

The 2018 calendar year has been a successful one for NEISA. We have maintained healthy depth within the conference while our teams have remained some of the strongest players at interconference events at each of the ICSA National Championships. Over this past year NEISA teams have won the Women's, Co-ed, Men's Singlehanded, and Match Race championships, in addition to finishing on the podium at Team Racing and Women's Singlehanded.

We continue to develop and grow the teams in the lower end of the performance rankings, but we have some areas of weakness we must be attentive to. Several teams on the co-ed side and more on the women's side did not compete in an event during this calendar year, meaning that we are in danger of losing these teams. This is a highly important issue for NEISA because having these teams compete increases the depth of the conference, and not being able to count them in our membership will negatively impact our berths at national championships in the future.

We must be diligent about keeping in close contact with the teams that are the smallest and least stable, checking in on how they are progressing and what they need in order to continue to exist. Our graduate and undergraduate regional representatives have been proactive this season in reaching out to struggling teams in their regions. This outreach must continue in the future. Some teams might be progressing well but then have their best leaders graduate, resulting in instability. This is something we should be aware of in advance in order to work with these teams and try to help them survive.

A strength over the past year has been that several teams which have recently joined as NEISA members are becoming stronger and more stable, as well as performing better at regattas. Additionally, teams that joined last year as associate members have met the requirement to be upgraded to provisional status, showing their progress and representing a step forward for our conference.