

NEISA Executive Committee Call Meeting Notes

August 24th, 2021

- I. **Call to Order**
 - a. *Kalin*: We want to be crystal clear on the schedule and drops!
- II. **Roll Call of Executive Board**
 - a. Full meeting attendance and voting is available [here](#)
- III. **Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees**
 - a. **Summary of Fall Schedule Changes, Openings and Reminders, and ILCA Charters from Zim – Taylor Martin**
 - i. *Kalin*: Taylor has a good summary of the schedule changes from this summer
 - ii. *Martin*: There's actually not that much that has changed. The current schedule is up to date. The big changes are a couple of cancellations from hosts who could either not host or the event couldn't happen. Those are struck through in red. Some date changes that are different this year, one of them is the Ross Trophy with the 9/25-26. That's the big one that changed from a later weekend. Women's ACCs has a venue change for Round 1 – I tried to send that to everyone possible, so I think everyone from that event is aware. Round 1B is now at ODU, it was at Navy. Coed ACC's Final is at St. Mary's and the Tournament is at Navy in a single fleet. I assume supply chain issues with new boats. I think that's all the scheduling changes. For scheduling information in general, the alternates list is active and moving right now – please response ASAP if you're offered alternate berths. More people are turning those down than usual, and so we'd like to get through that alternate list quickly, so if you're offered an alternate spot, please let me know if you cannot make it. This week there has been a lot of changes, so be patient as you see those changes reflected. Drop deadlines, the first one coming up is the Friday for weekend number one. Double check your schedule if you haven't already that you have everything you want. Add-drops for the cross-regional events is one month for everything. The first cross-regional event is weekend of 10/2-3, weekend number 4, so one month for all of those events.
 1. *Assad*: Taylor can you clarify that's only out of conference?
 - a. *Martin*: Yes, out of conference interconference events. The in conference interconference events follow our normal distribution.
 - iii. *Martin*: We lost some berths for in conference interconference events. We retain those berths September 1, but I haven't checked the cross-regional schedule to see how many we get back. But we get them back in our normal scheduling process on 9/1. The last thing was singles, and the deadline for opting into that is September 10th.
 1. *Mollicone*: Is there going to be a bit of COVID flexibility this fall with dropping events? What happens if you get short a few players because of COVID issues or the school changes their policy at some point? Will there be flexibility with drops, or no?

- a. *Martin*: I think it will be the same it usually is where if you have notes from your athletic director or trainer saying you're ineligible for a weekend, those penalties can be waived. We haven't talked about retaining COVID specific, widespread flexibility. But that flexibility will stay the same as it usually is for ineligibility.
2. *Mollicone*: If we want to host something early in the season but are restricted at first by the school, is that ok with the number of teams we can have? We want to host something the first weekend at Brown, like a one-day event, that, as of right now, we can only have a few teams. Is that ok or does it have to be open to everybody?
 - a. *Martin*: Any inter-team competition has to go on the schedule and be entered into the regular procedure. I'm not sure how we would do that with small events.
 - i. *Kalin*: My first thought is, will that be a problem for Hoyt?
 1. *Mollicone*: No, I don't think so, we're still just trying to wait to get clarification on things from our Sports Medicine department. They have our schedule, they've seen the Hoyt, they've seen the ACC Qualifier for Coed, I don't think it's going to be an issue, but if we were to host something early September it might be different as we work through things. So, I was just wondering if we were to have something small, would that be ok, or would we need to have it be an open event where we schedule it the proper way.
 2. *Pizzo*: I think it has to go on the schedule, and if it's going to be added, it should be added ASAP and should go through normal scheduling rank to fill it. Follow the rules.
3. *Pizzo*: Who's the interconference scheduling coordinator? Are we copying you and some email address for this stuff? Who do we talk to for the interconference stuff, especially outside of NEISA?
 - a. *Martin*: The email address is intersectional@collegesailing.org and Danielle is still processing these changes.
4. *Ott*: For singles, is that for the fall or for the spring? I know they had it for the spring last year.
 - a. *Assad*: It's for the fall. There's a qualifier in three weekends and that is the fall singlehanded championship for New England.
5. *Ott*: For those berths that we lost, is that because of the west coast merger? How the two west coast conferences got merged into one?

- a. *Martin*: No, not necessarily. When the regattas got reclassified as a part of our new national competitive ranking, the rules changed for who's eligible and how many berths should be available at regional and cross-regional events, with the goal that every conference has an opportunity to be represented at those cross-regional events. Events that were typically in-conference for us became cross-regional or intersectional events, we gave berths to other conferences. We're pretty close on all of them, and the most notable one was the Moody, which we went down to 7 New England berths. It's the change of one or two for the most part.
 - b. *Assad*: A lot of those berths that we "lost" are not going to be filled by September 1 and will be filled by New England teams anyways. So, except for the Moody, I think it's going to be a net zero. A big gain is that we now have a selection-oriented process for Nationals for New England which will be a tremendous advantage for our conference.
- 6. *Kalin*: I have one thing to add on, and I know this happened early in the spring. Initially Coast Guard and Yale were to host singles, but they're going to defer it to Boston College. So, Sabin Hill Yacht Club is going to host singles. Zim Sailing, Bob Adam, is offering charters for that event, so that might be a good option, so contact Zim or Justin for that.
 - a. *Martin*: Zim or US One Design are both offering charters.
- iv. *Assad*: I have something I want to volunteer. We're having major trouble at the national level getting the schedule current, because one person's in control of everything and not doing the work, so we need everyone to be doing a second and third check on the NEISA and National schedule. If you drop something, for instance we dropped the King's Point Dinghy Open two weeks ago and I'm still in it on the national schedule. So, everyone needs to keep an eye on the national schedule and keep emailing us if something's not correct. Every week or so you should be checking that. We're not in control of it and need to keep badgering someone to get the work done. When you notice things aren't correct, we'll send another round of reminds.
- v. *Martin*: When you are adding and dropping, please email me, neisasailing@gmail.com and the host school. That is especially true as we start to try to add second teams to these unfilled events because they require host school and scheduling coordinator approval. So please Cc hosts when you're adding or dropping anything.
- vi. *Assad*: One more thing that might be valuable for NEISA coaches, we're having a discussion tomorrow with the interconference committee about regional level events and second teams. I know we in New England frequently have second teams there and as of right now those are on the interconference schedule, so they're governed by the interconference rules. So, for a Coed event, the only way to enter a second team, you would need to enter a women's team, and for

a women's event I don't think there's any way to enter a second team. We're going to advocate that at the regional level, we should be able to enter second teams, following the typical rules we have in New England. Following a certain date, when the berths are unfilled, we should be able to fill those with second teams. We're hoping to get a yes on that tomorrow.

b. Medical Guidance from ICSA – Greg Wilkinson

- i. *Kalin*: Greg has been working with a medical group and has an update about some of the policies and procedures for the competitions this fall.
- ii. *Wilkinson*: The only work I've done with the medical group is try to convene a meeting. It's been hard. We're meeting this Wednesday night. I expect we're going to have medical guidance for college sailing that will look relatively similar to what the spring ended with, minus attestations. That's my guess. What the spring ended with was, we had a testing policy throughout the spring, and started to get relaxed for vaccinated people at the very end of the spring. That's probably where we will start up this year. Vaccinated people will be unlikely to require testing or masking outside, and unvaccinated will likely have some testing requirement on them, and possibly have some mask requirements outdoors. That's what I think we'll end up with, that's what we're seeing with other sports. I can show you an example of the Atlantic Coast Conference medical guidance if people would like, but basically, it's what I'm describing, with no testing for vaccinated people, testing for unvaccinated people. What the NCAA has suggested and what conferences are grabbing onto, is the rate of testing gets tied to your overall vaccination rate. So, the ACC has done, I don't know if it's a department or team, but where if the vaccination level is 85% or greater, the unvaccinated people get tested once a week, if the vaccination level is below 85% the unvaccinated people get tested 3 times a week. People who have had COVID don't test for 120 days. This is all stuff we were doing last spring. I expect it to be quite similar, and that the attestations won't be a factor. Reminder, you can't compete without having a declaration of adherence filed. That has a high-level signature requirement. The person signing that needs to be comfortable that they represent the president or chancellor of your school. The declaration of adherence is available online and it's required every year and has to be in before competition. The last thing, the selection committees will be named relatively soon. We've had 18 selectors apply, some from NEISA. I think that when coaches reach out to their alums, we get selectors applying. My guess is that someone from Dartmouth reached out to their alums the other day cause 2-3 Dartmouth alums applied. Based on the amount of national level experience we have in NEISA, I'm surprised there aren't more NEISA applicants. Strongly encourage coaches to spread the word about applying to be a selector. It requires tracking Techscore all year, learning the selection process, and then conducting selection twice in the fall and then again in the spring. It's not a massive time commitment and can all be done remotely. Please encourage that quickly.

1. *Assad*: I think a lot of people don't realize the timeline. I just happened to run into a bunch of people who would be good at this and have been contacted by their former coaches, and they're all thinking about it, but they don't realize we're trying to name the committee in ten days.
 - a. *Wilkinson*: Less than ten days.
- iii. *Wilkinson*: A couple of people have asked me the timeline, and I think I'll rely on you guys to email it out, because I've tried and it hasn't worked. Everybody with a suggestion on spreading the timeline, please don't send a suggestion to me, please spread the word that the timeline is immediate.
 1. *Assad*: I was just saying that because I think a lot of coaches probably did reach out. Emphasize the timeline.
- iv. *Wilkinson*: The published goal was to name the committee by the 25th, but we will delay by a few days. The committee will definitely be named before competition begins. Mike, maybe you can just poll NEISA, and I'm happy to give another primer on the selection process if necessary. Going into the season, everybody should be pretty tuned in on how the selection process works. Maybe NEISA is all set, I just have no idea.
 1. *Kalin*: I believe we recorded that.
- v. *Kalin*: Greg are there any updates on Techscore, any tricks that people should be cognizant about, or anything different?
 1. *Wilkinson*: Not that I know of, have you come across something or something?
- vi. *Leonard*: Is Techscore all set up to be able to add your new kids? In past years sometimes it wasn't ready.
 1. *Kalin*: I would, as a suggestion, normally I leave it to pretty late, like the Friday before Harry Anderson. I think we should do it as soon as possible because we all know our rosters to get any glitches out of the way to make the first weekend smoother.
 2. *Martin*: Last year they were not allowing teams to access their Techscore until Declarations of Adherence and COVID compliance info was in. I don't believe that's the case this year, I believe we all have access to our teams. I'm not sure if they will go back to removing teams or not. Right now, we can all access it.
 3. *Wilkinson*: The number one issue that I deal with in Techscore every season is sailors registering as users and not as sailors. It happens often enough that the way the system presents itself to the user is the common error. Your kids have to be very deliberate and register as sailors. It's easy to successfully register and then not appear on your teams RP forms. It's kind of a nuance to unwind it all, so that's the thing.
 - a. *Mollicone*: Can we as coaches go in and manually update graduation years? I think we did that this spring with some of them.
 - i. *Wilkinson*: I'm not sure.

4. *Wilkinson*: On the medical guidance front, I'd expect some of the mitigation strategies that NEISA initiated last year and the ICSA kind of grabbed onto even before the medical panel got their hold on things. I think a lot of that will be on this fall, if not for the whole year. Things like close quarters competitors' meetings or competitor's meetings in general, limited indoor access, and all that stuff is probably a reality for this fall. I'm planning on doing no competitors' meetings at my events, and expect that to be happening.
5. *Lindblad*: For a lot of the teams that haven't done any competition in COVID, is there anything teams did compete learned and could share in advance? Like lunches, and stuff that like in terms of traveling with a loaded van full of kids? Any best practices that could be shared in a document or coaches list would be great.
 - a. *Kalin*: Good point Matt.
6. *Ott*: I know there was an email sent out about Olympic development stuff?
 - a. *Kalin*: That's coming up Sam so we'll talk about that in about 10 minutes.

c. NEISA Instagram Team Takeover – Preston Anderson

- i. *Anderson*: This was developed by myself, Nicole Moeder from BC, and Cori. We thought it would be cool to do NEISA team Instagram takeovers this fall to engage our Instagram account as we're all going back to sailing again. We're trying to aim for some guidelines with being smart about showcasing our teams on the conference Instagram account, and I'll send this through the Listserv later. Coaches or team leaders will sign up for the date they want to takeover account, and then internally will choose the person that will takeover the account. You'll just put your team's name, contact person, and then an email. We will communicate usernames and passwords to you 24 hours before. Here's a basic outline of what the takeover could look like. For the signup, you'll email me your top three dates that you want to choose to do the takeover, and depending on how many people are interested, we'll choose dates and communicate which day you have. It would be great to get this schedule filled up. We have 11 spots open, so I'll hopefully get this out later today. So, send me top three dates by Thursday or Friday, that would be great. This is what the sheet looks like.
 1. *Kalin*: Thanks Preston.

d. Code Flag O and R Discussion in Winds Over 15 kts – Fran Charles

- i. *Kalin*: Fran Charles has an idea after watching the Olympics, and I'll let him explain what he saw and how he thinks our sport could be more dynamic.
- ii. *Charles*: I was really impressed by the TV and online coverage of the Olympics, and it was really fantastic being able to be dropped right into the boats and go back and forth in virtual on how people were doing upwind and downwind. It also really hit me over the head with how much our game doesn't look like the Olympic game. Knowing we can't change boats at the snap of a finger, we

certainly could change the game a bit to look more like what people are doing at the Olympic level. I think it would be a relatively easy thing to allow pumping and rocking in planing conditions, we already allow ooching, and transform our racing to an O or an R flag, either it's on or it's off, and I think it would make the game a lot more fun, and frankly, I think the students would really enjoy putting a little body English on their sail plan and their boat in the big breeze. I just want to throw it out for discussion. I think we need a positive feedback from our end in order to even ask the question to the president of ICSCA, who controls whether we amend the rules of the collegiate dinghy class. So, I'd like to throw that out to start the discussion.

1. *Ott*: I think that, if, not only with pumping and such, but with spinnakers, like collegiate class boats don't have any rigging for spinnakers. Like the collegiate FJ mast isn't rigged for spinnakers, but the CFJ mast, which is not the collegiate version, does. So just swap masts and whatnot. It doesn't make sense that in high school sailing they have spinnakers but in college sailing we don't have spinnakers.
 - a. *Kalin*: That's an interesting take Sam. Ken probably agrees with you, and some others. Any other feedback about the kinetics part of it? Changing equipment would require a lot of investment from schools and unanimous buy in which is tricky to have schools spend at least \$1,000 to upgrade their gear. The spinnaker aspect is hard, because they'll rip every weekend and it will be a coach's nightmare.
2. *Kalin*: In terms of what Fran is talking about, it's zero cost and just a change in how we see heavy weather sailing.
3. *Weidenbacker*: There have been some pros and cons that I've read on Scuttlebutt about pumping and so forth, but I do think that if we set a high enough bar so that it's, on or off, based on breeze, I think it would be interesting to see as an experiment.
4. *Kalin*: I would be interested in hearing Zack's take on this because he was just at the I420 worlds, which I think has this type of situation, and he has a venue where it would actually be really cool.
 - a. *Leonard*: To go back to what Sam said, I think Sam's a little bit misinformed. In high school sailing there are no spinnakers but in youth sailing there are. Several of us have proposed having spinnakers in the past, I think that proposal would more likely have taken the form of an asymmetrical, but it's neither here nor there and that's a big change. Regarding the kinetics stuff, we did just go to 420 worlds and watch that, and there are issues with it. For example, there was one race started in 14 knots and halfway down the last run the wind died to zero, and so all the competitors were standing up on their bow holding the mast and flailing the mast back and forth, and the race counted, and everyone was so tired and dehydrated at the end

of the race because it was more than a mile of full pumping in no wind. So, it was kind of stupid. But in the right conditions it can be great. The hard part is when the flag goes up. If it's up when it's too light, it's a bit farcical, and once it's windy, does it actually help. The only other thing we may want to investigate is, does it inordinately benefit one size group of sailors, whether bigger crew or bigger skipper or whatever. I think it's good to look at. I'm certainly not against experimenting with it and discussing it more.

5. *Kalin*: Doug you're strangely quiet on this topic. I know you've seen a lot in college sailing and this may have come up before, so I'd love to hear your take.
 - a. *Clark*: It's a lot to take in. Like Franny and others, I watched the Olympics. One of the questions is, is our goal trying to prepare future Olympic sailors? There's a lot to it, I don't really have anything intelligent to say right now. I like the topic of discussion though and it's interesting! We're such a traditional part of the sport, college sailing, with limited change. The cost factor is always the big thing when we're talking about boats or spinnakers or high performance. This wouldn't add costs, but Zack hit the nail on the head. I think the biggest consideration is, size. Will size affect a certain marketplace within our realm of students whether it's big skippers or big crews? The way we play the game now benefits the smallest and lightest people. There's a lot to it there. But we have a lot on our plate at the moment, so let's continue to bring this up because I think it's a good conversation, with more thought, to move forward on.
6. *Leonard*: I was really happy to see Fran's suggestion, I don't have an opinion yet, but it was great for all of us to start thinking about sailing again and not just getting through it.
7. *Assad*: Unrelated to kinetics, I'm usually progressive and up for experimentation, so we already allow people to come out of tacks faster than the ISAF rules and some more technique in our sport could be cool. But with equipment, going back to what Sam brought up, one of our aims is to promote accessibility to the sport, and so the more advanced the equipment gets, the harder it is for new people to pick up the sport and be relevant in it. Just something for consideration, whether that's a reason not to do it or to do it. I think, we're pretty far away from adding new equipment like that, which is a good thing, but the kinetics discussion is worthwhile.
8. *Lindblad*: Pumping and rocking aspect would be good to follow discussion on that, but I think the flag itself could be a good thing for us. Currently there's uncertainty about whether it's ooching conditions or not, so if we went to a flag system quickly, we could easily make it clear

to competitors and judges and judges can clarify when our version of the Oscar flag, with ooching is permitted.

- a. *Leonard*: To put perspective on it, one thing to realize is that the flag that exists in the 470 and 420, the reason it came about is different than what you might imagine. It didn't necessarily come about because someone viewed it as it's going to be great to watch the athletes push the boats through the water. It almost came about for the opposite reason. The judges are basically afraid to take the role of policing, and feel like they can only selectively enforce and it's inconsistent across the course. It was thought that the flag takes this onus off the umpires and lets it go. What's happened is the umpires don't want that responsibility, so the flag is put up in lower and lower wind conditions, generally lower than what's written in the rule book, and I think if you look at what happens in our events, I don't think I've ever seen a flag at our highly policed events, like Nationals, in above 12 knots. The flags are mostly coming in light air. That's part of why the flag exists is to get the policing out of it, which is confirming what Matt said.

- iii. *Kalin*: Fran, I know you thought of advancing the timeline as we make this happen, how do you see this playing out?

1. *Charles*: If we don't have any objections to asking the question of the ICSA president if we can perhaps institute it, I'd probably like to go forward and ask the question if we can modify the rules of the collegiate dinghy. I think we've got a good takeaway here from our discussion about making certain the flag doesn't go up too early, perhaps, abandoning a race if the breeze drops off on a leg and it turns into a crazy match of rocking and pumping in no wind. Our legs, typically, last about 7 minutes, they're pretty darn short. So, I think with the O and the R flag, it's possible to turn it off at a turning mark. I think it would be worth just trying and we might learn a whole lot more after we try it out and can figure out where we should go. Of course, we'd have to put it in the Notice of Race for the event so people have an upfront knowledge of it and had their minds set around it. I think it would be fun to try it and I think the sailors might like it. But the only way to figure it out is to try.

- iv. *Kalin*: One obstacle would be that MAISA would have to digest and probably agree to it if it were an event in October. So, we're probably just talking about the first few events in NEISA only. That's a pretty tight timeline to try this out. I know the Hoyt is a pretty consequential. The conditions are pretty great there but it's quite a high stakes event. Did you have any thought on that Franny? If there was one event in the fall to give this a go if Mitch went for it.

1. *Charles*: I think that we're asking is if the host wants to change it, then the host can make that decision if the ICSA president agrees to let us

give it a try. I'd like to just throw it out there that we out to try it. We could say boy that was a bad experiment, and walk away from it. We did try the robot mark and man was that a failure. So, I think it's good to try these things.

- v. *Leonard*: We probably need to try it at an event that doesn't have much ranking consequence, if we're trying it. And the problem with that is, take the Hewitt for example, that some of them have teams from other districts as well. So, we need to figure out the right place to try it.
- vi. *Kalin*: So, Zack you wouldn't be comfortable trying this at Harry Anderson?
 - 1. *Leonard*: No, I think the 5-6 higher scoring events would be a big mistake.
- vii. *Kalin*: In my mind your venue is probably the venue that offers the most favorable conditions, and even at that it's only about 20% of the time.
 - 1. *Leonard*: Yeah, obviously you'd have to have the wind for it to happen. Putting something in play in an event that has consequences where nobody has even practiced against people from other schools who are maybe doing it a different way or something is kind of crazy. You kind of have to evolve into this.
- viii. *Charles*: What would you suggest as a way to evolve into it then Zack?
 - 1. *Leonard*: Basically, what I said. Pick one or two slightly lesser level events and see what it looks like. Get a drone out there and see what the consequences are.
 - a. *Kalin*: Ken says to get some reaching legs in in heavy air. That would be pretty cool.
 - 2. *Leonard*: I'm not making a judgement that I'm for or against it, I just would rather not dive in.
- ix. *Anderson*: NEISA is already experimenting with the 14-race maximum, so would C level events or those types of events be good experimental ground for doing these events?
 - 1. *Assad*: Greg's comment in the chat, the issue is that, at the C level events you might have the 14th place NEISA team, with their best team there, racing against the third best MCSA team. That could matter for the selection committee down the road. Now almost every regatta should have impact if there are the top teams from a school playing on it.
 - a. *Anderson*: But we're in conference only in September though, or at least that's my understanding for the regattas. If we did this in a C level event in September, only NEISA, then we don't run into that out of conference issue.
 - 2. *Martin*: They still matter in terms of national ranking.
- x. *Mollicone*: Does it make sense for us to explore this more with our teams and at practice and see what we think, and maybe we talk about this more in a month or month and a half once we have a bunch of sailing under our belts and with

our teams? And we can then see if this is something we should try at a couple of regattas to start or something?

1. *Martin*: I agree with John. I think this is probably a bigger change than it seems like. And it's a pretty narrow use case. If the rule is written "planing conditions", those are not great for 420s and FJs in college probably not going to happen. We'll probably see it at one maybe two regattas early season. Certainly, in practice more often. If it's written as planing conditions, probably 18+ knots, that doesn't happen a lot.
- x. *Radtko*: Having a flag for when it is ooching and planing conditions could be helpful. I know it's such a small piece working towards what y'all are talking about, but I still feel like it would be helpful and allow us to work the boats evenly.
- xii. *Kalin*: We do have to move on. This isn't going to get solved today, but it's great to start discussion. I love John's idea for getting it going so we all have some contest. We've only seen it on TV so we don't know what it actually feels like in real life. If we roll this out in the next month, it does have implications. It sounds like there's a bit of hesitancy to try this where there are implications and we don't actually know how it might work. It seems to me that the best steps forward are trying this out in practice and discuss on Slack what we see and keep talking about it. I suppose it doesn't hurt to also, in parallel, go talk to Mitch and ask for this rule change and get the ball rolling. Sometime it takes some time to get that to happen. I think we'll go with those steps for now. It doesn't sound like anyone's opposed to trying so that's a good thing. It could be a good part of our sport that we're just not seeing yet. Thanks for that Fran. I think there are more discussions to be had.

e. Discussion of Eligibility to Graduate Students Extended to 2022, 2023 Graduates – Preston Anderson

- i. *Kalin*: This discussion could be a can of worms. I want to keep it at about 10-13 minutes. Preston why don't you introduce the topic.
- ii. *Anderson*: I remember there was some discussion last spring at the Annual Meeting, but we tabled it to the fall, but it would be good to talk as a conference now because I know the issue will start to come up and we need to be on the same page. The graduation school waiver was extended to seniors last year for this coming year. There's already a petition out for this year's current seniors and juniors for next year and the year after to have the COVID amendment extended to them. So, two thoughts, so what does everyone think on possibly extending the graduate school amendment to current seniors and juniors as well. Keeping in mind that it would keep the same school amendment clause in there, so it would really only affect schools that have graduate schools. So, it won't be able to help everyone, but will do something rather than nothing. I'm interested to hear how everyone feels about that.
1. *Kalin*: I have some concerns. There are some schools here that don't have graduate programs, so I see the part where it's unfair to a lot of people during COVID, but it doesn't seem fair to the sport to level the

playing field. Some schools get a big advantage of this, while others are left out. That to me is a bit of an unsettling thing.

2. *Lindblad*: I would disagree with Mike in that statement, only because there's nothing level about the playing field in college sailing, or there are many things that are unlevel. The choice of school, it's totally different to be a student athlete at a D1 athletic department – you get advantages that don't exist on a club team or a D3 varsity team. There are admissions advantages at some schools, there's a huge range of disparity, and this is a direct impact on the lives of student athletes. Nobody's getting more sailing time than anybody else, it's just a matter of being able to use the eligibility that you have. For anyone who is a bad student, you get use 8 semesters in 10. For really good students who have the opportunity to graduate early, or who have the ability to start to take grad school classes before you're graduates or after graduation, at the same school, then you get to use the eligibility you're entitled to. I don't think there's any undo advantage. I don't think schools could recruit around this because the people are already in the system. It's a matter of people being able to use some of their eligibility if you're financially able to take a gap year, you can use your eligibility, but if you stayed in school. One other aspect of this, is that financially it's a huge impact on students and this is a parody thing for financial fairness. Typically, as an undergrad, you pay what you pay to go to school. As a grad student, you can get a stipend and you don't pay that undergrad tuition, and you make money to cover your existence. It's certainly not luxurious, but your parents don't have to pay. As a school that has a grad program, our wealthier students are able to keep their undergraduate status, maybe not take all the classes they need to events graduate, and then start taking grad student classes. But others with less financial means must just graduate and start taking graduate classes and are no longer eligible. This is an issue I've talked about for a while. I'm pretty passionate that grad students at the same institution should have the ability to play. The way ICSA interprets this rule, is crazy. They say that, as soon as you've taken the last class you need to graduate, like if you're a double major, the instant you complete the last class for that first major, you're not longer eligible to sail for ICSA. For anyone done with their requirements after 3 years, is no longer able to sail. That's the way ICSA rules on this.
 - a. *Kalin*: They haven't graduated in the eyes of their institution, yet college sailing has deemed them ineligible. That does seem a little bit weird.
3. *Martin*: Is the current waiver open to only students who were on their college team and had eligibility during the pandemic? Or just a blanket one-year waiver for grad students at the institution?

- a. *Anderson*: It would be for the students who have sailed in the past and COVID has not allowed them to sail for the past year is the way I've been interpreting it. So not a blanket for a grad student that wants to sail now and hadn't sailed as an undergraduate. It's more for undergraduate students who have started on their team, then the pandemic happened, and they were unable to sail.
- 4. *Kalin*: One thing is, with this petition, it will definitely be popular. The majority of schools have graduate programs, and the majority of people sympathetic to what people have gone through in COVID. If it were a popularity thing, I think this would pass for sure. How is the voice of Bowdoin, St. Mary's, that say adamantly college sailing is an undergraduate sport and how can we change the rules like that? I don't know how that will play out? With the petition it will get huge support and it will pass.
 - a. *Anderson*: I go to Bowdoin, so I won't be able to take advantage of this amendment, but seeing last year, and being on the board and giving some students the chance to sail again, I think that was the right thing to do. Personally, I think this could be the right thing to do, but I also see the other side of this as I know my teammates and others won't be able to take advantage of this. We could look at what the NCAA is doing for those students that are current seniors and juniors of ways they are looking to give eligibility back. It's definitely a tough situation.
- 5. *Kalin*: Can an Ivy League coach comment on what Ivy League did about this situation?
 - a. *Assad*: The Ivy League extended eligibility for one year, and I think they anticipate continuing to do that for students that were impacted by COVID. Dartmouth is the smallest graduate program in the Ivy league, and I think we do have a significant amount of other athletes taking advantage of the program. Our masters or arts and liberal studies program was basically like, we are past the deadlines, and they were like whatever, just send them to us and we'll get them enrolled and make sure they can compete. Pretty relaxed operation. Whether that's for the better or worse, I don't know.
- 6. *Kalin*: One thing I think that was done poorly on College Sailing's part is that it was done so late, so people couldn't really take advantage of this. So, it hasn't really had an effect. If this is going to be a rule, we need to do it so it can be acted upon, not just for the people that didn't have a plan and want to roll into this plan. It should be available and they should pass it.
 - a. *Anderson*: I talked to Mitch yesterday, and the people who made the petition are board members, so he'd like someone on

the board to submit something to him so he can call a meeting about it sooner rather than later. We should probably do that soon so we can actually act on this. We waited until basically the annual meeting to pass the amendment, and that was a little late. So maybe we do a straw poll to see who's in favor?

i. *****Straw Poll Results*****

1. *Explore experimental NEISA event with the O Flag:*

a. 12 Yay

b. 4 Nay

2. *Grad school exemption for eligibility for 2022 and 2023*

a. 13 Yay

b. 3 Nay

- iii. *Kalin*: Thank you all, and best of luck to everyone getting teams going and we'll see everyone in a few weeks.

IV. Adjournment