

Meeting Summary for NEISA Annual Meeting

Quick recap

The ICSA team discussed various organizational matters, including the transition of responsibilities, upcoming elections, and financial stability. They also deliberated on proposals for event scheduling, team racing formats, umpire surcharges, and a new performance ranking system. Additionally, they discussed potential rule changes, hosting arrangements for the 2025 team race nationals, and the addition of new members to the organization.

Next steps

Jennifer to revisit the Treasurer's report to confirm the inclusion of the umpire cost for spring team race events.

Carter to revise and finalize the proposed performance ranking system update for 2025.

Amanda and Caroline to investigate options for automating the performance ranking calculations.

Frank reached out to Mike Horn for information on the history of the Sharp Trophy.

Competition Committee to consider limiting the number of weekends that count for team race selection.

John to provide an update on the ISCA Competition Committee's discussion about umpire requirements for events to count for selection.

David to reach out to other conferences to inform them about what NEISA is bringing to the upcoming ISCA meeting

Doug, Justin, and Matt to meet about guidelines for canceling races

Greg to form a search committee for the new ISCA Executive Director position.

David to follow up on Babson's application for NEISA membership once paperwork is received.

Frank to solicit ideas for ISCA committee representative positions.

Summary

ICSA Commissioner's Departure, Elections, Treasurer Report

Frank Pizzo, the NEISA Commissioner, announced his departure and the transition of responsibilities to David Thompson and Bill Healey. Ximena Escobar, the NEISA undergrad President, discussed the upcoming elections, planning to send out a nominations Google Form to teams for a new board. Jennifer Agell spoke on the treasurer's report, highlighting the organization's financial stability and the addition of a reserve for nationals.

Scheduling Report

Carter Brock presented the proposed ACC hosting rotation for the next four years, aiming to involve Dartmouth and Bowdoin, and discussed the challenges of hosting events during busy weekends. The proposal was put to a vote with a note to revisit the host for Open Finals to be in Boston. The meeting discussed various topics related to the organization and management of sailing events. Greg Wilkinson brought up that the Sharp Trophy needs to be repurposed or purposefully retired. There will be a vote held on the matter. The issue of scheduling penalties for late drops was also discussed, with a proposal to change the system to reflect how far in advance to the regatta date the event is dropped. The discussion also touched on the qualification system for the match racing championship, with a proposal to change the number of berths awarded to each event. The proposal is to give four berths to the top four teams at the Pine regatta, three from the Harman, and one for the host school. Finally, the meeting discussed the inclusion of second teams at A level early season events such as the Hoyt Trophy, the Hatch Brown, and Harry Anderson events. This was a contentious issue, with some arguing for increased efficiency and others for maintaining competitive balance. Matt Bindblad voices that he thinks that this limitation should not include hosts. There was a suggestion to split the 18-team regattas to two 9-team regattas. The conversation ended with a decision to separate the discussion on second teams at cross-regional events from the discussion on the first three weekends of the season.

NEISA Competition Committee Report

The first proposal, led by John Mollicone, aimed to make the NEISA open and women single-handed champs a Friday-Saturday event with no sailing on Sunday. The first warning on Friday would be at 2:00PM and on Saturday at 10:00AM with no race after 6:00PM both days. The regatta would have

12 races total and would allow for all teams to have a Sunday free. The second proposal, led by Zachary Leonard, suggested limiting the number of competitors in the open single-handed events to 25 boats in order to ensure fair scoring. The committee recommended continuing with the current limit of five boats per team but suggested writing guidelines about the level of previous laser experience required for sailors. The committee also proposed a pre-registration requirement in August and the ability to add a sailor until the end of August with the President of NEISA's recommendation. Diana Weidenbacker raised a concern about the August deadline, suggesting that the deadline should be later to allow schools to observe their players. The committee agreed to consider this suggestion.

The meeting discussed various proposals for the ICSA team racing format. The first proposal was to change the team racing format to a knockout system, with the winner being determined by the last race. The competition Committee recommends that NEISA try this knockout regatta format at the Duplin and Frilis Trophies and gauge responses from there. The second proposal was to allow penalty turns to be completed after the offset mark Zone for fouls that happen at the windward mark or on the leg between the windward and offset mark. The team agreed to vote on these proposals, with the understanding that they would need to be approved by the ICSA Rules Committee and possibly the ICSA Board. The team also discussed the potential complications of changing the rules, including the possibility of making certain changes unchangeable without presidential approval. The discussion ended by Zach mentioning that the Committee has begun collecting data on teams' practice and competition schedule to make an informed recommendation to ICSA on the Season Limits.

NEISA Umpire Report

Frank recognized that in the fall season NEISA was successfully able to fulfill the need for umpires at certain events due to the increase in pay. The proposal covered increasing the umpire surcharges for the spring season. The proposal includes covering the following open events: the Staake, Friis, Marchiando, Fowle, and Thompson Trophies. It also includes covering the following womens events: the Duplin, Callahan, Dellenbaugh, Yale Womens, Legler, and Reed Trophies. The surcharge would be waived for those who host fleet race events and there would be a \$300 discount for those who host team race events. There was discussion on reducing costs by developing a more centralized scheduling system to reduce the number of events that count towards selection. Greg Wilkinson and Justin Assad raised concern about a steep jump in the cost to attend events. The team also

discussed the need for a more structured system for umpire payments and the potential for a working committee to explore alternative solutions.

The proposal also includes verbage for additional guidelines to Rule 42 surrounding Jib pumping.

College Sailing Performance Ranking System

The meeting discussed the performance ranking system for college sailing. The current system, which was last updated in 2017, has been criticized for its complexity, difficulty in publishing results, and lack of transparency. The proposed new system breaks regattas into large, medium, or small events. Any event with less than 7 unique teams would not count with the exception as open Single-Handed that would be scored based on the number of teams regardless of repeats. The new system aims to incentivize teams to compete at higher levels and to reward teams for their performance at single-handed and match racing events. The proposed system was presented by Carter Brock, who also shared a simulation of the new system's impact on team rankings. The proposal also included a stipend position for a performance rank coordinator to keep the system updated throughout the season. The team discussed the proposal, with some members expressing concerns about the number of teams in the women's fleet and the potential for the system to be automated. The team decided to vote on the proposal without the stipend position and the stipend position separately.

TIDE Report

Keller Morrison from the NEISA TIDE team has been working on making handouts about the TIDE initiative. They also want to have a representative from every school to help connect sailors to TIDE resources.

Proposals for ICSA Midwinter Meeting

The meeting discusses several proposals to bring to the ICSA midwinter meeting. David proposed changing the Procedural Rule 18G raising the minimum wind speed for racing from 3 knots to 4 knots. He also proposed a 14 race maximum for two-day events and allowing second teams at regional events.

ICSA Executive Director's Job Post

Gregory provided an update on the ICSA Executive Director's job post, mentioning Reid's resignation and the steps he has taken to begin to form a search committee. He also discussed researching whether or not the ISCA can afford to pay the same salary for the position given the financial changes over the last few years. He concluded the ISCA can afford to maintain the same salary. Additionally, Greg reached out to committee heads to gather information on what could be added or changed to the job description. There has not been a decision about whether or not the job would be part or full time. Amanda raised a question about Greg's unpaid role as President, to which Gregory responded that it was part of the organization's financial setup.

Proposals for ICSA Midwinter Meeting Continued

The team then discussed a rule requiring every conference to have access to a regional and cross-regional event each weekend which has impacted the spring team racing season by limiting the number of berths available. The proposal is to eliminate this rule requiring every conference to have access to regional and cross-regional team races. Carter and Justin expressed concerns about the rule's impact on NEISA and the scheduling committee's previous attempts to find a practical solution. This proposal was called to a vote.

Additionally, the team proposed changing the procedural rule for a penalty for fouls outside of Mark Zones or away from the starting line, with a proposal to reduce it from a 720-degree penalty to a 360-degree penalty. Many opposed this change, arguing that it would not increase compliance and could lead to more fouls.

David proposed creating an expedited breakdown procedure to ensure accurate results in regattas. He cited examples of breakdowns that could be quickly resolved without needing a full hearing. However, there were concerns about potential flaws in the system and the need for proper procedures. The conversation ended with a vote on these proposals.

2025 Team Race Nationals Update

John provides an update on hosting the 2025 Team Race Nationals at Brown. Key points include presenting a list of potential umpires and PROs to the competition committee, creating a logo incorporating Liam O'Keefe, exploring streaming options with Chris Love Productions, and needing qualifying teams to provide powerboats and umpire boat support. Jeffrey raises the idea of tapping into media contracts like other varsity sports. Greg notes progress towards media coverage and having a media contract at past nationals. John discusses plans for venue logistics like equipment, viewing areas, and hosting team race events leading up to nationals. The conference votes to provide \$5000 per event in funding support.

Team Status within NEISA and Honor Roll

Brandeis is approved as a new fundamental member, and UMass Amherst and Bentley move to regional status. Ian Barrows is nominated for the NEISA honor roll for his Olympic performance, and Joe Fava and Dave Curtis are nominated for the MacArthur Service Award.