

NEISA Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2018

Action Items

1. NEISA Specific Action Items

- a. Email Justin Assad if you're interested in being a panelist for the Sailing World rankings

2. NEISA Action Items involving the ICSA

3. ICSA Action Items

Motions

1. None

Next Call: October 17th at 11am

Meeting Minutes:

I. Call to Order

- A. Roll Call: Justin Assad (Commissioner), Charlie Welsh (President), Brian Swingly (Special Projects), Frank Pizzo (Schedule Coordinator), Brian Swingly (Special Projects), Diana Weidenbacker (N. Region Graduate Rep), John Mollicone (S. Region Graduate Rep), Nellie Stidham (N. Region Undergraduate Rep), Ally Schwerdtfeger (C. Region Undergraduate Rep), Kylie Freitas (At Large), David White (SHU/FF), Amanda Callahan (RWU), Skip Whyte (URI), Eric Marshall (UMaine), Ken Legler (Tufts), Coleen Ross (Northeastern, UG), Taylor Martin (Maine Maritime), Caroline Patten (UVM), Jeffrey Bresnahan (Connecticut College)
- B. Proxies: Ally Schwerdtfeger for Peter Lynn (Vice-President), Nellie Stidham for Paige Clarke (Secretary)

II. Commissioner's Report

- A. Off to a great start with the Fall season, good first weekend of competition, in our new Fall schedule which we need a bit of time to see how it plays out
 1. Will be looking for feedback from individual teams on thoughts and any tweaks that need to be made from year to year to continue to keep it competitive/improve
- B. Later in this call, will go over the new PR system/process
- C. Working on a draft for in-conference no show penalties, but not a good idea of what exactly it will look like so there isn't a penalty in place currently
- D. Update later on status of the National Championship in NEISA this coming Spring

III. Scheduling Coordinator's Report

- A. Lots of scheduling adjustments this fall, this first weekend had more late drops/no-shows than normal
 - 1. Encourage people to check the schedule (NEISA and ICSEA) because it has a lot of information and is different
 - 2. Better to late drop Friday night rather than no-show, important because there are teams that are trying to sail and if teams are scheduled and don't show up, it's not good for the conference
 - 3. Danielle has been doing a great job this Fall of keeping everyone in the loop about open events and whatnot
- B. A few scheduling adjustments that are still on the schedule
 - 1. Midweek invites at Coastguard: not taking place this Fall, cancelled
 - 2. A few of regatta host shifts
 - 3. For the most part, everything on the NEISA schedule is accurate
 - a) Take a look at it
- C. Check the NEISA Team Contact Master tab on the Schedule
 - 1. If you have new leaders/coaches, please make sure the information is accurate
 - 2. Best way to communicate with different teams and very important
- D. Comments
 - 1. Leonard: This weekend at the Harry Anderson, we had 16 teams and it looks like we have 15-16 scheduled for the Hatch Brown this weekend unless that's changed in the last couple of days but 16 team regattas are not as good as 18 team regattas
 - a) Dramatically more space for the sailors, mistakes punished less harshly
 - b) I think it's really in our best interest to make these A-Level events 18 teams and we need to change our policy about second teams and have a policy about our in-conference A-Levels for second teams
 - 2. Assad: Ok, I don't disagree with that, any other thoughts on that front?
 - 3. Whyte: I think second teams are a band-aid because we're better off if we have more schools and I hear that NEISA will not be able to populate these events adequately and if we start adding second teams, we are only taking sailors away from other events in NEISA.
 - 4. Legler: I have to agree with Skip, we'd be a beneficiary of this because we have way too many kids on the team but i think Skip is right because there are kids that we would send that would be better off populating another

regatta. Even if a lesser skilled team in NEISA gets in to an event like the Harry Anderson, I think it's a good thing.

5. Leonard: The problem is that they're not coming. And frankly, there's also, I'm not sure it's a good thing because they're going to get crushed and it's not the best regatta for them. It's almost like they would be better off having 2 teams in the minor that Tufts vacated with their second best team to come to the Harry Anderson.
6. Assad: And I do think the other thing we might see is that then the B-Level events could become a combined division 18 boat regatta when it's at a single division place like Maine Maritime, which could be good.
7. Leonard: Or more often, there could be second teams at second level events. It's a lot easier for all of us to send a van full of people to one place than two different teams to two different places.
8. Assad: So I guess, Frank and I have talked about this a little bit. Does anyone have an argument against having second teams at A-Level events?
9. Bresnahan: There's another wrinkle to filling that second team. [Hard to hear] I have no comment.
10. Whyte: When this new schedule was being proposed, one of our complaints was that MAISA was sending second teams to our inter-conference events. Well, those MAISA second teams were more competitive than our 16th or 17th NEISA team. I think we should be cognizant of what we've done.
11. Leonard: That's why I'm saying the second teams are good.
12. Pizzo: Being in conference is new and it's different, we just need to let the schedule play out a little bit and be patient. We're making huge assumptions on one weekend of sailing. The season events are going to be different but we think the October events are going to be really good with the Showcase stuff and Inter-conference so I think we need to let the schedule play out a little bit.
13. Assad: I agree with that. One comment I want to make is that while Skip may be right about the relative strength of those MAISA second teams, it's our hope that our NEISA 16th and 17th teams benefit more from being at those regattas than a MAISA team would.
14. Leonard: I agree with Skip and I want to add that our second teams are also quite strong and for my team I would much rather have my second team sailing the Hatch Brown than sailing whatever the alternative is which is why I want us to think carefully about second teams.
15. Weidenbacker: I think the comment just made was about sending a weaker team to an event like that instead of a second team, I get it that they may

be slaughtered by the reality of it is that kids have an opportunity to compete against stronger teams and bring up their level and I would rather see more individual teams filling those empty spots first than a second team.

16. Leonard: That's great but they didn't show up and they're not showing up next weekend at the Hatch Brown.
 17. Assad: Hang on guys, so Diana makes a good point and I think we'd always follow a policy where first teams are prioritized over second teams no matter what but anyhow, I think we have some good stuff to chew on. I think Frank's right that we need to let it play out for another weekend or two and see how this fall goes and make a plan for moving forward.
- E. Whyte: I have a question for Frank, I see we don't have anybody from Harvard on the call, it's a little confusing on where they will be hosting this event [The Regis]. Are they back in their boathouse or at MIT or?
1. Pizzo: It will be out of the Harvard boathouse in 2 fleets of FJs from Harvard and BU.
 2. Whyte: Any updates on parking in that area which keeps getting harder and harder?
 3. Assad: No, I don't think so without anyone from Harvard or MIT on the call.
 4. Legler: I have a secret space right near Harvard but I'm not telling you about it.
- F. Assad: Thanks for that Ken, one other comment that I wanted to make was that and this is something everyone should pay attention to, if an event is lingering with 13 or 14 teams, it's much easier to drop and then add it in the second half of the week rather than drop it and eat late drop points. I think looking at the schedule and communicating with Frank if you're not sure about attending it or if you're looking at attending it and being strategic to avoid some penalty points.

Old Business

IV. 2019 National Championships, Assad

- A. John Mollicone and I have been working on this project with Sail Newport and we don't have a ton to report in terms of changes.
- B. As everyone saw, we put out a request for coachboats to borrow for the regatta and every coachboat that we can get from an established team, a NEISA team, will defray us somewhere in the range of \$3,000 because the rental fee of boats is about \$300 per day and it's an 11 day regatta, so any teams that can bring boats is super helpful
- C. As everyone will recall from the Spring, our plan is to move the Conn College FJ fleet to Newport for the regatta and our intention is to pay for the trucking and

then to have teams volunteer to load and unload the boats and we will pay for the labor. As soon as we have the exact numbers dialed down on how much/what that labor fee will look like, we think it will be a good fundraising opportunity for student led teams in the conference and we'll have parameters on how many kids we'll need/the time frame and all that stuff. That'll be a cool way to support our teams and help support the event.

- D. Other than that, not many updates on the National Championship, questions?
- E. Mollicone: No updates since the last time we filled everyone in.

V. Suspended In-Conference Interconference Penalty

- A. Still working on that, will have a proposal for the Winter meeting

VI. Sailing World Rankings Update

- A. National rankings are an important aspect of our publicity with the rest of the community outside of college sailing and they're important for communicating with alumni and recruiting and that sort of stuff
- B. We looked closely at the way they are done and there has been some turnover at Sailing World so we had the opportunity to reevaluate what the rankings look like and Mike Callahan and I were charged with creating a new system and so here's what we've come up with (and this was passed at the ICSA level)
- C. A rankings panel which will be a panel of 4 NEISA coaches, 4 MAISA coaches, 2 Pacific Coast coaches, 2 SAISA coaches, 2 Mid-West volunteers, 1 SEISA coach and 1 North-West volunteer
 - 1. It will be a little more consistent in terms of how rankings are done from period to period but it will be a broad swath of input from volunteers for the job.
- D. We will bring back the preseason prognostic article where we talk about program updates which can include coaching changes, facility upgrades and also incoming freshmen/impactful graduated seniors. That helps develop the narrative and was popular when it used to exist
- E. This is the overview and we had a meeting with Sailing World yesterday and they seem onboard with the change and that's how we'll move forward with the rankings
- F. Will be looking for volunteers and looking at about an 18 month time period that people will be on the rankings panel from New England and I'll try to have a rotation every 18 months and looking for people interested in helping out and being one of those 4 panelists for New England so if you're interested let me know. We're looking for people that are excited to do the work and will take it seriously and are reliable to do it during every ranking period and I think there will be 4-5 ranking periods in the Fall and probably the same, or maybe 6, in the

Spring. Hopefully this will be a valuable media tool for us and the consistency will help.

1. Email Justin if you're interested and if not, will be reaching out to people that he think would be good.

VII. Report of Sports Consulting Agency for ICOSA

- A. Don't have a current update on that
- B. The consulting agency is working on the project and we don't get regular updates from phase to phase, but it's in process and will have an update once we get the actual report from them

VIII. New Performance Ranking Process

- A. Everyone probably will recall that we vote a new PR system into being during the Annual Meeting last year and you can find that in our Annual Meeting notes in terms of the breakdown. It's more of a metric where everything is based out of a total score of 10 and one catch, Mike Kalin looked at it and he's asked teams to enter their scores on the Google Sheet every Monday.
- B. Individual teams are responsible for reporting their scores for the scoring sheet every Monday.
 1. Reminder for some of our student led teams, this may be a little confusing so it'll be important that they follow up on it.
- C. I've talked to Mike about doing some helping to identify if a team doesn't enter any scores for the ranking period and making sure we follow up that they didn't sail any ranking events and if they did, following up with that team. It is a little bit of leg work but hopefully it'll be less leg work than it used to be.

IX. New Business

- A. Scheduling Issue
 1. Leonard: One more comment about the schedule issue, I'm not 100% sure about my facts but I think we have an incentive problem because I'm not in disagreement with Diana, I think we want more teams coming to the A Level events each weekend but what we've got is, I convinced Northeastern to send a team to the Harry Anderson but they had to send their second team because they had to send their first to the Penobscot Bay Open to qualify for the Danmark. So, actually, it's not in the best interest of the teams that we should be wanting to fill those spots to fill them and that's why we either need to change that or have second teams. You have the same problem during the Hatch Brown at the Barnett.
 2. Assad: Yeah, you end up chasing your tail a little bit when you're in that 13 range through 18 whether you send your top team to your best event to develop or do you send them to the second tier event to get into the best event on a later weekend. Yeah, I agree with that.

3. Leonard: Either way, the net result is that the events aren't full and that's not what we want.
4. Assad: I appreciate that input.
5. Callahan: One other comment, Stanford is here training with East Coast teams and they're sailing 11 total events this entire season which is because they just recently got into like 3 East coast events. I think if they'd been offered a spot at the Hatch or the Harry Anderson, they would've and I think we're limiting ourselves particularly with regard to them.
6. Assad: That's fair and it's easy to look at the situation and feel that way and I do see it. I think that it's important to remember that rather than Stanford coming here to the East Coast they'd be working in their conference to develop and get some of their teams out there that are creating minors and A level events with the teams in their conference so that they get stronger and build institutional strength as a conference. I know from the national scale, that was the hope for this portion of the schedule. Obviously it's not going down that way this fall but I know that was the vision in the long term.
7. Assad: Like Frank said, we're only a week in but we definitely want to keep getting feedback from people on this new schedule as we're working through it and keep moving forward. Thanks everyone for your time, see you this weekend.

X. **Next Call: October 17th at 11am**