

April NEISA Executive Committee Call Meeting Notes

April 1st, 2021

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call of Executive Board**
 - a. Full meeting attendance and voting is available [here](#)
- III. **ICSA Meeting Summary – Mike Kalin**
 - a. *Kalin*: There's a lot going on here with the pandemic – sorting out a spring season that's not quite normal and a fall season with some big changes. To give a quick update on my part, I have a quick update of the ICSA Meeting. I sent my notes out from the meeting. The main thing is, it's not totally legislation yet. The current seniors are going to get that provision for grad school and for a second undergrad and also professional post-baccalaureate (teaching degree). That's going to be passed into law I believe on April 19th now. There was a small formality with the 30-day notification – the official vote will happen then. It was a nearly unanimous vote. So that's going to pass. You can always email questions to me.
- IV. **NEISA TIDE Update – Preston Anderson and Izzy Cox**
 - a. *Anderson*: I just threw our update in the chat. Typically, we meet as an all-committee each month, but we took March off so each sub-committee could meet to work on building some of their projects. I think there's a lot of promising initiatives coming up. I know Mike sent something out to the NEISA coaches about a potential career night coming up, so please help us out with that. Please contact your alumni. The major update is the TIDE ICSA Education Program. I'll throw Module 3's signup in the chat after we're done. We've had about 63% of NEISA participate in Module 1, and about 48-50% of NEISA participating in Module 2. It's continuing to be along those same trends in Module 3. We've had about 320 unique participants go through the whole TIDE Education Program which is pretty exciting. Everything else is laid out in the update. There's been a lot of press we've been working on as well. I'm happy to take any questions.
 - b. *Cox*: Just try to get to the ICSA Education Modules if possible, especially sending your sailors which is powerful. I went with some people from my team, and it was really helpful to be able to talk to them about things that coaches aren't as aware of or can't necessarily influence. It's really cool to talk to other sailors and sailors from my own team about what's going on. They're awesome you should go.
 - c. *Anderson*: We're supposed to have some makeups in April. They won't be as frequent, but if you missed a module, we'll have a couple makeups offered as well. But that's basically it on my end.
 - i. *O'Connor*: Will those makeups be after exams are done for most people? Are we thinking of letting people take a look at it after exams?

1. *Anderson*: I know exams are different for every school because of COVID. We were thinking of doing it the week after Module 3 because that seemed to be what was best for the schedule, but we haven't put much thought into when exams were.
 - a. *O'Connor*: Thank you.
- d. *Kalin*: Thank you for that update and all the hard work from everyone else. I know the ones I've been on are fantastic and very well prepared. There's a huge amount of effort going into each module so nice work on that.

V. Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees

a. Scheduling Coordinator: Spring Schedule Update/Fall Conference Schedule Update – Taylor Martin

- i. *Kalin*: We've got our spring championships right around the corner so there's a lot to sort out there including making sure we're all on the same page.
- ii. *Martin*: I'm going to go over the schedule which is still live and up to date as you are trying to add stuff to your Spring 2021. I haven't heard of any more teams that are eligible to sail since our last meeting. Tomorrow, the 2nd, is our two-week deadline before our qualifier that we agreed on. That's the unofficial raise the hand date if you think you'll get your declarations of adherence in and can sail that event so that we have the final numbers for that.
 1. *Wilkinson*: How many teams are we at then if we're a day away?
 - a. *Martin*: We are at 11 for Women's and Coed and 10 for Team Race.
 2. *Wilkinson*: Of those 11, how many are "We've raised our hand, we aren't 100% sure our declaration is coming in" vs. how many firm?
 - a. *Martin*: Declarations in right now, we have 7 schools who are for sure able to sail. Then 4 who have indicated they are going to have their declarations in.
 3. *Wilkinson*: Can we get updates from those 4 schools?
 - a. *Martin*: Yup, we can: Bowdoin, Brown, Dartmouth, and UVM.
 - i. *Mollicone*: On Brown's end, our athletic director sent in the declaration of adherence form yesterday and they said we can compete. I sent it to ICSA compliance, so my question is, how quick of a turnaround on their end, to say that they have it to approve it before I can start scheduling stuff? I'd like to do at least one other event outside of New England's that's available. How does that work?

1. *Martin*: The turnaround has been between a day and a week. I'll reach out to Danielle today to make sure she's received that. Have your AD send it and CC Mike and myself and Frank on that so we know it's gone in and so you can start scheduling.
 - a. *Mollicone*: I think I copied Mike Kalin on it. I'll get it to you guys right now.
 4. *Wilkinson*: John is it full blown, you're ready to go, you can compete at Nationals and everything?
 - a. *Mollicone*: We don't know about Nationals yet. They told us that they just don't know that far ahead, but New England's we are good to go. Hoping for Nationals. We may go to New England's and we still may not know if we can go to Nationals. There's a slim chance we might not be able to do The Coed New England's because it's the first day of our final exams and we're trying to get an exemption from the Ivy League to be able to do it. I'll keep everyone posted. Definitely going to be doing Women's and Team Racing. But we'll see about Coed New England's.
- iii. *Martin*: Justin?
 1. *Assad*: Ours isn't quite as rosy as John's picture at Brown yet, but we're trying to get the same thing there, and as of last Friday it was really encouraging that that's where we'd end up. We're not there yet but we're hopeful.
 - a. *Martin*: Do you have an idea of timeline?
 - i. *Assad*: I was just waiting for it to go official with Brown to then give another round of nudges to see what the timeline may be. It sounds like it's public with Brown now so I can reach out to my ADs to see what they think. We'll need exceptions on exceptions to be able to do it, but my athletic trainer who's on the COVID task force at the college seemed to think we'll get everything we needed. We don't have that stuff yet but they seem to think that was going to be out soon.
- iv. *Martin*: Frank, Caroline?
 1. *Patten*: For Vermont, our proposal is up out of student government and through the UVM Strong Committee who makes all these decisions on COVID. The athletic department hasn't been doing a very good job following through with some of the

procedures and protocols, so they're a little hesitant to let us go travel. They haven't flat out said no yet, they're still thinking about it. Hopefully I'll be hearing back by the end of the day and we'll have a better idea.

2. *Pizzo*: For Bowdoin, our form will go in today or tomorrow, but we're limited to only being able to compete against two other schools so we're not going to be able to participate in these championship qualifiers.
- v. *Wilkinson*: I think that puts us at 8 definites and 2 maybes? Is that correct?
 1. *Martin*: 9 definites if we count Dartmouth, and 2 maybes.
 - a. *Assad*: I think we're still a maybe, likely but not yes.
- vi. *Wilkinson*: We have 8 declarations of adherence in and can compete, and we're waiting on Vermont and Dartmouth. So, we have a maximum field size for the NEISA Championship as 10. That's really helpful.
- vii. *Martin*: We, today, have to accept proposals from host sites and accept our general championship conditions for alternate sites, and then talk a little about the conditions that we started to talk about last week and hopefully get those set in place. I think we need to start with Women's. The host sites are Conn and Coast Guard as a combined host site, with Salve as a backup. We need to go through and vote on these separately for each championship. So, Jeff do you have any updates?
 1. *Bresnahan*: David has been gracious enough to figure the boats out. At a maximum of 10 teams, Coast Guard has 20 boat fleets, so we'd be able to do that without a by, but 11 becomes a problem. 10 is a little bit of a problem just because Coast Guard has a three team plus them, and I'm trying to get us to where we're a 5 team plus me. That's a lot. We have a problem here with asking for above and beyond as the ICSA out-of-station form. I was hoping to have an answer on that. Our trainer has recommended to our AD that we just follow the ICSA form and not ask for additional paperwork. So, I think that should work itself out between ADs and trainers, I think it has, I just haven't gotten the final answer. That's about it. If David wants to chime in if I missed anything.
 - a. *Martin*: So, are you guys able to take 10 or 9 between the two of you?
 - i. *Thompson*: I believe the hope is to take 10 schools between the two of us. We could do that as combined divisions in Coast Guards fleet of probably FJs I think is what people were leaning

towards. We have 20 FJs so that's what we would plan to do. The two fleet racing qualifiers would be in 9 divisions in FJs. Obviously, the boats would be pre-distributed between the two venues.

2. *Bresnahan*: At Conn we will not adopt the boat rotation system.
- viii. *Wilkinson*: So, the championship proposal is cohost between Coast Guard and Conn, 10 teams, combined divisions, no rotation? Let's vote on that.
- ix. *Martin*: I move to accept Jeff and David's proposal as read.
 1. *Kalin*: Second
 2. *Assad*: Can I suggest we just call for any opposed?
 3. *Martin*: Any opposed?
 - a. ****None opposed****
 4. *Martin*: Ok, motion passes for Women's.
- x. *Martin*: I think it's going to be the same exact proposal for Coed. Jeff or David, do you have any modification? 10 boats, split up between Conn and Coast Guard. I move to accept the proposal as read.
 1. *Mollicone*: Will there be roster limits?
 - a. *Wilkinson*: Yeah, I think we might have left that out.
 - b. *Bresnahan*: Yeah, there will be for us at Conn. We'll have to follow the ICSA. I would like the number to be higher personally but my guess is we'll follow what the ICSA is just because that's the easiest way to do it.
 - c. *Wilkinson*: I believe for the fleet racing events the ICSA number is 7, and 10 for team racing.
 2. *Bresnahan*: I had put in my proposal for fleet racing that each team would have 10 plus a coach, but that won't keep us from hosting. Whether we just mirror the ICSA because it's just easier that way. My fear on the whole thing is limiting. We are really making our thing short, and there are a lot of people on the teams that are sailing with kids that decide to come back. To leave them at home watching Netflix just seems criminal to me.
 - a. *Mollicone*: Can we have two coaches at these events?
 - i. *Wilkinson*: Maybe we should have an overall roster limit including coaches. So maybe 7+X if we're going with 7 as the number of kids. So maybe an 8- or 9-person travel party and you can maybe bring your trainer and maybe more kids.
 - b. *Mollicone*: We might have to bring a trainer given COVID and bring two coaches and bring a van in case somebody is sick.
 - i. *Wilkinson*: We should probably do athletes plus 2.

- ii. *Bresnahan*: Should we do 8 athletes plus 2, not to exceed 10?
 - iii. *Thompson*: I think the number of sailors should mimic the ICSA.
 - iv. *Wilkinson*: I think we probably need to do a plus 2 because those things John brought up; those are real.
 - v. *Thompson*: There's not a definite that coaches will be on the water at any of these events.
- xi. *Martin*: I'd like to do roster limits as a separate proposal. I'd like to do a blanket for all of them at the end. So right now, motion on the table is accepting Coed championship site as it was pretty much the same for Women's. Any opposed? Ok, motion passes. Now on to team racing – we have an update from Jeff and David about team racing. Right now, we have 10 teams, 7 of those are yeses.
- xii. *Bresnahan*: For that championship it's going to have to be in Z420s just because we wouldn't have enough for 24 boats. I think everything else stands. Switching, in that particular fleet, switching when we had a natural break when the boats are secured and we're in the middle of something, we could switch boats. But we can't do the tie 'em up and walk away then untie them type thing.
- xiii. *Martin*: Any questions for Jeff or David? Ok, move to accept Conn and Coast Guard's proposal for Team Race qualifiers as read?
 - 1. *Wilkinson*: Second
- xiv. *Martin*: Any opposed? **None opposed** Motion passes.
 - 1. *Wilkinson*: All three of these events are one day events with an alternate day correct?
 - a. *Martin*: Yes, the alternate day for all three of them is Sunday, April 25th.
 - i. *Bresnahan*: I potentially have a problem with that. I apologize – NESAC rowing has all of a sudden turned on, so they're asking us if we can potentially go on the 25th for team racing because there is potentially a big crew regatta on the river on the 24th. I'm just working that out now.
 - b. *Wilkinson*: Are Coed and Women's one day events?
 - i. *Bresnahan*: Yes, 17 and 18.
 - c. *Wilkinson*: And is there an alternate date for the Coed and the Women's?

- i. *Martin*: When we bumped them back, all the alternate dates became the 24th and 25th, whichever the non-racing day was the weekend.
 - d. *Wilkinson*: And those alternate dates aren't meant to be an extension of the regatta, they're only supposed to be if the regatta doesn't meet the ICSA minimums, correct?
 - i. *Martin*: Correct
 - ii. *Callahan*: I have all the umpires coming for that regatta on the 25th, so if that changes, somebody please let me know that.
 - e. *Bresnahan*: The alternate day for Women's or Coed is the 24th. From my site, everyone's comfortable with it being the alternate date, the report time may just need to be at noontime or something like that.
- xv. *Martin*: The other thing we still need to vote on is the alternate formats for more than 9 teams. It doesn't sound like an issue so, somebody stop me if we don't think we need to move forward with this.
 - 1. *Wilkinson*: Based on 10 we're all set. If Conn and Coast Guard are 90ish percent sure it will work, otherwise we'll need to revisit.
- xvi. *Martin*: Ok, so I guess we can table that alternate format. The alternate format is going to be the same as proposed last time, so the recommendations are in the document, and if we have to revisit that we will.
 - 1. *Mollicone*: What about an alternate day for team racing?
 - a. *Martin*: I think the last alternate we had is the same as the weekend for singles?
 - 2. *Mollicone*: So, the May 1-2 weekend?
 - a. *Martin*: Yes, that was the compromise we made when we bumped all the qualifiers back a week.
- xvii. *Martin*: Roster limits – I move that we impose roster limits on all qualifiers that reflect the ICSA roster limits for sailors. I don't think they had a coach maximum.
 - 1. *Wilkinson*: The ICSA does not yet. I think ultimately, they will, but they don't now.
 - 2. *Bresnahan*: I think we should say follow the ICSA roster limits plus required "travel parties", or required coaches and admins per institutions.
 - a. *Wilkinson*: Is that ok for your sites? They won't need a firmer number?
 - i. *Bresnahan*: I'm just trying to figure it out.

3. *Mollicone*: Don't forget about like for us we'll need a bus with a bus driver that will stay all day.
 - a. *Bresnahan*: Officials and buses are part of our COVID protocol. We're talking on the competition side how many total people. If everyone's comfortable let's say two coaches and any required medical staff. I don't think you can limit the medical staff. If John needs to bring the whole ER with him that's what he needs to bring.
- xviii. *Martin*: Any other thoughts on that before we make a motion?
 1. *Assad*: I think we should just see if we could get an answer from the ICSA on the support personnel rules and just follow that.
 - a. *Wilkinson*: That's going to be too slow for us. We need to just get something. That's not going to happen in 10 days.
 2. *Clark*: Here it's not necessarily about numbers, it's about schools. In terms of sailors, the roster size should mimic ICSA. In terms of coaches and other support staff, at Coast Guard, we'll be limited by coach boats, so if schools are bringing athletic trainers and medical staff, that's a no brainer, but additional coaches we won't be able to get everyone out on the water. There shouldn't be an expectation that two coaches per team will get on the water.
 - a. *Bresnahan*: I think it's appropriate for one coach per team at a time on the water. We're going to be limited by coach boats if we can get people on the water at all.
 - b. *Clark*: Particularly because we're not rotating.
 3. *McClintock*: Is it possible to bring our own coach boats?
 - a. *Bresnahan*: That's definitely possible and I think that will be the reach from us.
 4. *McClintock*: Do you have a ramp on site?
 - a. *Bresnahan*: Yes, we have a pretty accessible one in New London under the bridge.
 5. *Assad*: If coaches aren't on the water, what do we envision coaching looking like?
 - a. *Kalin*: I think we move on because we have a lot to cover.
 - b. *Pizzo*: The ten teams that can play should get together and figure stuff out. Let's get on to other things.
 - c. *Bresnahan*: One other thing. We have to waive the time limit on Sundays for the championships.
- xix. *Martin*: Hold on we're working on roster limits right now; we haven't made a motion on that. Ok, so the motion for roster limits is, accepting ICSA sailor roster numbers, maximum of two coaches and any required travel support or medical personnel. Can I get a second?

1. *Wilkinson*: Second.
- xx. *Martin*: Any opposed? **None opposed** Ok, motion passes. So, Jeff you're talking about Sunday the 25th?
 1. *Bresnahan*: I'm talking about Sunday the 18th and 25th to waive time limits for Sunday competition.
 - a. *Wilkinson*: Are we going to set a new time limit?
 2. *Bresnahan*: What's the time limit for Saturday?
 - a. *Martin*: 6pm on Saturday, 3pm on Sunday.
 3. *Bresnahan*: For Sunday New England Championships to mimic Saturday's cutoff times.
 - a. *Wilkinson*: Second
 - b. *Mollicone*: Are the report times all earlier too?
 - i. *Bresnahan*: They'll have to be TBA just because Coast Guard and Conn have to work that out.
 - c. *Martin*: How many races have you guys been getting off?
 - i. *Bresnahan*: We'd be limited to 10 anyways because of the teams.
 4. **Motion passes**
- xxi. *Martin*: That's all the spring championship motions that I had. The other thing for me is the fall schedule. I don't know if Frank wants to talk more about that. I'm going to share a draft Fall schedule which we talked about last time using the performance ranking and picks from the 2020 schedule to populate the 2021 schedule, minus regional and cross-regional regattas which will be drafted separately, with a potentially new draft procedure. We're not voting on this; this is just to put it in front of you guys to look at. We will have the official final berth allocations and regional and cross-regional regattas April 20th. At that point for our main meeting, we'll have to vote if we accept this process for the schedule moving forward. This draft schedule is 85-90% accurate.

b. Graduate Secretary Report: Draft Committee Update/ACC Qualifying, and Fall Draft Update – Frank Pizzo

- i. *Pizzo*: The draft committee has been working to draft regional and cross-regional events. We think it's important to draft these cross-regional and regional regattas because there's not a ton of them, and they have difference levels of implications for Nationals berths. We think these numbers are accurate, but they're going to get firmed up mid-late April. This is just so you guys can start sort this out. The two cross-regional events in this draft are the Danmark and the Captain Hurst, and both are weighted equally in the Nationals selection ranking. They both have 12 NEISA berths, 10 that are selected and 2 sail-in berths. The third cross-regional event is the Nevins Trophy hosted by King's Point

which has 4 NEISA berths. We also drafted the regional events including the Moody at URI, a couple of MAISA events, and a couple events around the country. The numbers to the right are berths for the events. We also thought it was important to have a separate for Women's events. There are two cross-regional events for women, the Stu Nelson and Yale Women's, and both have 11 berths. The women's is a bit different because there are fewer cross-regional events, and more NEISA teams in the ACCs compared to Coed events. The draft committee, comprised of myself, Mike O'Connor, Dave Thompson, Caroline Patten, and Jeff Bresnahan, we came up with this draft stuff and I just want to leave this on the screen. We thought it was important for everybody, especially for cross-regional -regional teams' stuff, that they could select either the Danmark or the Captain. The draft order for the Coed we thought was pretty inclusive without making strong regional events watered down. This is a mock draft of what teams may select or not. This may not actually reflect what your team will do, but we wanted to highlight a potential draft of what these events will look like. I'm happy to send this out for people to look at it and see where they may be. I think the first two rounds will be 1-16, and then we would go 1-18, 1-20, and 1-X, and basically the 1-X is all the regional and cross-regional teams. On the women's side, it's a bit easier because it's only two events. We kind of went through this process here. We understand that for 2022 we're likely going to have a major draft reworking, and we'll work on that in the fall before things get sorted. But we wanted to get this in front of the conference to think about to start you seeing what this could potentially look like, and on this point I'm happy to take any questions.

1. *Martin*: Would it make sense that after the round of 1-16 to do 1-26? To do all regional and cross-regional instead of 1-18 then 1-20?
 - a. *Pizzo*: We didn't think that every regional team needs to have access to every regional event. We think that actually makes those regional events weaker. This draft looks like the schedule people normally have or very close to it. One way a regional team that may be deeper, say you want more regional events, you come up to the Barnett, and you get sail-in berths for the Moody. We talked about it and didn't think it was good for the conference to make everything open to everyone immediately. That I think actually harms the competitive strength of these regional regattas.

2. *O'Connor*: Is it worth mentioning that we talked about the sail-in berths and whether or not they're necessary?
 - a. *Pizzo*: Yeah, I was going to get into that next.
3. *Assad*: One thing to add, is the O'Berg, that one weekend, and I'm not sure exactly how to manage this. But on Weekend 7, the top 12 teams will be at the ACC's. Then the next group after that we want the country to send their next best teams that aren't in the ACC lineup. We kind of potentially identified the O'Berg as being that. Where we get to that for teams at least 13-18, that's going to be a super important event in my opinion. The next 5 teams that aren't in the ACC, I think it's crucial we line our teams in NEISA up against the rest of the country because I think ours are better.
4. *Martin*: On that committee Justin what we talked about is making sure, because O'Berg is drafted and ACCs are sail-in, we would try to ensure it is those 13 teams or whatever, are first teams at those events rather than the 1-12.
 - a. *Assad*: Can we just hold those berths? Can we take away 5 berths and give them to teams 13-18 that qualify?
 - i. *Pizzo*: We can work that out. I consider it part of the ACC series. That's something draft committee didn't talk about but we have time to sort that out.
 - b. *Assad*: My biggest concern for New England is that everyone who makes the ACC will probably be fine. I'm mostly worried about how we demonstrate the strength of other teams 13-16.
5. *Wilkinson*: On that thing you're talking about Justin, with what's coming out of ICSA Competition Committee is, all the regattas will be graded in advance to give selectors an available tool to look at data. That all came from this overarching scheduling concern around the country that teams don't know what they're signing up for when they sign up for regattas. The other conferences are always saying how, when they sign up for a regatta, they don't know the field. This grading system really grew out of that. Justin when you're targeting an event to capture certain teams from around the country, I think we can start with our schedule, almost adding descriptions to some of these events because the rest of the country is kind of screaming for that. That would be one way to help with that.
 - a. *Assad*: We had our interconference scheduling meeting yesterday and we really emphasized that, with the O'Berg specifically, and how to pick and how to advise teams on

the right regattas to go to. Hopefully through communication we'll make a lot of progress with that group. We haven't quite yet nailed down a CT or a showcase on that weekend yet.

6. *Wilkinson*: People are begging for that. Frank maybe you'll get to it, but can you remind everyone how you get in to each level of the Atlantic Coast series.
- ii. *Pizzo*: The draft committee had a discussion about sail-in berths, about whether it was better to include the sail-in berths in the draft and have teams actually select them, or keep these sail-in berths scattered throughout events to get people to chase them if they think their team is good. These sail-in berths were originally created for the first four regional events in NEISA that were traditionally further North to incentivize the conference to go up North to qualify for events later in the season. There are currently three sail-in opportunities: one is at the Penobscot Bay Open, two berths qualify you for the Danmark Trophy, at the Barnett Trophy at Bowdoin, two berths qualify for the Moody Trophy, and at the Captain Hurst, two berths qualify from the Smith Trophy at MIT. Whether those are helping the conference or not, is one thing. Historically they have had support from teams 10-25 in NEISA thinking that if they got really good one year they could move up. Sail-in berths have a lot of uncertainty, like you don't know you're in that event, and added costs for that and with added costs for teams chasing those berths. The more teams that are chasing stuff, the less certainty there is. Travel logistics and costs for those teams go through the roof. I'm not for or against it and we're open to feedback, and we talked about maybe adding these to regional events, but I just wanted to put that out there before we got thoughts on the ACC series for this fall.
 1. *O'Connor*: People should also be thinking about philosophically do we want sail-in berths, or should we just pick them. And the other side of it, is these may not be the right regattas anymore to qualify. Like it might make more sense to have the Harry Anderson be a sail-in regatta than some others because it's available to more teams.
 - a. *Wilkinson*: I see sail-in berths as directly tied to drafting. If sail-in berths go away, I'd expect there needs to be an adjustment to the draft order. If they stay, maybe not. The sail-in berths have direct drafting impact.
- iii. *Martin*: The berth allocations for those regattas you qualify into have been reduced by a little bit. Some teams that normally would be able to

draft and get those events now will have to sail-in if they want those. So those regattas have a bit more weight now by like one or two berths.

1. *Pizzo*: The Captain and the Danmark haven't changed berth allocations, but some like the O'Berg have fewer.
2. *Kalin*: I called you this morning about the sail-ins and I didn't think through it all, but if you're the 11th ranked team, you're going to go broke and it's impossible. You'd exhaust your travel budget chasing spots and you'd never actually get to go to the event you're trying to get. There's probably a fair way to do it just by what Greg suggests.
 - a. *Bresnahan*: I think if we move the sail-in berths to different events, and I think that would solve the solution without changing the draft.
 - b. *Assad*: It is tricky because September is tough. It's a crowded time in the schedule. If your best sailor is a match racer or single hander, it makes it hard.
 - i. *Bresnahan*: That's what it is now. Right now, to get into the Danmark and match racing, that's the same weekend. So, ya know.
- iv. *Thompson*: Another big thing, we're hearing from a lot more of the top teams, so I'd love to hear from regional teams if they'd like to do sail-in berths, because they're not eligible to sail the cross-regional events we're talking about. They'll have an effect on access to the O'Berg and Hewitt, so I'd personally like to hear if they'd like sail-in or drafted berths.
 1. *Martin*: I think sail-in berths are ok. But I do think the draft order would need to be revisited if those go away so the equity is more spread out.
 2. *Pizzo*: Our system allows for equity based on performance from that fall. I do see your point; I just think it's worth mentioning that. Dangling berths for a couple of teams to chase all over does come at a big cost for like teams that feel like they're potentially getting better.
- v. *Wilkinson*: How many berths are there in the Danmark and the Hurst?
 1. *Pizzo*: There's 12 NEISA total in each.
- vi. *Wilkinson*: So, I realized that we're kind of having two conversations that there might be regional sail-ins, but there are also going to be cross-regional sail-ins. At twelve berths, to get those cross-regional regattas, to try to get both of them, I have a feeling teams 7-15 on the cross-regional list are going to have a really hard time getting both of those events. So, they're going to be looking at trying to sail in. BC is ranked 9th, so I'm almost certain that to get both of those regattas in our

current draft order, BC would need to sail-in to one. The implication of that is that you're letting one of those regattas go. You might skip it in order to get a regional regatta, and our draft order has been built knowing all of that. So, if that changes, the draft order needs to get tweaked.

- vii. *Pizzo*: The way it works is that if a berth getting available at the Captain, it would go to the alternate, then if a berth becomes available in the sail-in it goes to the next team in the sail-in order. The other one we've been talking about for the Fall is the ACC. For NEISA Coed ACC's, we've been reduced from 15 NEISA to 12 currently. On the Women's side we were at 15 and we're being reduced to 14. We have to figure out a system to get teams to those events. We're using data that is pretty old to sort through this stuff. We have a couple of ideas. On the Women's side it's a bit easier, there's often fewer teams that are there. NEISA just fills 15 teams for Women's ACC's, and some years we can only get to 14. Historically in NEISA 10-12 have prequalified for this event, and we've done the final three at the Mrs. Hurst. That's probably a similar type scenario that we would give certainty to a certain number of teams, and then have the opportunity for teams that aren't in yet to sail into these events. So, one the Women's side we'd think about doing that at the Mrs. Hurst. On the Coed side, we've talked about maybe using the Hoyt Trophy to serve as the qualifier. So, there are 16 cross-regional teams in our conference with 12 spots. I'm not sure what the right breakdown is. The scenarios are; everyone has to sail-in which is potentially beneficial because it's equitable, but the drawback is 16 teams now need to make reservations and logistics 2 weeks before an event and that is highly expensive, especially if you're flying. We could do it, historically, with 10 prequalified and then the final 2, or a combination of the two. I think we're open to whatever, we just need some way to qualify for these ACC's. It sounds like the 4 that don't make it will qualify for this O'Berg Trophy.

1. *Assad*: I think chances are good, can't make any promises, but we're trying to get to 13 berths for New England to get one more berth back. I think it's only in years when round one is in MAISA that we have the extra expense. So, it could be different when round one is in NEISA. Just a thought.
2. *Bresnahan*: I agree with what Mike Kalin is putting in the chat. Obviously, I think there's going to be a system right after COVID for the fall then a system we can adopt after for that. For the fall, we probably have to go to the total sail-in. We're giving up a lot to draft off fairly old data. We have two choices. One, we can sail-in

the Hoyt even with extra expenses, or NEISA could choose as a group to not go to that event this year.

- a. *Assad*: In Fall of 2021, round one is in NEISA.
- b. *Wilkinson*: That's very important because I think if we do anything different than what we used to be doing, we may be looking at one year of fix.
3. *Assad*: If this year we do a full sail-in because it's in New England, that gives us some breathing room. For the following fall we go back into a prequalified/qualified mode. Then we have current data we're working with. To me that makes sense.
 - a. *Martin*: Those reverted back to the 2020 plan hosts right?
 - i. *Assad*: We didn't get that fully approved, but when I talked with Mike Callahan that's what we agreed on.
 - b. *Bresnahan*: We also talked to MAISA about getting that championship out of Annapolis to somewhere that's better to qualify to and more affordable to go.
- viii. *Kalin*: Next fall, the A and B event are in NEISA.
 1. *Martin*: Both first rounds? Women's first round and Coed first round are both in NEISA?
 2. *Assad*: It's always vice versa. The Women's events are in Maryland.
- ix. *Pizzo*: That's helpful to get that information for this fall and we'll have that sorted for scheduling. I wanted to get that info out to the conference. That covers most of what I was intending on talking about.
- x. *Kalin*: Would the conference be comfortable running a qualifier? Would the Hoyt be the one and only qualifier? I like the fact that it mimics the New England's, but where you're fighting and you have the cutoff is a pretty cool part of sports.
 1. *Pizzo*: I think it's a natural time to do it. If we do it over multiple weekends it gets complicated and is conflicting with other championship.
 - a. *Wilkinson*: Is there an additional option we're not considering by just using performance ranking data? I think that's another thing for this committee to look at. That's another way to use the current data to figure out who's going where.
 - i. *Bresnahan*: The old current data?
 1. *Wilkinson*: No, I mean next fall when we're sailing, we'll have performance rankings.
 2. *Pizzo*: That's something to think about too.

VI. ICSA Interconference Schedule Update – Justin Assad

- a. *Assad*: We got a lot of work done on this for everybody. Yesterday we had an interconference committee meeting. We're working on getting this draft into a more user-friendly format and then we'll circulate it nationally. So, this is the basic layout for fall berths around the country. We're still working on spring. We're working on all the berth allocations. I know there's pressure for the fall, so ideally, we'll release it nationally on Monday for a period of feedback, and hopefully approve it on the April 19th ICSA call to make it official. The new schedule is going to look something like this. It's kind of a hybrid of the NEISA schedule and the old ICSA schedule. We'll have everyone's rankings in here so everyone knows what they are and blah blah blah.
 - i. *Martin*: These events are currently reflected on the draft Fall 2021 schedule I shared with you guys.
- b. *Assad*: We're trying to figure out here [Fall Regional Showcase], if we need to rotate between NEISA and MAISA, if we need a separate event or whatnot, TBD.
- c. *Kalin*: Justin basically restarted that committee and went above and beyond in making sure ICSA was on track. Thank you Justin. When did you think that will be published?
 - i. *Assad*: We're trying to release that nationally for review on Monday (4/5), then a two-week period for people to review it before the meeting and then vote on it. Preston when is the meeting?
 - 1. *Anderson*: I believe that meeting will be April 19th at 8pm.
 - ii. *Assad*: I'm pretty sure the Nevins Trophy is done deal right here so that will be official. We may need to look at berths here because MAISA may need a few more to take some away from New England here – that's going to be our Showcase Round 3. Those are things we need to nail down on.
- d. *Kalin*: When do we find out about ACCs?
 - i. *Assad*: We're working on that right now. I assume that by the time this gets approved, we'll no longer be TBD. Northwest has no accommodations here because we think they'll join the Pacific Coast. One thing to highlight is that in each season, September 1st and February 1st, any berths that aren't scheduled in the regional process will go back to the host conferences. That way we have the Midwest and the Pacific Coast berths, like at the Sabin Hill, go back to NEISA to fill with our teams rather than trying to fill them two weeks in advance.

VII. NEISA Awards Committee Update – Bill Healy

- a. *Healy*: The NEISA Executive Committee asked the Awards Committee to come up with recommendations for awards for the 2020-2021 season. Myself, Rebecca McElvain from Dartmouth, Jeff Bresnahan from Conn, Mike Kalin from MIT and Stan Shreyer from BU kind of came up with these recommendations to the NEISA Executive Committee to look at. I'll read the report. The awards committee is in

agreement that only specific awards should be given for the 2020-2021 season. These awards are the Senior Trophy, the Sportsman Trophy, the Sportswoman Trophy, and the Student Leadership Award. These awards take into account a person's cumulative actions in their undergraduate sailing career to be recognized by their peers. Those years before the pandemic should not be dismissed. Only seniors who would be considered as eligible to sail will be considered and can vote for the Senior Trophy. Anyone can nominate for the other awards, but the nominees must also be considered as eligible to sail as previously stated for the Senior Trophy. The NEISA awards committee will send out the NEISA awards form via email and a form to vote. The Awards Committee recommends that NEISA suspend awards for All-NEISA Skippers, All-NEISA Crews, Sailor of the Year, Babineau Trophy and Coach of the Year due to low participation to date by NEISA schools for the 2020-2021 season. A one-day regatta in the opinion of the Awards Committee is not enough of a sample to determine recipients of these awards. We can discuss or have individuals email myself and Mike Kalin for recommendations or questions.

- b. *Kalin*: Thanks Bill. I just sent an email a month ago to Ian Berman and he didn't quite know what they were going to do. There wasn't much guidance from ICSA on that. We did what was best there.
- c. *Healy*: There's great work being done to make nominations for ICSA recognition, so be on the lookout for those forms as well.

VIII. ICSA Competition Committee: Team Race Berth Update – Greg Wilkinson

- a. *Assad*: I can give an update. For team race berths, it looks like we're moving in the direction of a similar process to fleet racing with a National competitive strength ranking. Likely counting 4 scores, I think. Then to have a selection committee and have it look very similar to the process we outlined for fleet racing. We'll have five auto qualifiers. Conferences will choose how they determine them. MAISA, for instance, could use their league to determine their champion. Those five conferences with reserved auto qualifiers will select those five. For the first round of voting, teams with 80% of the votes will be a lock. Let's say 3 teams get 80% of the votes the first time, that will get us to 8 teams that are already in the regatta. Then the selection committee looks at the next 16 teams in the competitive strength ranking to determine the field and pick the field from there. Then teams with 80% of voting will become a lock. Let's say 4 teams get it, then they would look at the next 8 teams in the competitive strength ranking. Practically, the top 24 teams will get a really close look. The committee can also vote to include other teams in that field if 4 of the 5 selectors vote to have them considered. I don't know if we have details about this year. That's Greg's department not mine.

IX. NEISA Conference Health Report – Declan McGranahan (BC)

- a. *Anderson*: Coming out of the Annual Meeting in February, Mike and I thought it would be good to put together an ad hoc group to check-in on all of our teams' health, particularly smaller or student run club teams to see what our conference looks like right now due to the effect of COVID. We appointed Declan to be the chair of that committee, plus Molly Matthews from Roger Williams, Alli Fischman from Bates, Carter Brock from Northeastern, and Caroline Patten and Jared Reineck as coach advisors for this committee. Declan has a report he compiled that I sent through the Listserv last night as well.
- b. *McGranahan*: Our main goal was to check in on schools to see how COVID affected them and to what extent NEISA could be of assistance. We initially wanted to check in on all NEISA teams, but quickly realized it would be difficult to reach some of the club teams that aren't very active, so we decided to focus on smaller teams rather than the teams typically on these calls. These are the questions we asked: we checked on financial status, how teams have been affected by COVID, roster size, are you up to date on NEISA news, and how can NEISA help. For the biggest takeaways, around 90% of schools surveyed can't compete this season, around 50% can't practice. 60% of teams had a budget cut of some sort, but almost every team was confident they'll be financially stable for the fall. Roster sizes on about 80% of the teams have shrunk due to nonparticipation, but underclassmen retention rates are fairly high – many people that left were upperclassmen. Almost 100% of teams are up to date on NEISA news. There is a significant want for more resources from NEISA on not only competitions, but also on practicing and learning to sail along with understanding the scheduling system. Many teams have a hard time teaching new members to sail and have a hard time doing that. That's the biggest takeaway. We've reached out to a bunch more but haven't heard back, and I'll update the doc when we hear back.
 - i. *Martin*: Thank you guys. Can you make a list of people you haven't heard back from?
 - 1. *McGranahan*: Yes, I'll send that out.
- c. *Anderson*: I don't know if we have time to talk about this, but is this a good time to put together a NEISA Membership and Development Committee to put together those resources?
 - i. *Kalin*: That's the objective of the New Sailor Symposium, but we can take a look at that. We're not going to do that right now.
 - ii. *Assad*: Have you checked attendance for that compared to what people said? Honestly, I think we're providing a lot of that already. They don't utilize resources that already exist. That's important that people need to own their own improvement.

1. *Anderson*: I helped put together the symposiums, and we did not have ton of attendance, and it looks like a lot of teams are looking for resources that didn't attend the symposiums.
- iii. *Assad*: I'm suggesting we encourage them to show up to what's already happening. If that doesn't work, then do more.

X. Old Business

a. 2020 Singlehanded National Championship Update – Moose McClintock

- i. *McClintock*: I just talked to Mike Callahan because we've been trying to get a confirmation on the number of teams that are interested and can participate. We're scheduling to assume everyone signed up will sail. So, we're looking at a 100-boat fleet. From there, now I can start to develop sailing instructions and an NOR. I would think that in a week or so I'll reach out to teams regarding on the water coaching which has to be available or it's not a championship. Also, even though this is a BYO, everyone is getting in touch with us to find boats even though that's not what we're here for. This will be the biggest college regatta ever so it'll be good.
 1. *Kalin*: That's awesome Moose.
- ii. *Clark*: There are a lot of school on lists that have no business being in a laser, but for the commitment of April 15th, do they have to have the declaration in my April 15th for that too?
 1. *McClintock*: Mike is leaving it up to conference commissioners to confirm that. The MCSA schools and West Coast schools probably won't sail. But at this point assume that everyone is available to sail, so that's the assumption I'm going under. To Ken Legler's questions [in the chat], about whether carbon spars are allowed, all boats need to be ILCA dinghy or Laser class-legal. Spars, blades, and sails. So, if you want a carbon spar, no problem, that's class legal. There's a place out on the Cape that will actually loan carbon top sections.
- iii. *Kalin*: That coach boat situation is tricky too. Because it's not the normal safety rules. There's some COVID stuff in there too.
 1. *McClintock*: What it comes down to is you can't have too many people on a boat. If people can socially distance, so like an 18-foot whaler with 2 people, or a rib, just staying 6 feet apart, but that isn't defined yet.

b. Umpire Update – Amanda Callahan

- i. *Callahan*: I sent Jeff and Coast Guard the umpire team for the team race, and I'll send the Coed and Women's hopefully later today. That's it.

XI. Time of Next Meeting

- a. *Kalin*: Best of luck to teams competing in a short while. Thanks everyone, have a good one.
- b. May 6th @ 10am