

**NEISA Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting Minutes**  
**April 11, 2018**

Action Items

**1. NEISA Specific Action Items**

- a. Assad urges everyone to read the [Undergraduate Regional Health Reports](#)
- b. Assad and Pizzo to work on allocation of team race berths for NEISA Inter-Conference regattas in 2019
- c. Assad to continue researching models for Team Race Nationals berth allocation
- d. Swingly to send message to NEISA regarding wearing team equipment (sweatshirts, t shirts) at the awards ceremonies
- e. Swingly to send messages to NEISA regarding 2019 Championships regarding bids and timelines
- f. To note: Awards Committee Women's Crews Nominations due April 17th and Coed Crew Nominations due April 24th

**2. NEISA Action Items involving the ICSA**

- a. Pizzo to be in touch about any interconference berth allocation changes, need to be submitted to Danielle by April 20th

**3. ICSA Action Items**

- a. None

Motions

1. Motion to accept the January Conference Call Minutes
  - a. Passed unanimously

**Next Call: May 9th, 11:00 AM**

***Meeting Minutes:***

**I. Call to order**

- A. Roll Call: Justin Assad (Commissioner), Charlie Welsh (President), Peter Lynn (Vice-President), Paige Clarke (Secretary- Peter Lynn as proxy), Frank Pizzo (Scheduling Coordinator), Brian Swingly (Special Projects), Diana Weidenbacker (N. Region Graduate Rep), Mike O'Connor (C. Region Graduate Rep - David Thompson as proxy), John Mollicone (S. Region Graduate Rep), Ally Schwerdtfeger (C. Region Undergraduate Rep), Kylie Freitas (At Large), David Thompson (Dartmouth), Jeffrey Bresnahan (Connecticut College), Caroline Patten (UVM), Skip Whyte (URI), Quentin Chafee (Brown), Amanda Callahan (RWU), Ken Legler (Tufts), David White (SHU/FF), Alex Rudkin (RWU), Coleen Ross (NU)

## **II. Review of January Conference Call Minutes**

- A. Have a quorum, want to move that we accept the January conference call minutes
  - 1. Second
  - 2. All opposed: none, passes unanimously

## **III. Commissioner's Report - Justin Assad (D) - PART 1**

- A. Thank you to Frank and all the hosts
  - 1. Particularly cold March - coldest start to April in Vermont since 2003
  - 2. Have had to move some events around so thank you to everyone that has worked hard with it and the logistical shifting around
- B. Recognize Connecticut College for hosting our first Spring New England Championship
  - 1. Did a phenomenal job at a super competitive and very challenging NE Championship
  - 2. Great job hosting events for a long time, no surprise they did a good job
- C. Report from our Nationals Berth
  - 1. Coed went down by one berth to 8, have been 8-9 in recent years
    - a) All about the ratios between NEISA and other conferences
    - b) MAISA has 9, we have 8, they have a few more teams than us at the moment
    - c) We are slowly adding teams including UMass Boston, UMaine, Olin College in the works, Amherst is back
      - (1)
      - (2) Our undergrad reps have reports to bring us up to speed
  - 2. 11 berths at Women's Nationals
    - a) Only 6 teams in the conference that don't have womens
    - b) Keep charging forward with this
- D. Pause in Commissioner's Report so Greg can give the Executive Committee Report

## **IV. Executive Committee Report - Greg Wilkinson (BC)**

- A. ICSA executive committee for about the past year has been more active than it has been historically
  - 1. Meeting monthly, hopefully making some progress
  - 2. Last few meetings focused on ICSA governance
- B. ICSA Governance
  - 1. NEISA has brought governance of ICSA issues to the floor at several board meetings, including one in which term limits were proposed by NEISA

2. Executive committee has gotten a proposal from consulting company - College Sports Associates
  - a) Mitch has reviewed the proposal and is negotiating with them to retain their consulting services to review ICSA governance issues
3. Will address whether or not ICSA needs to evolve into a more formal organization with a full time staff and possibly an executive director
  - a) What resources would be required to do that
  - b) How to fund it
4. Will look at funding models in general
  - a) Revenue from dues
    - (1) Whether we should be relying on them 100%
  - b) Sponsorship
    - (1) Are there more sponsorships available?
    - (2) Are championships being properly leveraged?
5. Championship specific
  - a) Not to review the competitive levels of championships but rather look at them from the standpoint of revenue
  - b) Lot of college sports have money stemming from championships
  - c) Want to help us make sure we leverage them as much as possible
6. Bylaw Review
  - a) Will review closely
7. Sailing as a possible NCAA sport
  - a) Pros and cons of inclusion
8. Undertake project knowing that ICSA holds 3 things at core and the consultant should act as if ICSA has no interest in changing these 3 things
  - a) ICSA exists for undergraduate competition
  - b) College sailing is a non-scholarship sport
  - c) College sailing is a co-ed sport
9. Mitch is negotiating with them now, hoping to retain before Nationals this Spring and have final report returned by early to mid November of 2018
  - a) Would be in hopes of meaningful discussion and possible action items at Winter Meeting
10. General Questions
11. Bresnahan (CC): Some of this sparked through NEISA and the past 2 winter meetings, wanting a change, applaud you for leading this. How can we get/access the report you sent to the consultant and the information you have gotten back? Is there a place online you can put this so we can read and want to be informed

- a) Wilkinson: I read the cut, paste from what they sent us. It will now be in the minutes and Justin also has a copy of what I just read
  - b) Bresnahan: Is there any way to get the report you sent them and what you got back?
  - c) Wilkinson: We did not send them a proposal and what will be in the NEISA minutes will be a cut and paste of what they sent us
  - d) General Discussion regarding obtaining information
  - e) Assad: I understand what Jeff wants here, which is full transparency and what Greg is saying is that what we currently have is everything we have in terms of literature and documentation. Greg, we will trust you to make sure that NEISA has access to future reports/information and will be certain to ensure we include everything we have in the minutes.
12. Diana: Appreciate the continued move forward, concerns with if it does become a NCAA sport how will that affected Club teams that will not become Varsity sports at their various schools. I know one of the core concepts we have been operating under is an attempt at an equal playing field between Varsity and Club teams. I just want to put it out there, not sure if it has been addressed/what you foresee
- a) Wilkinson: Specific to this consulting project, I think all we will get from them is possibly a recommendation about whether or not attempted inclusion in the NCAA is a good idea, it might not go that far. We might get their professional opinion about the reasons why it would or would not be attractive from people who are experts in the field about what it would look like. This would probably be several steps down the road after we decided whether or not we would want to pursue NCAA advocacy. It will not happen until the ICSA decided it wants it to happen which would be well after this report, pretty far down the road.
13. Skip Whyte: With respect to Diana's question, has the consulting firm been informed about the ratio of club to varsity ICSA teams. Are they aware that there are a lot of club teams?
- a) Wilkinson: Yes, Mitch has given them specific numbers of club and varsity teams so they are well aware
14. Additional Information
15. If Mitch is able to get this set up the way we want it, Sherri Campbell is going to oversee the project from the ICSA side of things, she would be the primary contact for the consulting firm
16. Hearing the NCAA concern

- a) I wasn't convinced that discussion of NCAA should be included here at all because from the NEISA perspective, our concern is how we are governed and I thought we should keep it pretty narrowly focused but we talked in the executive committee and we are going to shell out this much money to do this, why not ask more questions.
- b) I have a remaining concern, a college sports consulting firm could have more to gain by helping a non-NCAA sport become NCAA then if they didn't - concern about their work for us when it comes to NCAA, essentially about being unbiased because I see a gain for them and the executive committee has talked about this. Mitch and Sherri are making this concern as clear as we possibly can to them
- c) Hearing the NEISA concern, want to let you know I'm trying to represent

#### 17. Drones

- a) Expect them to be on the ICSA Spring meeting agenda, particularly use at regattas
  - (1) Might be something, Justin, that you want NEISA to start grappling with to decide
  - (2) Possible regulation of drone use by ICSA
  - (3) Question as to whether drone use is a violation of [Procedural Rule 19](#) (see page 8)

#### C. Laser Performance Contract, related to 2019 Nationals

- 1. LP had a board meeting about 12 days ago, Mitch talked to them prior to it
  - a) Biggest push prior to meeting - idea of LP fleet available to College Nationals hosts
- 2. I have tried on executive committee calls (seems like they are behind me on this) to push Mitch to push LP for multiple solutions, not just the idea of a college fleet that could go to Nationals
  - a) Seems to me like it's an expensive route for them
  - b) Have asked to consider other ways to fulfill the LP contract
    - (1) LP supporting charter of an area fleet
    - (2) LP continuing to fulfill the contract even if non LP fleets are used
      - (a) Especially due to the fact that the boats are owned by the colleges and they can be made to look like any type of boat - they have LP sails so to me, I don't see what the real difference is

(i) We have Gill sponsor us and there are kids in different gear in the photos

(3) I think it can be made to work but we haven't heard back yet on Mitch's efforts to push LP

D. 2019 Nationals

1. One thing I can also tell you, the Championship Committee reported to the executive committee - very close to hitting the panic button of 2019 Nationals and putting it out to bid

2. Legler: What was that last item? Who's getting close to the panic button?

a) Wilkinson: The Championship Committee, we don't have a bid for 2019 Nationals, a championship that is about a year out

b) Assad: I can address that, John Mollicone and I have been working on this bid but we are not comfortable submitting it until we have assurance from Mitch and LP, in writing, that we are going to have a second fleet to host that meets the requirements that Greg just outlined. We'll be flat out with everyone on the call, obviously some might look at it as a tragedy if NEISA can't host a Nationals and a major shortcoming for our conference but I look at it the complete opposite way - we can't put in a bid and can't host this Nationals because we can't get an assurance of a second fleet which demonstrates the issue with the current contract

(1) Wilkinson: It's not being viewed that way, I think one of the reasons I'm having trouble getting Mitch to push is because I don't know that the rest of the world is viewing it that way

(2) Assad: Greg, you and I can talk offline about how to try to change that

V. **CONTINUED - Commissioner's Report - Justin Assad (D)**

A. Allocation of Team Race Berths in New England

1. This is one issue we need to talk about looking forward to 2019

2. In particular at the Friis and Southern New England Team Race, our in-conference team race regattas have gotten really competitive from a NEISA standpoint. I think on every weekend, if you look at the line-ups, the New England inter-conference team race was the most competitive.

3. We had some weaker teams from out of conference attend some of those, not the Marchiando, but the Friis and the SNETR, so we want to take those berths and either give them back to more NEISA teams or make sure they go to competitive teams from out of conference, teams that are at

least as good or better than the next NEISA team that would attend these regattas

4. Have talked with Frank, working on exactly what that looks like, think Frank will talk about this some during the Scheduling Report, but I just wanted to let everyone know that it's in the picture

#### B. Team Race Nationals and Berth Allocation

1. Anyone that was at the event over the weekend knows that with 3 races left in the round of 8, there were 6 or 7 teams that could have qualified to go to the Team Racing Championship out of the 4 that ultimately went so that's a highly competitive event.
2. I have spoken with Mike Callahan (MAISA) and he has been looking at scaling their league model to the national level as one possible option and regional qualifiers is another option, nothing concrete yet but we are working on that front

#### C. Women's Team Race National Invite

1. Excited about it, this year is going to be really successful
2. For next year, potentially looking at different weekends for this regatta
  - a) Maybe earlier in the season - closer to the end of the normal co-ed team race season so that they align with team racing for coed and women's teams
3. No hard dates on what that change might look like, but we have some ideas out there

### **VI. Scheduling Coordinator's Report - Frank Pizzo (Bowdoin)**

#### A. Interconference Berth Allocation Changes

1. Any interconference berth allocation changes need to be submitted to Danielle by April 20th, so I am going to be in touch with some of the hosts about changing some of the berth allocations
  - a) Talked to Jeff some about the SNETR
  - b) Need to touch base with Amanda about the Friis and any other hosts
2. Should be happening in the next few days

#### B. Second Teams

1. There have been a lot of emails about second teams
2. For the Spring interconference regattas, we always prioritize first teams at the NEISA regattas and then the order in which second teams are allocated are that the host gets the first right of refusal for a second team and then it goes based on who contacted the scheduling coordinator first
3. Danielle sent out an email about the Thompson, I think we have clarified it but just so that we're clear about it, this is how it's done based on the

NEISA Rules and Regs, have a system for prioritizing second teams and how that works, follow it every time

- a) Discussion between Skip and Frank about the policy for adding second teams at interconference events if they are all women
  - (1) At interconference regattas, second teams at coed events are only entertained if they are all women
  - (2) At in-conference events, second teams can be added if the host approves and those can be co-ed or womens
  - (3) Assad: We can emphasize that historically it has been really rare for NEISA interconference events to have multiple teams
- b) Pretty much not allowed in the fall, only a few events in the Spring and we have a system for it
- c) Assad: We prioritize first teams that are not in events yet over second teams. If you have entered a second team and then a first team applies, we have bounced them in the past.

## **VII. Undergraduate Regional Health Reports**

A. Assad: Want to say that all of the undergrad reps are awesome this year, Ally Schwerdtfeger is our Central Rep, Nellie Stidham is our Northern Rep and Brian Nelson is our Southern Rep. All three have worked hard on the regional health reports, what I want to say in advance of Ally's report, she's available but both Nellie and Brian are in class, I urge people in the absence of an oral report from Brian and Nellie is for your region, go and carefully read the health report on your region so you know what's happening and how you can help the student led teams and the developing, growing and struggling teams in your region. Do it because not only does it help us in the Nationals berth count but it's also the right thing to do and part of our mission in NEISA to expand the conference and help get more teams sailing. Take a minute, all three reps worked really hard and communicated with the teams in the conference and they're awesome reports

### **B. Undergraduate Central Region Health Report - Ally Schwerdtfeger**

- 1. I called most of the representatives from teams in the central region, but I am only going to report on developing teams. For reference, I put the more developed teams towards the bottom of the report.
- 2. Emmanuel College
  - a) Stable but faced a hurdle this season in that they were unable to practice until April
    - (1) Community Boating required they have someone with US Sailing Certification in order to practice so they had to wait for Community Boating to open and supervise

- (2) Working on this for the upcoming fall season so it isn't cut short
  - b) Only a women's team as they have no males on the team
  - c) Do not have a coach
- 3. Amherst College
  - a) Team is in 4th season
  - b) Women's team: not yet, but hoping to have one
  - c) Something that stood out - their most dedicated senior will be graduating this year and is attempting to prep the team for his departure but still worried about the future of the team and is something to be aware of for the upcoming fall season
    - (1) Other than this, said they were doing well
- 4. UMass Amherst
  - a) Stable and growing
  - b) Hurdle: do not have a ton of funding
    - (1) Result: membership has become difficult
  - c) Scheduling: share boats with Amherst College and their schedule is reliant upon that of Amherst College's schedule
    - (1) Has been changing every season, hard to have students schedule classes around practice because their times are not consistent
  - d) Looking to buy their own boats, if anyone is getting a new fleet and is willing to sell 4-6 boats, get in touch with Team President, Chad Klinefelter
- 5. UMass Dartmouth
  - a) Team itself is doing very well
  - b) Issue last year also from the health report, still working to get a coed team
    - (1) Have gone back and forth with their athletic director, shame because there are a lot of men interested but they cannot - seems like a Title IX reason with the school
    - (2) Have tried to form a coed/male team as club with the women's as varsity, but did not work
  - c) Idea: write a letter to the athletic director, because maybe if it comes from NEISA rather than the students themselves they may change their opinion/rethink the situation
- 6. UMass Boston
  - a) Extremely new, have a lot of hope for the future
  - b) Do not have a women's team yet

- c) Courageous Sailing center is offering them free lessons this summer and hope this will increase their membership
  - d) First event: this weekend at the Central 4 at Tufts, if you see the team make sure you say hi
    - (1) When I spoke to the team President, did not know much about regattas, so I directed him to the Developing Team Handbook and told him to read over it (very useful)
    - (2) Maybe don't know how the regattas work
7. Brandeis University
- a) Stable
  - b) Issue: recruitment, going to make an Instagram account
  - c) Do not have an official women's team this Spring, but they have brought all women to some events, not sure if it counts, but plan on having one in the Fall
    - (1) Assad: Clarification - it only has to be an all women's team at any regatta, does not have to be a women's event. Just wanted to clarify because it is a constant source of confusion
    - (2) Ally: So then they definitely have a women's team for the Spring
  - d) Suggestion: maybe more lower ranked fleet race regattas, sometimes intimidated at bigger events
    - (1) Ally: From the Bentley perspective, there are enough events, but I am just relaying the information
    - (2) Another suggestion from a different team - more lower ranked team racing regattas, more practice
8. Bentley University
- a) I think we're doing well
  - b) Do not have a women's team this season
    - (1) Tried to sail all 4 women, but could not get enough
    - (2) In the fall, some Juniors are returning from abroad so we will definitely have enough by the fall
  - c) Just got a new coach, on our way to a successful season
9. Questions
- a) Assad: One thing after reading over the reports, we used to do a first year/freshman clinic and I'm thinking that maybe we can do a clinic weekend in the Fall for some of our teams ranked in the 25-40 range. I thought it could be a valuable thing moving

forward. Ally, you can talk about the Developing Teams Facebook page that you and Peter set up

10. Developing Teams Facebook Page

- a) Ally: Have a Developing Teams Forum on Facebook, set up in around February, not a lot of people have been using it, but I made sure to mention the forum on every call (Peter's idea) and brought attention to it. I think that maybe if one of us posts in it, it may be used more by bringing up a topic to discuss. I think it's important and it was really interesting for teams to find out that they weren't the only ones going through issues during the Developing Team Symposium.

C. Undergraduate North Region Health Report - Nellie Stidham

1. Presented by Peter Lynn, Nellie sent notes to present
2. McGill
  - a) Unable to practice or attend any events this Spring, frozen in
  - b) Looking for some smaller events to be invited to in the Spring
  - c) Trying to organize joint practices with other teams so they can get on the water
3. Middlebury
  - a) Just moved location onto Lake Champlain, will be good for their team
    - (1) Old lake was small and would thaw late
4. Bates
  - a) Did not get much information, but is still reaching out about their future plans
  - b) Trying to get them to send a women's team to an event
5. University of New England
  - a) Slowly growing team, appear to be relatively steady
6. Maine Maritime
  - a) Little bit of trouble
  - b) Lost coach at the end of the Fall season
    - (1) Have had a senior running practices
    - (2) Hoping to find a coach for the Fall of 2018
7. UVM
  - a) Brand new boathouse, up and running
  - b) Looking for more teams to come to the Little 3, which they are hosting at the end of April
8. The Landing School - Diana Wiedenbacker

- a) The Landing School is excited to be participating, have gone to 2 events so far
  - b) Have been working with them to remind them to fill out RP forms, have TechScore Account
  - c) Went up and met with them to talk about how things function, very excited to be able to participate
  - d) Anticipate continuing to develop their sailors
    - (1) Only have a few folks with previous experience, but have a fair amount of interest
  - e) Entire school is supportive, very excited
  - f) Using boats at a rental yacht club for practice
  - g) This team is up and running, do not have the same 2-4 year cycle so it will be a challenge moving forward, but looking good right now
  - h) Charlie: While at the BU Trophy, I had a chance to talk to Diana, thank you so much for working with these guys and everything. They are extremely excited and the greatest issue that they are facing is that because they are a trade school they go from 8:30-5:30 and try to practice during their hour long lunch break. I don't know if it's something where we want to try to get them to more events or what, but they do not have much time to practice during the week.
  - i) Assad: Gotcha, so maybe they could sail some of those lower level series events as practices.
  - j) Charlie: They are all extremely excited.
  - k) Assad: Thanks Charlie, that's great. That's one of the most important functions for our undergrad reps is to make those contacts when you see a new team at events or a team with people you haven't met, that's a huge thing, thanks for doing that.
9. Assad on Scheduling
- a) Assad: One thing I want to talk about so we're totally transparent. The Landing School asked Frank and I about adding the BDC and we thought it may be a little over their head for the first season of competition.
  - b) One thing we try to do is guide our teams in the right direction and to the events we think will be the most beneficial for them and so we sent one team out of conference in the fall and it was kind of a disaster, the event they ended up going to. They were in over their heads and I don't think it was a good experience for the students

that sailed the event and I know the out of conference host was really frustrated with NEISA for that so Frank and I have tried to take a more active role in guiding teams toward events that make the most sense for them and away from the events that don't make the most sense.

(1) At the risk of being paternalistic, we think it's the best thing for the teams involved and to help guide them in the way that will help them develop most.

- c) Similarly, we are trying to take an active role with smaller teams from out of conference when they come to New England and trying to communicate more with them and direct them towards events where they will be relevant and competitive which may mean not going to high level team race intersectionals, but maybe starting at one of our mid-level team races that isn't full or something along those lines.
- d) These are the things we are actively doing to try to guide these teams and help them improve at the quickest rate
- e) Diana: So Justin, along those lines, I spoke with Christian last night via email and he asked me the same question and I kind of steered him away from the BDC and he thought, oh we could go to the NY Maritime one and I was like, it's an intersectional and they're just getting up and running and you know they have some good races but right now they are a novice team and I said take a look at other events that have openings that are in conference and not at that level so hopefully they are able to do that and feel comfortable doing it. I think they are trying to expand the excitement and energy level. I like the idea of them having the opportunity to practice at a lower level event and getting their beginner-type folks out, which is kind of a suggestion I made when I met with them about a month ago at the Landing School. So, I like that and I think that suggestion is one I can reiterate with Christian when I talk to him in a day or so.
- f) Assad: Diana, the only reason I bring this up on the call is because I think it's helpful for everyone to hear that our in-conference BU Trophy and trophy level events, are really good regattas and teams don't have to leave the conference or go to an inter-conference regatta when they are developing to sail regattas that will help them improve. I think that steering teams in the right direction is, long term, the best way to help them get better and get to the next

level. Thanks for that and being so active Diana, it has a huge impact for the conference.

g) Diana: You're welcome and can I just add a PS - this is a tangent but I want to say that I'm excited to have more folks and lower level teams come to the Mendum Which is coming up. Our docks will hopefully go in this weekend and the only complication is going to be that my surgery for shoulder replacement is taking place on the 19th and I am hoping to be there physically but I will not be able to be out on a boat so I am going to have one of my more experienced remaining sailors.

(1) Diana: As you know, if you've read the report, we have been suspended until next Spring so I am going to try to have one of my more experienced sailors that has remained to physically run it unless there is another coach on this conference call that can run that event that weekend. It is just a Sunday event and it can be done as a combined division event given there are only 7 teams currently signed up so I'm just putting it out there because we have been faced with some pretty significant challenges this past Spring.

h) Assad: Ok, thanks Diana, can anybody on the call?

(1) Club Team Symposium

(2) Ken: I have an idea, for the Symposium. We used to do a freshman symposium, more needed is just a club team symposium for all classes and the place/time to do it would be September 15th at BU for some teams and September 16 at Tufts for some others. There is a regatta at Tufts on the 15th and a regatta at UConn on the 16th so maybe those teams can make it a 2 day weekend and some other club teams that aren't involved that weekend.

(3) Assad: Thanks Ken, I'm going to work on that, thanks for that input. Will work on it with the developing teams and get back to you and see if we can put something together.

(4) Assad: In the meantime, any takers on Diana's idea of maybe being able to help out with the Mendum Pond Invite?

(5) Assad: Well Diana, keep us posted on that and good luck with your surgery. We will all be thinking of you for that

- (a) Diana: Thanks, I'm going to become a bionic coach, you know with the artificial shoulder.
- (b) Assad: Throw that X Flag up quicker than ever once you have that bionic shoulder in there
- (c) Diana: Boy, you better believe it

### Old Business

#### **VIII. Championship Committee Update - Brian Swingly (CGA)**

##### A. Fowle Trophy

1. Just wanted to echo Justin's sentiments about the Fowle Trophy, I wasn't there myself but I heard a lot of great things, got a ton of racing in with trying conditions for some of the event. Thanks to Jeff and his team for putting together a great regatta
2. We've already heard some good, follow up comments from people, just some learning moments from this regatta going forward which is what the Championship Committee has been trying to do the last several years.
  - a) I think something comes up every year that you don't really expect at every championship so we are really trying to get those written down so we don't see them again in upcoming years.
  - b) We'll do a full debrief on that regatta and then be able to set up the 2019 hosts for the best success possible

##### B. Reed and Alumni Bowl

1. Both are coming up, sent out information to the conference about a week or so ago which I think was pretty helpful. You'll see notice of races go up on the NEISA Schedule and then Sailing Instructions on TechScore
2. Any questions?
  - a) None

##### C. Awards Ceremonies

1. One additional thing on this year's championships, I have been working with Dave Thompson on the Awards Committee to try to make our awards ceremonies just a bit more formal. They're not going to be suit and tie or anything but just a bit more structured.
2. We are going to try to have awards for individuals actually at the ceremonies, including the certificates. We're continuing working on that.
3. I'll send a note to the conference on this but it would be helpful if coaches tried to get their teams to wear something representing their institutions. It doesn't have to be their pinnie because people like to get changed after sailing all day but some type of team uniform or something with team insignia so that when we're taking pictures for individual and team awards etc. that they're looking sharp and so it looks nice when it goes up on the

website. If coaches could get their players ready in advance for that, it'd be helpful

- a) Assad: If they don't have a sweatshirt that says their school name, bring one of yours and give it to them right before the ceremony
- b) Swingly: Yeah, that'd be great

#### D. Bids for 2019 Championships

1. Will send a note to the conference probably tomorrow. It's the time of the year when we send you solicit bids for 2019 Championships. I don't have an exact timeline yet but we'll open up the bidding process soon and give everyone a deadline.
2. Is there another call Justin? I guess we have to decide when we're going to vote on it
  - a) Assad: The next call is May 9th
3. We'll plan on voting on it at or by the May 9th call so I'll set up some deadlines to get us tracking towards that date
4. We have some bids that came in in the Fall, when we did this. I'll be in contact to confirm that they still want to submit their bid and maybe give us any updates and I'll try to send all the bids in one PDF out to the conference soon. I want everyone to see it soon and be able to look it over and have some complete bids before we make these decisions.
5. If you're thinking about hosting either the Reed, the Fowle, or the Alumni Bowl, or the New England Dinghy Tournament (those are the 4 regattas we are looking for hosts for in 2019) start thinking about that and I'll send the info soon.
  - a) Assad: Is the Staake included in that?
  - b) Swingly: Yes, it should be
  - c) Assad: Ok, great
  - d) Swingly: Good call

#### E. Questions

1. Assad: I want to thank the Championship Committee again, I know they've been working very hard at standardizing our championships and the product is a better product already over the past couple of years, better than it used to be in the past. It's more standardized and everyone knows what to expect when they show up so thank you guys for working on that, I know it's a thankless job and it requires a lot of time and people only notice when things don't work well so we want to compliment on how well they've been going so thanks for your help.

#### IX. Quick Note from Awards Committee

- A. Assad: Before we move on to our new business here, we have a quick note from the Awards Committee nominations for Women's crews are due April 17th for NEISA Awards. Nominations for co-ed crews are due April 24th. This is next Tuesday and the following Tuesday, prior to each championship.
1. I want to emphasize that for crews in particular, the nomination is an essential part of the decision making for the committee so if you think you have a worthy team member putting the time in to describe their leadership on your team and kind of the intangibles that make them exceptional make a big difference when it comes to our ultimate NEISA crew list. Take the time if you think you have someone worthy.

### **New Business**

#### **X. NEISA Damage at Regattas - Skip Whyte (URI)**

- A. Prompted by us incurring a lot of damage over the last 2 events at URI
1. The events we generally run, we run a lot of 7 Series, and we took over a Central Series, and in all areas of the conference the teams that are going to these events tend to be less experienced and certainly we can't expect them to be students of the procedural rules. Many of them don't have coaches.
- B. [Procedural Rule 26](#), Part V (page 13)
1. I have to admit that I didn't know the exact language of Procedural Rule 26, in part 5.. I think it's perfectly written, it's an excellent rule and says just what it should but it doesn't seem like it gets applied that often and I would venture guess that if you were to ask 95% of sailors in the conference if they understood that it was a rule or what the provisions were, they wouldn't know about it and it's their behavior in the moment that we need to encourage to be more responsible so
- C. Suggestions
1. My suggestion is that the rule be read either verbatim or nearly verbatim at all events, for a while, so that it becomes well known to competitors because I am quite confident that it is not at this time and especially the part about right of way boats avoiding contact. One of the major dings we got was a right of way boat that felt someone was taking room unjustly and said well I was just trying to close the door and clearly had initiated the contact - (bird noises) apologies for my birds here
  2. The other major carnage at the first of the two events was a combined division event and the collision was between teammates and I wasn't there but I understand it was like a bomb went off and there was massive damage immediately visible that was not reported and I had volunteers running the event that didn't know about the procedural rule so they didn't

take action to hold a hearing and disqualifying both team members in this case, which was certainly appropriate, so I think we have a good rule but do not have much awareness and I don't think you make it a rule, but I think it should be strongly encouraged to make the language of that rule public at competitor's meetings.

3. Finally, when teams incur lots and lots of damage, it's expensive and you know we're not a heavily endowed program and we've had 4 major collisions in 2 events that are going to be very costly to repair and maybe it's time to consider some indemnification for hosts, in particular when PR26 is invoked because of failure to avoid collision so maybe there should be some consequences besides being disqualified because quite honestly, at a Southern Series if someone is disqualified, it's really not much of a penalty.

#### D. Questions

1. Assad: Alright, thank you Skip, do we have any thoughts on this from the conference?
2. Greg: Timing is kind of ironic, I don't know if anyone noticed the MAISA Team Race this weekend, there was a half point penalty for damage to a team and we've had that every once in a while in New England but there's been a tiny bit of discussion. If you go to any keelboat team races nowadays, they usually have an appendix to their sailing instructions that gives very specific guidelines and guidance to the umpires on damage that kind of tests for how many points you would dock. I agree that our procedural rules are written well but I wonder if a similar type of thing, a document that can be enacted as a Sailing Instruction appendix, kind of like how we have guidelines for judges in the back of our rule book but I wonder if something like that would be good. I think a lot of teams are probably caught by surprise, like Skip points out. Not even talking about the fleet racing side of things, but I think if there was a major NEISA team race and a damage happened and a team was docked half a point, I think a lot of people would be like woah, I didn't realize that could happen.
  - a) Assad: Yeah, I agree with that. Probably is a good idea for us to work on, or I guess that when that happened in MAISA Greg, is that from World Sailing rules, or ICSA procedural rules or where did that come from?
  - b) Greg: That's just Racing Rules of Sailing, applies all the time. We got that put into TechScore a while ago because that happens sometimes at regattas, college sailing team races once in a while. We got the ability to issue that penalty but I still think it would be

surprising...maybe with that appendix type document might be a little less surprising.

3. Assad: Right, what do people think about the concept of financial responsibility? Does anybody feel strongly against financial responsibility?
  - a) Greg: I do.
  - b) Zack: I think it's a slippery slope, like a kid from BU dropped his rudder overboard while rigging his boat, cost us \$500. I mean are we going to be billing each other for everything? I don't know
  - c) Amanda: A kid from Brown stepped on the tiller and broke the tiller at the Friis this year and offered to pay for it, but yeah, exactly, sending a bill to a student-athlete because he stepped on a tiller? I don't know
  - d) Skip: In no way do I think individuals should be held responsible and we all understand that damage happens, but I have to be honest in our program we can't afford, especially with those lower level events when the sailors are not as skilled and they inflict lots of damage. We have a nice venue, we get lots of good breeze and people just aren't careful.
  - e) Ken: We used to have a procedure in place where if boats were badly damaged at a regatta, there could be some relief from NEISA and some of the teams that had a better budget for fixing stuff didn't need to, but sometimes teams do and this sounds like something, I don't want to use the word catastrophic, but some pretty big damage at URI. The damage we had at home this weekend was really minor in comparison.
  - f) Assad: I think there's some judgement here, we're hearing a few different scenarios and I think there's validity to what Skip is saying but I also understand Zack and Amanda's point that if your program can manage the problem without a big deal, without it having a big impact then you're happy to do that as a host. I think what Skip is saying is that it's challenging as a host, for his budget to be able to do it. I think it's reasonable to at least be able to ask the teams who are part of the damage to pay for a portion of the cost, or to ask NEISA to pay for a portion of the cost, is what I'm hearing. I'll throw out one more example. This week my team is practicing at University of Vermont right now and we damaged one of the boats, we were using 6 boats to practice team racing, the Cats weren't sailing with us, and we damaged one of the boats and

we are going to pay to get it repaired because we know they are operating on a club budget up there and they don't have a big set of resources to help take care of that stuff. So, I think it kind of depends on the incident. Skip, go ahead

g) Skip: Yeah, obviously the monetary part I am concerned about but what I really think is most critical is that we need to send a message to all the competitors because quite honestly, we haven't been sending this message and they have to be responsible and avoid collisions. There are, whether it is monetary consequences, but if you were to ask competitors about whether they thought the right of way boat would be disqualified if there was damage, even though it's in the Racing Rules and not just a procedural rule, they wouldn't think it was a possibility at least for the vast majority of sailors. They have to understand that and I think it takes frequent reminders, call it recommended probably can't make it a requirement is going to be it. It's going to happen at our events I promise you at least paraphrasing that rule so everyone understands what the consequences are, will help modify behavior. That's really what we want to do. We want to avoid damage rather than how we pay for it.

h) Assad: Right, roger that. I think it sounds like maybe, do we want to form a committee to work a bit on developing an appendix on this front? Do we think that's necessary?

(1) Skip: What do we need an appendix for? We have the rule and I'd just be happy if NEISA could make a recommendation to hosts to inform competitors of this reality.

i) Caroline: Can I make a comment on this? In the example that Skip gave, that was our boat that caused the collision and involved in a couple of these things recently, but we would be perfectly happy to pay for it if you guys had gone through and held a protest and went through the whole procedure with it. You know, it's kind of like, the rule is there but it has to be followed on both ends. We created the damage and it sounds like we're completely responsible but it's hard to say because I wasn't at the event so without a formal protest, not really sure what else could be done.

(1) Skip: I'm not looking for you to pay for the damages, but to paraphrase what happened, it was combined division with no rotation, we discovered what happened - this damage -

at the end of the day. Because there was no rotation, we knew who had been in the boat. We went to consult with the sailor, I wasn't there, the assistant coach was there doing it for me, and he was told as I said before oh I was just closing the door so clearly he had initiated what was pretty substantial contact and we have to send a message to all competitors that that is not acceptable.

(2) Caroline: Yeah, I guess I'm just referring back to the rule that you want people to know about and if the protest committee finds either boat could be disqualified but it sounds like the protest committee was never had.

(3) Skip: It was a Southern series event, we don't have, it's rare that there are many coaches at these events and I had a graduate volunteer running the event. We did not have awareness of that rule either. I will make sure that people that run our events in the future know about it, but again really what we want to do is prevent incidents by, in my mind, creating a greater awareness amongst all competitors.

(4) Caroline: Absolutely, I agree

j) Assad: Yeah Skip, I think we hear you loud and clear on that so maybe we can start making that part of the pre-regatta meeting at our events and particularly at our lower level events where there's a little more, where those pre-race competitors meetings are still happening and a crucial part of the event, you know I think that is a good thing to remind everyone. So, we will make that adjustment and go forward from there.

## XI. Closing

A. Assad: Thanks everyone for your time, quick reminder is that our next call is May 9th at 11AM and with that we're going to adjourn

## XII. Meeting Adjourned

## **Literature from College Sports Associates regarding ICSA Governance**

Governance - Mitch is negotiating with College Sports Associates to retain their consulting services to review ICSA governance issues/structure as NEISA has requested.

Timeline - complete by mid-Nov 2018 in time for [some?] actionable items at Winter Meeting.

Consultant will address the following:

- Should we evolve ICSA to a more formal, perhaps full-time staff and office (executive director/commissioner/president with central office)
- What are the resource requirements/funding
  - Sports Marketing/Funding Model: corporate sponsorships, annual dues...
  - Championships: not for sake of improving championships but if championships are a form of revenue then CSA should examine
- Divisions/By-Laws: should we continue to have broad competition base or levels of structure and competition
- NCAA: Advocacy to NCAA
- Core (these are the three areas that currently distinguish us):
  - Undergraduate competition
  - Non-scholarship sport
  - Coed sport

