

NEISA Judge Coordinator Report – Dec. 2022

Submitted by Amanda Callahan

As a reminder, the Judge Coordinator job is to assist host schools with finding umpires and judges for their events. Priority is given to stipend regattas as listed in the NEISA Rules and Regulations Manual.

Challenges & possible solutions:

- With the creation of the women's team race circuit (which is AWESOME!), we need at least 2x as many umpires. But the pool hasn't doubled, and we were at ~80% (filled 63/78 umpiring spots) coverage last spring.
 - Teams may be required to BYO Umpire to regattas TBD
 - Undergrads may be used as additional umpires. This will give undergrads experience; hopefully they will be more inclined to help after college.
 - Add compulsory umpire training this winter for undergrads and grads
 - Planning underway with in-person event taught by Peter Wilson, and virtual event taught by Rob Overton with US Sailing support.
- Need to re-evaluate umpire compensation and incentives.
 - Want to incentivize those with a) proper training, b) multiple weekend participation, c) ChUmps, etc.
 - May need to raise team fees for priority open and women's team racing events. The last increase was in 2020.
 - Currently paying \$100/day plus travel expenses, averaging \$150/day/umpire. Current TR surcharge per team is \$175. If ~6 NEISA teams are paying \$175 for the event, we are not covering our costs, and there is no room for a more competitive compensation.
 - **PROPOSAL:** Increase umpire surcharge by \$25 per event. Currently set at \$175 (\$400 for Fowle Trophy). Proposal raises fees to \$200 (\$400 for Fowle Trophy).
- **PROPOSAL:** Need to formally add Women's events to the list of priority events listed in the NEISA Rules & Regulations Manual. Proposed events highlighted in yellow above.

Priority Events

Singlehanded Champs (4)
MR Champs (9)
Schell (4)
Urn (4)
Coed ACCs R1 (8)
W's ACCs R2 (8)
W's TR Champs (12?)
W's Champs, Reed (4)
Dinghy Champs (4)
SNETR (10)
W's Dellenbaugh (8)
W's Staake (6)
W's Har, Duplin, or Y (6)??
Staake (6)
Friis (6)
Open TR Champs, Fowle (12)
Marchiando (12)

Misc.:

1. Coaches need share the contact information for recent grads with the Judge Coordinator to continue to grow the pool of umpires and judges with people who know the game we play. Continue to utilize social media to recruit alumni as well.
2. Host need to do a better job with "hosting" umpires, providing substantial breakfast, lunch, & dinner. Bathroom breaks are important too. Verbal abuse from coaches and sailors needs to be curtailed. Reminder that proposals to host conference championship events should include 3 named umpires according to the Rules & regs.
3. Last spring at NEISA Women's champs, we utilize technology to create more options for remote/virtual protest hearings. Thanks to Doc Sullivan for being available over Easter weekend.
4. Still on the list from last year: David Thompson is working on replacing missing umpire flags from the official NEISA flag set.