

Meeting summary for NEISA Annual Meeting (12/06/2023)

Quick recap

Frank presented a report on Neisa's performance, emphasizing the importance of committees, full-time coaches, assistants, and associates. The election results were announced with Ximena Escobar as President, Mitchell Callahan as Vice President, Paige Roby as Secretary, Harrison Nash as the Northern Region representative, Justin Callahan as the Central Region representative, and Parker Brown as the Southern representative. The team discussed various topics including the ranking system for regattas, the impact of limiting the number of teams at events, and the issue of last-minute team dropouts. The next meeting was set for Monday from 3 to 5 PM to go over the schedule.

Summary

Neisa's Performance, Elections, and Rule Updates

Frank, the commissioner, presented their report on Neisa's performance, highlighting strong performances and efforts to improve operations. They emphasized the importance of committees and full-time coaches, assistants, and associates. Frank also acknowledged the need for continued help, particularly in the umpire realm, and mentioned the possibility of bringing back a club team symposium. Marbella then announced the election results, with Ximena Escobar as President, Mitchell Callahan as Vice President, Paige Roby as Secretary, Harrison Nash as the Northern Region representative, Justin Callahan as the Central Region representative, and Parker Brown as the Southern representative. Jenn, the treasurer, updated the team on the current financial status, expressing gratitude towards the team's efforts in cleaning up the accounts receivable and announcing the decision to bill based on the current umpire surcharge events. David Thompson discussed the ongoing work on updating the Neisa rules and regulations. Lastly, Carter, the NEISA scheduling Coordinator, proposed a change to the sailing system for the fall and discussed the scheduling of the NEISA Match Clinic for the upcoming year.

Late Drop Penalty System Reforms Proposed

Carter proposed a reform of the late drop penalty system, suggesting that penalties should be based on the severity of lateness rather than the length of the regatta. The team discussed the impact of penalties on the scheduling of school teams, with concerns raised about their effectiveness. Alternative methods, such as those used by other conferences, were suggested for consideration. The team decided to send the issue to the scheduling committee for further work. Towards the end, Carter mentioned an update from the ICSA scheduling committee.

Conference Births, Tie-Breaking Rules, and Cross-Regional Event

Carter discussed the challenges faced with the elimination of invite births from inter-conference events and the proposed solution of shifting to a system allowing every conference to host a birth at fleet races and team races. However, concerns were raised about the feasibility of this system due to last-minute cancellations. Gregory suggested working with Mcsa to host a cross-regional event on the Marshondo weekend. Carter also noted that changes are still possible after the deadline. The meeting also focused on tie-breaking rules in regattas and the definition of a team race regatta. Zachary proposed that outcomes of one race should be sufficient to break ties and that half of a full round robin should constitute a regatta. These proposals were met with some resistance but were ultimately agreed to be presented to the ICSA Rules Committee for further consideration. Towards the end of the meeting, a vote was initiated to finalize the decision on the first point.

Selection Committee's Proposal Debate

The team discussed a proposal to count 50% of races in round robin #1 to count as a regatta. However, this idea was met with resistance from Zachary, Gregory, and David, who pointed out that the current measurement of success is based on performance in regattas. The team also discussed issues regarding the creation of large regattas and the idea of lowering standards to accept 80% of rounds. David and Frank emphasized the importance of fair and competitive representation. They also debated the current system of round robin races and potential issues, including the method of determining the number of races each team competes in. No definitive decisions were made during the meeting. NEISA voted to ask ICSA to define a team race regatta as a round robin with 80% of races completed in round 1.

Regatta Rules and Judges Discussion

The team discussed a proposal by Frank to adopt the 80% rule for the first round of a regatta, but there was confusion and concerns raised by Matthew needing clarification. Frank agreed to propose a new motion for adopting the 80% rule. The team decided to wait for the outcome of the vote before proceeding. The committee also discussed various topics including the voting mishap, alternate rules in fleet racing, allowing boats to delay their spin in fleet racing, and the Fleet race switch. They also discussed the idea of implementing a guideline for best practices in their field, the responsibility of hosts for having judges at level events, and the issue of a lack of judges at regattas. The team agreed on the need for a solution to this problem, either through expanding the group searching for judges or putting more pressure on hosts.

Rules, Awards, and Priority Events

Frank initiated a discussion about an issue that needed attention later. There was a debate about the spinning between Mark 1 and Mark 2 in a fleet race, with Gregory expressing confusion. The team also discussed a potential rule change regarding the timing of penalty infractions in sailing competitions. David suggested a rule change that would allow for penalty infractions at the first reasonable opportunity. The team agreed to put this motion forward to the ICC Rules Committee for consideration. Rebecca then presented their report on the Neisa Awards Committee, which successfully announced sailor of the week each week during the fall season. They suggested announcing via social media platforms and the possibility of awarding a team instead of just an individual. The team also discussed the challenges of determining a 'sailor of the week' award, with concerns about the potential for the award to lose its significance if given to a team instead of individuals. Rebecca proposed allowing the Neisa Awards Committee to award sailor of the week to a team race team for a given weekend. Lastly, Matthew discussed the need to reassess the priority events for 2024 and the potential to pay umpires at all events, irrespective of their level.

Regatta Ranking System Revisions Debated

The meeting revolved around the ranking system for various regattas. Michael A proposed several changes, such as reducing the points for 8th place teams, limiting the number of teams from one school at A and B level events, and adjusting the scoring for the ACT Regatta. They also suggested adding Savin Hill and the Nickerson trophy to the next year's performance rank. The team also discussed the impact of limiting the number of teams at events, especially in northern New England, and the issue of last-minute team dropouts. David proposed changing the scoring system for women's events, which was agreed upon by Michael A and Johnny. Diana raised concerns about the ranking system being unfairly skewed towards teams that participate in big boat events. The discussion concluded without a final decision.

Neisa Draft Report, Performance Rank, and Thompson Trophy

Frank proposed an amendment to their previous amendment, which resulted in Stu Walker and Callagy Ross maintaining their current positions with Neisa, with a reassessment next year. Justin expressed their views on the performance rank report, suggesting the inclusion of fall events and proposing a straw poll to assess the conference's opinion. The group then moved on to discuss the draft committee report, with updates on new events and changes to the draft order for the women's conference and team race. The committee decided that the top six New England teams should have access to top events and discussed the Thompson trophy, a standalone team race. The discussion concluded with Frank closing the discussion about the Neisa draft report.

Championship Committee's Report Update

David reported on the status of the Championship Committee's report, highlighting the received bids for the Neisa Championships and the open bids for the team race and New England's Neisa Match race championship. They encouraged interested parties to submit a bid. The voting process for these championships was clarified, with David explaining that it was a scheduling vote and everyone could technically vote, but they recommended that teams only vote if they plan to attend. The spring of 2024 was discussed, with two hosts for the women's stocky team race qualifier mentioned. The logistics of expanding the Empire pull event were also discussed, with Johnny working on securing enough boats for the lake. Finally, host locations for the Shell Trophy, New England fall tournament, and the women's stock host location were discussed, with Yale University, Connecticut College, the University of New Hampshire, Bates College, and Bentley University bidding.

Agenda, Report, Update, Proposal, Decision, Bid, Discussion, Postponement

David, Gregory, Frank, Johnny, Nat, and Michael A discussed various topics. They clarified that a rotation created by Neisa was not part of the current agenda. Frank mentioned that a report was sent previously. Nat gave an update about Todd, highlighting their transition to undergrads. David proposed a motion to shift the start time for the 2024 ICOSA Spring National Championship to 1030, to allow teams traveling from further away to save costs. Michael A seconded the motion. Jonathan suggested a later start time for the sailing competitions to avoid traffic and to capitalize on the best wind conditions. However, David voiced concerns about this proposal cutting into the national block times, which might lead to resistance.. Justin presented a bid to host the Team Race Nationals in spring 2025. The team also discussed the decision to split off the open team race Nationals from the Nationals block, which fell outside the prescribed dates in the conditions. A decision was made to postpone discussions on Jeffrey's topics to January, to avoid exceeding the meeting's timeframe.

Enforcing Rule Adherence and Honoring Nominees

The team discussed the idea of enforcing rule adherence at the conference by uploading completed protest forms to tech score, as suggested by Jared. However, Gregory pointed out that such a system would require changes as they currently don't have the capability to upload such forms. Frank decided to have the competition committee look into this idea and report back in January or February. The team also discussed the feasibility of this proposal, mentioning the difficulty of getting hosts to submit reports consistently. They concluded that posting protest forms on a physical notice board might be a more practical solution. The team also decided to honor all the nominees for the Neisa Honor roll and the Macarthur Service award. The next meeting was set for Monday from 3 to 5 PM to go over the schedule.

Bidding Process and Operations Discussion

The team discussed the bidding process for the Dartmouth Nationals and potential bids. Justin had submitted a form for the bid, hoping to get it awarded due to being the only one in January. There was a discussion about Mission Bay possibly only submitting a team race bid. David clarified that a school can put a bid in for a National championship at any time. The team also considered the possibility of hosting fleet racing in addition to the team race. Justin proposed a solution to help Wisco attend the regatta by pooling resources. Zachary revealed that a parent of a freshman at Wisco was willing to provide large annual gifts for the school's travel needs. The team also discussed potential locations for team racing, with Justin suggesting New England and MAISA as primary locations. The team also discussed potential issues related to their operations, including concerns over transportation and the need for support from stakeholders. They also discussed the possibility of partnering with other districts and the idea of developing a fleet race host. The team agreed that team racing should be hosted by the same venues year after year to prevent burnout. The team also touched on the importance of humor in their work environment.

Next steps

- Frank to propose a motion for ICSA to adopt the 80% rule for the first round of a regatta.
- The ICC Rules Committee will consider allowing the first reasonable opportunity for a foul committed, at, or in the zone of Mark 1 to be taken after Mark 2.
- Frank will make a motion to adopt the report as is.
- Consider having a lower cap for performance rank events in northern regions to encourage growth and development of these events.
- The Performance Ranking Committee will reassess the status of the Stu Walker and Callagy Ross events next year.
- Justin will gather feedback on whether single-handed and match racing events should count towards the performance ranking.
- David to prepare the Championship Committee Report with votes for spring and fall champions.
- Competition committee to review the proposal of uploading completed protest forms to tech score and report back in January or February.
- Consider submitting fleet racing bids for future championships.
- Consider rotating team racing championships between four established venues.