

**NEISA Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting Notes**  
**October 17, 2018**

Action Items

1. *NEISA Specific Action Items*
2. *NEISA Action Items involving the ICSA*
3. *ICSA Action Items*

Motions

1. None

**Next Call: November 14th, 4:00 PM**

***Meeting Notes:***

**I. Call to order**

- A. Roll Call: Justin Assad (Commissioner), Charlie Welsh (President), Peter Lynn (Vice-President, Ally Schwerdtfeger as proxy), Frank Pizzo (Schedule Coordinator), Brian Swingly (Special Projects), John Mollicone (S. Region Graduate Rep), Ally Schwerdtfeger (C. Region Undergraduate Rep), Kylie Freitas (At Large), Zack Leonard (Yale), Coleen Ross (Northeastern), Caroline Patten (UVM), Amanda Callahan (RWU), Eric Marshall (University of Maine), Emmet Smith (Tufts), Taylor Martin (Maine Maritime), Jeffrey Bresnahan, Peter Bailey

**II. Commissioner's Report - Justin Assad**

- A. Good start to the year,  $\frac{2}{3}$  through the season
- B. New Schedule
  1. First fall with the new schedule, working on participation data in comparison to previous years
  2. During 8 week block of sailing, looks very similar to previous years with available slots versus slots used
    - a) 650 slots where teams are entered this fall, want
  3. Will look into it with a focus on weekend by weekend participation to make sure it's the complete picture but in good shape with participation being about the same
  4. Some regattas that aren't filling in the B/C level
    - a) Opportunity for teams to continue to enter
  5. Frank and Justin are going to take a close look at the schedule in terms of being under/over capacity to make sure we're getting the best racing we can every weekend

### C. Championships

1. Two great New England championships are down
  - a) Singlehanded went very well
  - b) Match racing is always tough to pull off in logistical terms but the reports have all said that it was a great event

### D. Conference Health Report

1. Important part of the meeting, big reason for this conference call
2. They can be found on the NEISA Website, under the documents tab and in the meeting minutes section, there are 2 conference health documents
  - a) One is the overall conference health report
  - b) The other has a list of teams to make it a little easier to read
3. Coed side
  - a) These teams really matter, huge difference with getting team race berths for Nationals and staying competitive with the number of fleet race berths
  - b) These are really important
  - c) Good news:
    - (1) Can add Amherst College, Maine and UMB as active and we will be looking to move them to provisional teams
  - d) Not so good news:
    - (1) Have not heard from Emmanuel College
    - (2) Have heard from Johnson and Wales that they are not pursuing sailing at the moment
    - (3) Providence College is practicing but having some trouble getting to regattas
    - (4) WPI has not showed this Fall
  - e) With these teams, we want to be reaching out
    - (1) The Graduate reps have been working with these schools and trying to get in touch with them and get them to regattas
    - (2) It's important for us to be focused on this
4. Women's Side
  - a) Stated goal of NEISA to have 100% women's participation
  - b) Definitely have some holes in this with teams that are not currently counting
    - (1) In the membership health report, these are the schools with empty boxes under the 2 divisions women column

- (2) The yellow highlights are for teams that we have been counting and will continue to count this year but who need to sail a regatta next year to be counted in 2019
- (3) Frankly, do not like the participation system as a way to qualify teams for the National Championship but in NEISA we have the ability to manipulate it by sailing a team from every single college and use it to our advantage
  - (a) This is our mission here and want to make sure everyone is working together and with our regional reps (both graduate and undergrad) to get these teams out

5. Questions?

- a) Swingly: Hard to tell, are we losing some women's teams from 2018 in particular?
  - (1) Assad: From last year, I'll need to double check our records
  - (2) Swingly: The schools in italics are not counting women's teams for the 2018 membership report so I guess since they counted in 2017, we're still good for this year's membership report?
  - (3) Assad: This year we're counting 29 but I think we counted more than that last year but the main thing is that the teams with the "+" we are still counting this year but we'll lose them if they don't sail an event by this time next year.
  - (4) Swingly: So there are a significant number of women's teams that either haven't sailed women's before or need to, just kind of hard to tell
  - (5) Assad: Last year we counted 33 teams, will need to look at it side by side to figure out who is dropping off but we have a couple - Johnson and Wales last event in 2016, PC
  - (6) Swingly: PC will sail our invite on Thursday
    - (a) Assad: That's huge, counts for both women's and coed
  - (7) Assad: Losing a few
    - (a) Schwerdtfeger: Bentley will probably be able to sail a women's event next year
    - (b) Assad: That'd be great
  - (8) Assad: For example, when Wellesley (women's college) sails any event, it counts for both their coed and women's team which is a huge help

- (a) Schwerdtfeger: Do the teams need to be ranked to sail? I am reaching out to Emmanuel
- (b) Assad: Any college regatta with them will count - just needs to be a 2 division dinghy event with at least 3 races, bar is set pretty low to keep active which is by design
- (9) Assad: Just to clarify, any 2 division event with 2 women's boats will count as a women's team. You can sail the Crew's regatta with a women's boat in A and B division and that counts as a women's event for the college
  - (a) Assad: Williams told me they were looking at a women's event, so I'm optimistic but
- (10) This is a super important thing for us to be focused on which is the main reason why I wanted us to have this call

#### E. RP Forms for Smaller Teams

1. We've been struggling a little
2. ICSA has been applying the RP penalty much more stringently than they have in the past
  - a) While I wish it didn't have to be that way, I think it's a good thing because it helps us call attention to getting those RP forms done correctly and finished in advance
  - b) This is very important for us in counting our less developed teams
3. For all of our hosts on the line, please do the extra leg work and if at the end of a regatta, a college you're not familiar with has sailed the event and not filled in the RP form, let myself or Frank know and we can reach out to make sure their info gets entered on the back end
  - a) We've been helping some teams that have had some trouble with it
    - (1) UMass Amherst has had some trouble with their admin account, but I've been able to go back in and enter their information
    - (2) Having this is important because we need it to count the teams when it comes time to submit our membership report
    - (3) Let's try to be super active on that and if you see that an RP form is not complete, do the extra legwork to make sure we get them filled in
4. Bresnahan: I'm really opposed to ICSA sending out the propaganda that they have been sending out about having the RP forms done by the end of the protest period. For instance, I was at Dartmouth and we've been under this thing since going from paper to computer that as long as it was done

midday Monday, it was fine. I understand that it needs to be done, but there are reasons why it doesn't get done. When we adopted this system, it was to create it so that one person in ICSA couldn't flex their muscles and hurt a team when it matters. Having had that penalty applied to me in a clerical manner, I'm a little gunshot by seeing all these emails about posting penalties so I think our proposal should be noon on Monday.

- a) Assad: I'll need to double-check, I have not read those emails super thoroughly because I thought they were mostly about how to get people registered but I thought Danielle's intention was to apply the penalty after Monday but I could be wrong so I will do the research on that and get back to you on it. If it's not then I agree that noon-time or even the end of the day on Monday is fine.
  - b) Bresnahan: Thank you
5. Any other thoughts? I know for some of our smaller teams it feels a little, but I know that Danielle has been flexible and will go back and if there's a team that's confused about things the first time they go through it with admin things but if it's repeated errors then we need to follow the correct steps to get admin accounts created for our student-led teams.
  6. Pizzo: It seems like there's been a discrepancy between the 20 points per division or whatever it is and being DSQ'd from all races sailed which looks like it happened at the women's showcase. Do you have any clarification with what the difference is there?
    - a) Assad: I think the DSQ is if the person sailing was ineligible and I think the 20 points per division is when the forms aren't filled out. I don't know for sure and will ask Danielle, what team was it at the women's showcase?
      - (1) Boston University and Roger Williams got it, there are several teams yesterday that were thrown out of all races. It has an impact on the team stuff as well as All-NEISA and All-American stuff and obviously impacts scores of other people at the regatta so it's a pretty big deal
      - (2) Corinne: I'm looking at the results right now for Showcase B and BU A Division has DSQs across the board, SUNY B Division and Roger Williams A Division and those are the ones.
      - (3) Caroline: Danielle had asked everyone to fill it out on Friday and I just put the asterisk which usually means all races, but we also had some that showed up as if it was

never entered. So yeah, I don't know if TechScore is having some issues or what.

b) Assad: Got it. So for all of these things, if you're running into issues please email me and copy Frank and we'll get in touch with Danielle about them because she will correct it if you tried to do it correctly like that Caroline and if there's some snaggle. I know one time I was trying to do it on my phone and the asterisk just wasn't working for all races which was a little while ago so if you run into an issue like that and have a penalty applied, let me know and I will let Danielle know because she is willing to correct them once they're brought to her attention.

(1) Caroline: I had been in touch with Danielle about it and she wasn't super sympathetic so should that be forwarded to you guys as well?

(a) Assad: Send it to me and I'll write to her about it. It is ultimately her call so maybe I am speaking out of turn about her being sympathetic but she seemed to be. For instance at the McGill Cup they made an error in how many races they initially entered there would be and then they added races and every team got penalized there but she went back and corrected it. I'll follow up on this because it is a big deal and affects our overall records. At the end of the day, I think it's super important that we're all diligent and get it correct but I can reach out on our behalf as well.

### **III. Scheduling Coordinator's Report - Frank Pizzo**

#### **A. Second Teams at Events**

1. Trying to manage schedule to allow second teams where it applies and the rules allow
2. I think as the scheduling coordinator, we are happy to do that whenever with the exception of adding second teams on Friday before the regatta because I don't physically have the time in the day to have that communication back and forth so I think we would love it if people could add second teams by the Wednesday prior to the weekend which gives the host enough time to figure out if they have all working boats and enough communication to make a second team possible.

3. Just asking that if you are looking to add a second team, especially in minor events, making that communication happen early so there's enough time to do it

#### B. Schell/Urn

1. This upcoming Monday will send out teams that qualified for the Schell/Urn and New England Tournament. At Bowdoin, we are hosting the Urn and would love prompt replies about what teams are/aren't planning to do it so we can all plan accordingly. These emails will go out Sunday into Monday but hopefully teams have a good idea about what they're going to participate in before then and we can all make plans to host good Fall Championships.

#### C. Questions

1. Pizzo: Happy to answer any questions
2. Assad: When do you anticipate taking/making changes for the 2019 schedule? I know we're locked in for ICSA regattas but for NEISA regattas for the 2019 schedule, when do you want changes for those?
  - a) Pizzo: As soon as possible. We've gotten some requests from other conferences to make some adjustments to our Fall interconference regattas (the few we have left) and will be in touch with hosts about that soon but sooner rather than later if hosts have any scheduling changes or requests, that'd be great.
3. Mollicone: Is the Nickerson, are we allowed to add a second team/are we handling that how we handle interconference regattas?
  - a) Pizzo: It's on the interconference schedule so I don't think the way NEISA handled it with drop penalties last year is relevant. It's on the interconference schedule so if we were to add second teams, they would need to be all women. This is one of the things I'm hoping to get some guidance from the conference on at the Winter Meeting because all of these things have different rules for second teams and there's no rules for some second teams so I think we just need to hammer that out so it's really clear because people ask these questions all the time.
  - b) Mollicone: So we can add a second women's team for the Nickerson if there's berths available
4. Mollicone: I know some of the other coaches on this call that are in the Dave Perry regatta for next weekend, we cannot host it unfortunately so we certainly want to see it happen but we just can't make it happen.
  - a) Assad: It's tricky to find a host for that regatta

- b) Pizzo: From that email chain that was going, it sounds like teams would love to be able to send some players that weekend so we should try to find a host
  - c) Leonard: We'd be happy to host it but don't have anyone to run it, but we have boats and a facility and our kids can help so if anyone has an extra coach or quality alumni that can do it. I've been trying to find an alum to do it but I've been using them a lot on weekends for judging and coaching.
    - (1) Assad: We'll take this offline and try to find someone who would be a good option.
5. Swingly: Do you have a copy of the NEISA 2019 Schedule anywhere or should we just go off of the 2018 to send you changes?
- a) Pizzo: I would go of the 2018, in one of the tabs, there are 2019 changes so if you have anything you want, email me and we'll include it in that section. We talked about the Hapmore and maybe doing it as the Thames River Team Race, there are a couple of those.

## **Old Business**

### **IV. 2019 National Championship - Justin Assad**

- A. Anyone that's been on the calls, we don't have many updates
- B. Schools to Assist with Hosting
  - 1. Harvard is on board to assist and help host the Team Race championship which will be great. I think Dartmouth is going to help some/minimally with the Coed championship and I think URI is on board to help with the Women's championship
  - 2. We will try to run it as a NEISA partnership led by John and the Brown team. We're excited about how that is coming together
- C. Looking for some RC boats

### **V. Sailing World Rankings - Justin Assad**

- A. Have the new ranking system up and running
  - 1. Conference rankings were good, little bit last minute.
  - 2. In the ranking open-poll period for national rankings which is going on right now. Will see those results later this week and hopefully everyone will be happy with the results.
- B. System
  - 1. Helped engineer it, 16 panelists - 4 NEISA/4 MAISA/2 SEISA/2 MCSA/2 Pacific Coast/1 Northwest/1 SAISA

- a) More consistent than open coaches poll but still has a broad geographic diversity
- b) Chris Klevan does a great press release and write up every week so it's our intention to kind of have the rankings at some point dovetail with the press release to have a commentary on each ranking period. We'll get to it when we get to it, right now the goal is to get the rankings off the ground smoothly

## **VI. Report of Sports Consulting Agency for ICSA - Assad**

- A. Without Greg here, no real report on this, know that ICSA was going to be following up with the agency to make sure the product we receive is what we're hoping for - a true report with some guidelines
  - 1. I know NEISA is a major focal point for us and an area of sensitivity, the executive committee is continuing to work with the agency to make sure that when we get the finished report, it's what we had in mind when we requested it
  - 2. Bresnahan: Is it possible to invite Greg Wilkinson to our NEISA meeting next month so he can give us an update?
    - a) Assad: Yep, it's possible for sure. He's usually on these calls but I guess for whatever reason he couldn't make it today. I spoke with him quickly after an executive committee call as well as last week and he filled me in that they had actually charged Sherri Campbell, the treasurer, who's extremely thorough with following up and having everything done to the letter and I think the committee put Sherri in charge of continuing to work with the consulting firm to make sure they're on track with the timeline we outlined at the Annual Meeting. There is progress on it but I don't know if there's more of an update than that, but yes, we'll get Greg on the next call.
    - b) Bresnahan: I'm sorry to be the squeaky wheel here but you know, we got sent the survey and I think my answers were pretty heavy handed and you know, from the masses, you're in the chief seat, we haven't really heard a lot and everytime I ask I get pushback and that's fine but you know I think that to get to the meeting, I'm planning on going to the meeting because this is a document that could turn the page for college sailing and start getting down the road where there are only a few teams that control college sailing. I guess what I'm looking for is just more info and if he could get the report to us before the meeting just so we aren't showing up and the executive committee and Sherri Campbell, who's not an active

coach/person in the organization except from the finance side, I think I've brought this up every time I've been on a NEISA call and I just really feel like I don't get any answers

- c) Assad: I understand that and totally hear where you're coming from. We want the process to be transparent and I'm in the same corner as you, I just don't know if there's transparency to be had beyond that the consulting firm is working at this point on the project so I don't know if they're getting more routine updates than that but I can push and try to get a more transparent update from them.
- d) Bresnahan: Thank you
- e) Assad: Just so you know, I leave this on the agenda because I know it's important that we continue to follow up on it and have the opportunity to express opinions like yours which is why it's still there

## **New Business**

### **VII. Showcase Judges and Umpires - Justin Assad and Amanda Callahan**

A. Callahan: NEISA has a list of priority events that have been set forth and the showcase events aren't on the list but I think that when NEISA hosts them, they are the highest tier event and we want to be able to pay judges for those events but right now it's outside the budget. What I would like for us to do is have NEISA say, maybe not through a vote, but find a way to incorporate it into the budget because it's \$1,200. From a budget standpoint we need to make sure it works and I imagine everyone would be on board with having judges at those events.

1. Assad: I think it's pretty easy and seems like a no brainer. Just watching those events, it's head to head competition with the best players in the country and when kinetics violations aren't called it affects overall results which also impacts end of the year individual records and that stuff matters. I do agree we need to have those be judged. I guess that would maybe be an additional surcharge, we need to talk to Alden about that and make sure all teams are comfortable with that because we need to find somewhere for the money to come from.
2. Mollicone: We had 3 judges at the women's showcase final and I hope NEISA will cover the regular costs (housing etc.) with the normal expense route as I told them that was the case. I got the judges myself but they did have to be housed, so I hope that's included in the budget like any other interconference event.

a) Callahan: I don't think we do that

- b) Mollicone: I thought we did. I've submitted expenses to Alden before for events like the Dellenbaugh and they don't get paid but.
  - c) Assad: Let's check in on that. I don't see any reason why we wouldn't do that for the Women's Showcase but let's check and make sure we know the rule going forward so everyone is clear on it. I'm comfortable with that for the women's showcase and I think that moving forward, I don't know if this is outlined in the Rules and Regs but I think we would want to include that in there so that we have a policy in writing. I remember the same thing where we pay for a travel stipend and housing and stuff like that so.
3. Assad: Amanda, I think we'll tackle that at the annual meeting, does that sound good to you?
- a) Callahan: I can maybe get with Alden too and put forward a more firm proposal.
  - b) Assad: That'd be perfect if you could work with Alden on it and get us exact numbers on it.
4. Callahan: It's late and we only have 2 weekends left but I got contacted by a bunch of coaches who were running regular inter conference events, not showcases, not the Schell/Urn, not single handed and not match racing and those are the only fall events, outside the showcases, that I am tasked with lining up judges but every other interconference event, it is on the team to round up judges and of course, I can help find out the deal with travel/stipends.
- a) Assad: My understanding of it, like for the Captain Hurst, if I am rounding up judges and struggling with it early like 3 weeks before the event, I get in touch with you Amanda so you can work your network but I think it's supposed to be the teams, the judge coordinator doesn't automatically go out and staff every single intersectional

### **VIII. Crew Substitutions, PR 14 - Assad**

- A. Cannot speak entirely for Greg on this, but he thinks we should propose getting rid of this rule.
- 1. The rule allows you to sail if a student comes down with the flu on Friday night at the hotel and you have a sailor that cannot sail, you can take a player from the host college and sail with them
  - 2. Greg thinks we should get rid of this, I'm guessing because it doesn't seem like something that would happen, because if your point guard is sick, you wouldn't take a point guard from the host school in a basketball game

3. I'm not fully equipped to speak about why he thinks it's a bad idea, but does anyone have anything to add on this?

B. Questions

1. Mollicone: We had this situation happen at the Moody with Tufts this year and they didn't sail with a host school crew, I can't remember what school Tufts sailed with but they did it, I was the rep and Skip was running it and we approved it, kind of hesitant about it, and they finished fourth in the regatta, but we recently did it.
2. Coleen: This happened to us too, I'm from Northeastern and one of our sailors sailed with someone from Harvard because one of their crews got hurt.
3. Assad: I think we need to think about it a little bit because sailing with a backup player and getting 4th impacts the performance ranking for sure.
  - a) Mollicone: It's a bummer to not have that team sailing with the rotation and with them sitting out and hurts the competition but I don't think it should be counted in the performance ranking because maybe we should have a NEISA team that does it, they should not count in the performance rankings. Tufts got 4th place and I think right now it's one of the scores that counts for them.
  - b) Assad: That would be my opinion too and I think you shouldn't count that score. Part of me does think that if we're talking about an invite at Mass Maritime which is not a ranking event and it gets one more team sailing, I feel a little differently about our conference minors but at conference majors and interconference regattas and qualifiers, it's a pretty big deal. I guess that the ICSA rule is that it's not allowed at qualifying regattas, but it's allowed at any non-conference championship might be what it says.
  - c) Smith: I'm a bit of an interested party in this but I think that the basketball analogy doesn't totally hold up because you would always have a substitute player with you if you're going to a game but in college sailing, that just isn't always feasible.
    - (1) Assad: Tufts has 75 people on their team, I'd think they could put a few extra people in their car, but I think the point is that there's no doubt it's not a direct analogy but the point is that competing with a player from a different school is not consistent with college sports which is where the analogy is relevant but I do understand the practicality. My team frequently travels with only 4 people and no alternates. We were in a situation a few years ago where we

were at the Naval Academy for the Owen in 2013 and we had a crew that good food poisoning on Friday night and couldn't sail Saturday and we sailed with a Navy crew and it was a great thing for the rest of the team because we had spent a lot of money to go to the event and it seemed in the best interest of college sailing to be allowed to compete rather than be told we couldn't but I understand the flipside which is that there are important ripple effects.

d) Bresnahan: We gotta get away from this, just send more people, sail less events if you don't have enough people. If your team isn't ready to compete either rig boats and stay there or go home

(1) Assad: We appreciate the input.

e) Assad: I took a look at the rules so we know exactly what it says, I don't think we need to call for a vote but just want everyone to think about it so we can discuss it more thoroughly at the annual meeting where we have everyone and can present on it

## **IX. Weekend Dates and Labels - Justin Assad**

### A. Pet Peeve

### B. ICSA Schedule

1. In 2019, the way the bylaws are written, weekend 1 is always, actually I don't know and need to look at this, but for whatever reason in 2019, the week we typically use as weekend 1 (September 7-8) is going to be weekend 0
2. The second full weekend in September is technically Weekend 1 because in 2019, the first weekend of September (Labor Day Weekend is the last day of August, September 1, September 2) and we're gonna have to skip the weekend of September 7th/8th and start the season on September 14th/15th which means we run a week later at the end of the fall and it seems unnecessary to me to miss that weekend when we sail it every other fall season.
3. At our annual meeting, I am going to propose that we bring to the ICSA that Labor Day Monday, which is the first Monday of September, begins week 1 and then Weekend 1 is always the weekend following the first Monday in September as this happens every 7, or 5, years.

### C. Questions

1. Taylor: I'm from Maine Maritime, can you say this one more time so I'm sure I'm understanding it.

- a) Assad: Currently, ICSA schedule says that Weekend 1 is the second full weekend in September, I think we should propose to change it to Weekend 1 following the first Monday in September.
- b) Unknown: What about next year? Isn't it the 12/13?
  - (1) Assad: It's unavoidable and it would still be the same with the current system.
  - (2) Unknown: So the idea is that we want to do the first weekend as early as possible?
  - (3) Assad: Yeah, the idea is we want to do it as early as possible because Labor Day should always be weekend 0 with the following being weekend 1 and labor day is determined by the first Monday in September, I did a lot of google research on it
- c) Assad: Everyone has time to mull it over, our general trend in NEISA has been to end as early as possible and I think we should continue to do that.

X. Additional Comments

- A. Mollicone: I think we need to think about the Tufts situation/Reed trophy with these teams sailing crews from other teams because it impacts performance rankings. Should we form a committee to sort it out or wait until the Annual meeting? It's something that should be sorted out because it definitely impacts rankings
  - 1. Assad: I think it'd be a good idea to tackle that before the winter meeting so maybe we can kick that to the competition committee and have them come back on it. I don't know if we will be able to apply that retroactively but we definitely need a good rule moving forward, so either way will leave it up to the committee.
  - 2. Mollicone: Sounds good, something that should be sorted out for sure
- B. Assad: Results from Mass Maritime invite just came up and we have a lot of important teams like Bentley and PC and Brandeis missing RP info so if everyone can teach out and make sure we get that because it's important for the health of our conference moving forward

