the pro's that you outlined that I don't believe apply to fundamental or regional teams, such as reducing the nationals block time and cost, those are all valid but they can also be solved in a way that doesn't force Fleet Race Nationals to the Fall. Furthermore, I think it's an overstatement to say that Fundamental and Regional teams are going to buy into this. One of the things that I look at last night is that the Alt-Finals and the ACT tournament often don't go filled. Creating an NIT doesn't solve anything if there are open spots at existing events that they can attend. You can't have an intelligent conversation about how to schedule for this. A Spring TR season for Fundamental and Regional teams and also a Fleet Race fall for the Regional and Cross-Regional teams would be disrupted and tough to schedule for everyone. I see a potential disaster that many of the hosts for regional and fundamental events might not be able to host events for them any more. There's no incentive for cross-regional teams to host for regional and fundamental teams

when they have a limited runway to prepare for Nationals in the Fall. This is a tough one and I believe Charles motivation is not what he's selling us on. That notwithstanding, I think this is really important and we should discuss this with more information.

- C. Dusek: I'm not 100% sure of my thoughts yet, but one concern for me is that moving the Fleet Race Nationals doesn't that mess us up with weather? The fall isn't very hospitable for sailing in the northern areas of the conference.
 - 1. Kalin: That remains to be seen. Two years ago we chopped two weeks off the season, but weather nowadays weather is fine until the end of October. Water temps are still OK going into the late fall and people will argue that there are actually better winds in early-November. It's a fair concern though with the daylight time late into the Fall.
- D. Leonard: I'm also not 100% sure of my thoughts, but a counterargument is that under the current system the TR New Englands is extremely early in the season. If you want to be competitive at that event, you have to practice in February which is dramatically colder than any other time in New England.
- E. Pizzo: We've been talking about this seriously at the national level since 2014 I believe. It's incredibly complicated, but highlights the tremendous breadth that teams have in college sailing. This solution is not perfect because the range of sailing we do in College Sailing is so broad. I think the Nationals where they are in the Fall is an easy problem to fix. If we're worried about daylight and good breeze, we can just move the Nationals farther south. It probably shouldn't be at Bowdoin in November, for example. The ACT example is not a great example comparing it to the NIT because NEISA changed it's qualification to the ACT to teams that were 8-14 in the PR. Those are still cross-regional teams, whereas this NIT championship would be like 17, 18, 19 in the performance rank. It's the regional teams that will really benefit from this NIT event. Bowdoin, a team that's been in the ACT for a while, initially it was a great thing. It was an alternate championship to look forward to it, but once you got competitive it got monotonous to be at. The NIT would be for the latter group and not as an alternative prize for the top group. That's why I think we would see more Fundamental and Regional team buy-in than you allude to, Zach. It's complicated and we need to talk about it and get it right because it is a fundamental shift in our game.
- F. Leonard: There's three or four things people have been trying to fix for a number of years. First, the schedule is very disjointed in the Spring. NEISA, MAISA, and SEISA have trouble linking their schedules. The qualifiers are synchronized because the participation in the intersectionals was going down when they were out of sync. The future cross-regional teams were never racing against each other in the past. The alternative is going back to the team race/fleet race alternating weekend schedule. The problem is that teams have different priorities: team racing focus v. fleet racing focus. That's the complexity of how we end up where we are. One of the impetuses of the split season is to try and solve that problem and also solve the problem of the Nationals being 12-days long. Sailing 12-days in a row is longer than sailors in the olympics face. I don't know what the solution is, but the reality is that we'll have this new qualification system. But now we can restructure the spring season with this new qualification system where

we might not need to host NEISA championships in the Spring to qualify teams to nationals now that we have our list of cross-regional members and the metrics for that. There's a lot to this, and it needs to be studied closely. There's a large portion of the ICSA that think this proposal is a good idea, and a large population that disagrees with it.

- G. Weidenbacker: I fear this system would favor larger, more well-endowed teams that can team race and travel over teams without the resources to mount large scale team racing efforts.
- H. Patten: There are opportunities now for teams to continue sailing or switch back to fleet racing for the last bits of the Spring if their TR efforts are cut short in the qualification process. I think my team might go skiing instead if their TR efforts were cut short to be honest under this new system. The idea of a consolation NIT is not as appealing to them or would incentivize teams to aspire to that if their TR seasons ended early. I don't think athletes go to bed at night thinking about a second-tier championship. They want to have an ultimate goal to work towards.
- I. Dusek: There seems like there's two conversations here. The first is: do we split the seasons? The second being: is there a role for a culminating championship for regional and fundamental teams in the Spring? I don't think those are valid questions but I don't think they should be linked together in the way they are. I think a culminating event for those teams is great because it's an event to look forward to and it's their only opportunity to sail out of the district. I know that when I sailed for a small team in college, qualifying for the ACT or the Nationals Semi's was a huge deal for us. The larger shift of moving Fleet Racing Nationals to the Fall is a question that is unrelated to the idea of creating an NIT.
- J. Assad: One point for clarification, Jeff. I believe there is now going to be opportunities for Regional and Fundamental teams to sail regattas out of conference. So I don't think that's going to be as closed off as it initially sounded. There's a healthy amount of discussion at the competition committee level.
- K. Leonard: The Team Race New Englands is just too early in the season. It's just not possible to be prepared for it without sailing in suboptimal weather. Maybe this is an opportunity to just shuffle the championships in our own spring schedule.
- L. Kalin: Jack, I know you had a thought before did you want to go now?
- M. Valentino: I just private messaged Jeff and said that he took the words right out of my mouth. As a regional team, it's really important to us for morale reasons, competition reasons, fundraising reasons to have a culminating event. For us it's the NE Dinghy Tournament in the Fall and whatever we have the scheduling power to register for in the Spring. But an NIT in April... or whenever it pans out on the scheduling... would be huge for Regional and Fundamental teams. Like there are people on my team who would love to travel outside of conference and we would love to fundraise for that. It's a huge competition raiser for other Regional teams if we could compete against teams in the Pacific Coast, or the South, or the Midwest. Is there a reason why we would have to move a nationals from the Spring to the Fall in order to create this NIT? Couldn't an NIT Nationals be run autonomously of the ordinary Nationals block? Whether it be a week before or two weeks before, this should be something to consider just running the event

as a carbon copy of ICSA Fleet Racing Nationals, but for Regional or Fundamental teams. I understand there are huge financial implications to that 12-day block and a lot of logistical complexity to the event. But we could have an autonomous organization run an NIT for Regional and Fundamental teams. Just like Jeff said, adding an NIT without touching the existing block of Nationals in the Spring and separating this proposal out into it's two separate questions instead of assuming an NIT in the Spring requires moving ICSA Fleet Race Nationals to the Fall.

- N. Kalin: Yeah, that's good feedback. Are you suggesting adding to the infrastructure that exists currently to the Nationals block to run the NIT attached to the block?
- O. Valentino: No, I acknowledge that it's tremendously tough to run the existing nationals let alone adding on an NIT to the end or beginning of it. What I'm suggesting is that we run an NIT at the same (or a different) venue as nationals, and a week or two weeks before the 12-day block to autonomously run an NIT. It can even be used as an early test for the Nationals venue. I would never want to propose adding something to the 12-day block because it's already tremendously complex.
- P. Wilkinson: Yesterday we spent an entire call yesterday with cross-regional teams on this proposal, but only heard from them. I hope we continue to hear from more Fundamental and Regional teams. What we're hearing so far from Jeff and Jack is good feedback. But my question is, if this is such a good idea for Fundamental and Regional teams then why are these two things bundled together? There's an unfortunate answer to that which is because they're bundled together to get votes. Top teams don't want to move the National Championship, but the NIT is appealing to Fundamental and Regional teams. So it would be good to hear from more of the teams that the votes are being collected from.
- Q. Leonard: It's also important to know that Greg is not for this.
- R. Kalin: Everyone has their pros and cons for their own schools. From the standpoint of the coach of MIT, I'll say that my kids love team racing and will do it all day long and all season long. There's another competitive imbalance in the fact that New England weather is not conducive to team racing. We're limited now severely and it gives a huge advantage to the teams that are the best because good schools get longer seasons and low-ranked schools get shorter seasons. Schools that have a low likelihood of progressing in Spring team racing qualifiers for Nationals have only about a four week spring season. That is a rationale for why we might do this split. Having nationals earlier would require NEISA to put strict season limits on other conferences to prevent them from being able to train for it while we cannot due to weather. Charleston can sail in January and February, so we need to make it nationally fair and not just fair within our conference.
- S. Assad: I think there's a couple things going on. The Spring season is a wreck and for a team like Caroline [Patten], she's jumps right into a season of qualifiers by starting sailing in March. We're trying to fit too many disciplines into only about five weekends of good sailing in New England. This proposal isn't the only solution, but it's one effective one to solve that problem. When this idea has been brought up, it's faced backlash from the rest of ICSA who have that competitive advantage being able to sail and train more. The NIT is an extremely valuable resource for teams at that level. It could be separated, like Jeff said, but I think that leaves us with an even more congested Spring. Two or three

additional days in April or attached to the nationals block. There are other ways to attack that issue of timing for the NIT, but all cross-regional teams need to be thinking about the fact that this benefits their team and Fundamental/Regional teams. The Spring/Nationals part of the year is a slow motion car crash where people always complain about how crazy it is and congested but then we do the same thing the next year. I don't know what the answer is right now, but we all need to think creatively about how we can solve that Spring congestion problem aside from the creation of the NIT.

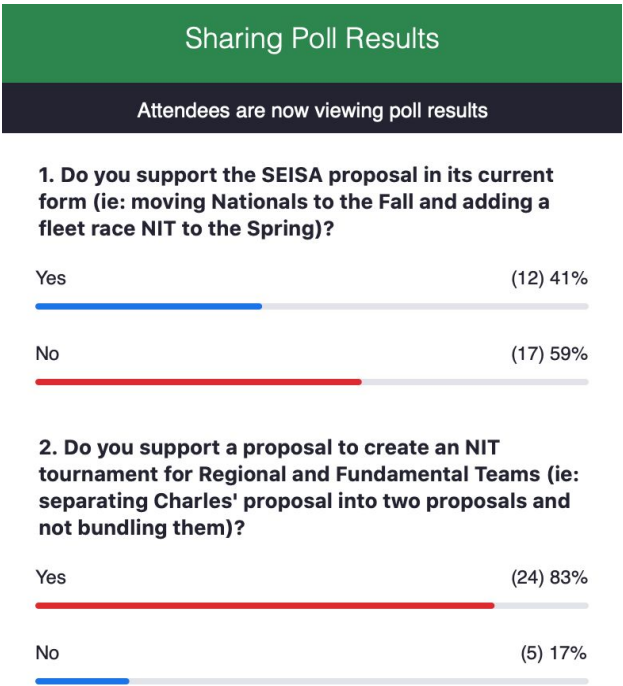
- T. Wilkinson: Two questions. First, Zach keeps talking about how the Fowle trophy is so early and the NEISA Championships are so early. The way the schedule is right now, why can't it just be later? Is there a reason this has to be a problem? Second, has there ever been any discussion about the impact that Women's Team Race Nationals would have on the Nationals block let alone the creation of an NIT? Could we have women's nationals (fleet racing and team racing) at one time and a couple weeks later have the co-ed events over a four day period?
- U. Leonard: That has been brought up to separate co-ed from the women's nationals on the calendar. It was also brought up to have the team racing and fleet racing separated. Those are both completely valid, creative strategies. We can flip flop the team racing and fleet racing if we choose to. The last time we restructured the schedule was 2013 and a lot of teams still wanted the Fleet race to be the culminating regatta of the Spring season, which forced the Team Racing earlier. With the new qualification procedure, we might not need to have the fleet race or the team race New England championships. There might be a better way to do it now. There's other creative ways to approach this and a split season proposal is one of them.
- V. Kalin: Any fundamental or regional teams want to chime in?
 - 1. Lindblad: I know there's a bit of distrust about motives about the NIT. One of the big complaints about Team Racing in the spring and this split system is that it excludes teams that don't team race. If this is something that gives Fundamental/Regional teams a culminating event and also solves some issues of congestion for the cross-regional teams, then it seems like a win-win. I don't think NEISA should be approving a season split with no structure behind it, but NEISA should take a look at this and put some meat on the bones and have another meaningful discussion after the ICSA Winter meeting.
- W. Kalin: One of our team racing shortfalls in NEISA is we don't have enough qualified umpires. But if we expanded the scope of our team racing in NEISA through this split season, that's something we'll need to address immediately. The only way we can get them now is to pay for them. So we would need to increase the dues for teams if we needed more umpires. That's something that needs to be fleshed out in dues before we can decide on this as a conference.
- X. Leonard: I suspect the ICSA will create a committee to create multiple scenarios for dealing with the nationals block. We should do a straw poll on those two questions about the proposal in its current form and also the conference's opinions on creating an NIT. I think it's a non-starter to throw an NIT into the mix at the time of the nationals block. It's already a huge undertaking, so this NIT would need to be organized by a team not in the

nationals block possibly at a venue aside from the Nationals location. Also, I think we should have some opposing viewpoints on that ICSA committee I suspect they will create. We should have one coach that's strongly for the proposal, one that's strongly against, and one Regional/Fundamental team that could talk to how this would impact them.

Y. *McClintock*: I thought that one of the reasons for defining Fundamental and Regional teams was that they wouldn't travel, why then would you have a regatta where they would have to travel?

- 1. *Assad*: That's in reference to something Charles said yesterday on the call about Texas and how it's harder for Texas to reach parity in terms of fundraising with Tulane, for example, with how much it cost them to get to nationals last year. I still believe regional and fundamental teams have tools in their arsenal to fundraise enough to get to the event if they'd like to. One clarification is that this new schedule and new classification is to match what teams are already doing. Most of our fundamental teams don't leave the conference. Some of our regional teams do leave the conference. The new schedule going forward will have regattas to accommodate that fact and will allow regional teams to travel out of conference. Fundamental teams, I believe, will have some additional two-conference competition with the approval of your scheduling coordinator, commissioner, and regatta host. This will make it easier for a team like Fairfield to compete at Fordham because it's closer than traveling to UVM. A capstone event is an inspiration for a group of four-six dedicated undergrads on a team who will find a way to fundraise for such an event.

Z. *Straw poll sent out*



- AA. Valentino: I agree with Justin, the prospect of an NIT is a tangible goal that I, as a regional team, can market to my alumni to get them to donate to get us there.
- BB. Kalin: That wraps up that discussion. I'm not sure if people's minds will be changed with more information, but then again people don't like change so maybe that's the issue. If this goes to vote, there is still a chance Charles can get the votes together to pass it.
- CC. Schreyer: Is it possible this could come to a vote at the January meeting?
1. Kalin: Yes, that's the intent. What are your thoughts?
- DD. Schreyer: I don't think this is a year to try and pass something big and not well thought out. It's nonreversible, and it's happening at a time when fundamental and regional teams aren't really paying attention.
- EE. Wilkinson: The only hope for passing it is if they back-room the votes and come out with a surprise amount of support.
- FF. Clark: Isn't this why the study recommends an Executive Director? To look objectively at this and see the major conflict of interest. The back-door stuff is just bad business.

XVI. Appointing of ICSA Committee Reps

- A. Kalin said he would follow up with the Graduate representatives privately and appoint at the January meeting new representatives to any vacancies that arise.

XVII. Membership Status Requests

- A. Application by Dalhousie University (Halifax, NS) for associate membership
1. Anderson motioned.
 2. Wilkinson seconded.
- B. Kalin: Do you mind giving us a little information about Dalhousie Sailing's program?
1. Fahrman: Sure thing. We have about 30-40 active members each year. We are a tier-1 club team at our school. We have a JV and Varsity grouping within our club sport. We practice on dinghies and keelboats, we also have a recreational team we run which is a learn-to-sail program. I'm really passionate about getting more involved in NEISA and competition in the Northern region of NEISA is closer than competing in Kingston or Ontario. If you have any other questions, let me know.
- C. Kalin: What kind of events were you hoping to participate in?
1. Fahrman: I spoke with Justin in the Spring about this and I think we were planning on doing more B- and C-level events to start off. We do want to focus on the Canadian sailing league for our Varsity team, but would love to send our JV team to NEISA events.
- D. Wilkinson: Just really quickly, what's that tier 1 thing you mentioned?
1. Fahrman: I believe it just means we're a competitive team. We're currently the top of the Atlantic division of the Canadian league.
- E. Dusek: Wouldn't we have to adopt them as an associate team until we adopt the fundamental designation?
1. Assad: Correct, we should keep this professional and do it through the right channels. We'll move to adopt them as an associate member with the intention to later reclassify them as a fundamental team once the new by-law changes take effect.

- i) Julia Wyatt MIT '21
- j) Lucy Mulvihill UVM '22
- k) Becca Rose Yale '22
- l) Gabby Schmidt BU '22

XIX. Date of Next Meeting - NEISA meeting, January 13, 2021 11am-noon; NEISA spring scheduling meeting for spring 2021, January 14, 2021 4pm-6pm

XX. Meeting Adjourned by Kalin at 1:30PM