

NEISA September NEISA Executive Committee Call Meeting Notes

September 30th, 2021

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call of Executive Board

- a. Full meeting attendance is available [here](#)

III. ICSA Meeting Summary – Mike Kalin

- a. *Kalin*: So, I'll start off with a quick review of the meeting we had. The ICSA meeting on Monday night started with the Singlehanded Nationals being moved to Annapolis at Severn Sailing Association. It's a charter boat or BYOB and sail situation. There was discussion about the sail, but I think it's just bring your own sail, and there was some objection to how expensive that makes the regatta because everyone needs a new sail, but I think the charter fee from Zim is about \$675 so hopefully people from here can trailer their boat or car top their boats down. The next agenda item was regarding the Singlehanded Championship, it was almost a unanimous vote that the name and classification of the event become open. Note that the ICSA Competition Committee had fairly strong objections to changing it at this late time, however, everyone on the ICSA board felt that they wanted to do the right thing in the future, and that the right thing to do was to let the kids from Brown compete at this year's nationals. So, that was pretty cool to see and Mitch did a good job presenting that and steering that conversation.
 - i. *Bresnahan*: Can I ask a question? I'm curious, now this is the second event where all of a sudden something goes wrong and we're going back to Annapolis. Being someone who has been here for a long time, it took us a long time to get college sailing out of Annapolis, and I'm just curious if the NEISA reps on this, did this just totally make sense? I'm just concerned we're going to keep doing this, where oh Navy's big enough and they can just do it so that's where we're going type thing.
 - 1. *Martin*: I think the boats were going to be in Annapolis anyway for another event. The Zim charter boats fleet will be there anyway.
 - ii. *Bresnahan*: I just wanted to bring it up, because with two big events something has happened and we're just trucking to Annapolis.
 - 1. *Kalin*: Who could've hosted it in New England is the other question? We kind of took it last year with Sail Newport, and we exhausted that resource in the short term.
 - 2. *Callahan*: We could've had it in sunfish down in Sarasota that same weekend down in Florida!
 - iii. *Kalin*: I did like that idea, that was awesome. I think the whole thing happened kind of quickly and that was a Competition Committee thing that happened really quickly so I don't know the details on it. I know Justin was not in attendance, so who knows. I think it will be a decent event and we can be happy it will be a pretty good event in Annapolis with good resources there.
- b. *Kalin*: The next proposal was from Preston and he wanted to push forward and get the conversation started for the exemption currently in place for current first year graduate

students who have attended undergrad at the same institution to extend their window of competition. It has to stay in that 5-year window and this would be granted now to class of 2022 and 2023, so current seniors and juniors. That was a near unanimous vote to grant them that same exception as current first year graduate students. However, it's much earlier so you can start to tell your teams to plan. If you have seniors and juniors thinking about grad school, you should get them to plan on it and maybe some people can take advantage of that. There was some discussion, particularly from Mike Callahan, about the importance college sailing remaining an undergraduate experience, so there was agreement that this should only be a one-time exception and we will not open it up to graduate student participation in the future. So that's that. Those are the main consequential action items and votes. The other one is Mitch addressed the sexual assault and his message was just that he was behind the scenes working furiously to try to do everything his training had told him, and sometimes these things take time, and I think everyone should be patient. In the meantime, there are resources to direct your team members to, I think he's sent those out, but other than that, no real updates and it is being addressed at all the important levels.

IV. Automated Scheduling by Raymond Huffman (MIT Senior) – Mike Kalin

- a. *Kalin:* We've got a computer science wiz here named Raymond; he's an MIT senior, and he has already designed the system that would automate the scheduling process to NEISA to take some off the load off of the scheduling coordinator, and hopefully improve the accuracy and timeliness of adds and drops. They come in at odd times, and there's always human delays of these things, so if it's automated, his idea is that the person dropping would trigger an automatic notification to invite the next person on the list and notify the host that there's a change. This is a huge step forward in reducing human error and decreasing the work load on the scheduling coordinator who does a huge amount of work. Hopefully this will be a huge help to him. Once the season's over in October we'll get this going and hopefully we can load this up first thing in December once we get the schedule sorted out.

V. Performance Ranking Update – Mike Kalin

- a. *Kalin:* Next thing is the performance ranking update, and I've been getting emails about that, and it typically doesn't come out until next week. I'm going to take a crack at it on Monday. It's some type of automated Python thing that goes through Techscore and pulls out results. I've got documentation, but it's from two years ago, so it will take some time and money to get that going, and I hope to do it on Monday. One more thing that was discussed at the ICSA meeting was Techscore. Everyone noticed the huge breakdown in Techscore at pretty critical time during competition on Sunday and it made for tricky situations with teams not knowing where they stood. Matt jumped on it; I think Mitch is on it. During the call, some students from Georgia Tech stepped forward to help out and take on some maintenance projects through Techscore. I just spoke to Matt before this meeting, and he's very encouraged by the conversations he's had with Diane, who I is the originator of Techscore, and I think with Mitch, and I think Raymond is also looking at that. Raymond's quick assessment after looking at the code is it's written in PHP and slightly outdated, and he doesn't have time to change it over, but enough people know PHP that he would be willing to help out and I think these Georgia

Tech kids could help out in creating more up to date documentations to allow kids who are undergrads to jump in and make changes as needed to maintain Techscore going forward. I know that was frustrating last weekend but hopefully this winter we can get that sorted out. One final thing from me, we had a great, very thorough report that was written by Declan McGranahan and I'm sorry I'm forgetting names of others that worked on that. He led the effort of checking in on the regional health of college sailing in New England. I'm going to circulate that, so if all the regional reps could start on that project and report back on that at the October meeting that would be great.

VI. Spring and Fall Championships Update – David Thompson

- a. *Kalin:* We'll move to David Thompson for the update on your plans to get the spring and fall championship hosts nailed down.
- b. *Thompson:* For NEISA, the spring championships – the team race, coed, and women's spring championships – along with the spring dinghy tournament, singles for the fall, match racing for the fall, and I believe it's an even year next fall so the Schell and Urn are all out for a bid for hosts. That will be sent out in the next 1-2 weeks with all bids being due in mid-November. All voting at the annual NEISA annual meeting in December before the scheduling meeting so everyone knows for next year where their championships are. Please take a look, the form was sent out, please fill out your information if you're interested in hosting any of those events for the calendar year of 2022.

VII. Judging and Umpiring Update – Amanda Callahan

- a. *Kalin:* Amanda was expressing some concern, as COVID has messed up the regular routine of judges and umpires. So, Amanda can you give us an update on where you are with that and if there's anything we can do to help you out?
- b. *Callahan:* I sent out some email requests and Slacks to the coaches list just asking for referrals for recent grads who might be interested in getting involved. They get a stipend of \$100 a day plus expenses to umpire our priority events. I didn't get any responses. So, coaches, if you can while you're sitting here, shoot me an email with folks who might be interested or still live in the area, I would love to include them on the list. It seems like other recent grads have been busy sailing and the shoulder season is getting packed, so we just have had very little response. We're lucky we have our first round of ACC's and match racing umpires full, but when we get to the Schell Urn and the second round of ACC's are not full yet. I'd love to try and get those full and hear and get contact information for recent grads.

VIII. Scheduling Coordinator Update – Taylor Martin

- a. *Kalin:* Taylor has been hard at work with adds, drops, second teams, questions for rules for adding second teams, etc. Taylor, can you give us an update from your end?
- b. *Martin:* I don't have anything major in season requests. Please be timely if I offer you berths or if berths become available. They're coming up pretty quickly during the week and we're looking for responses for those pretty quickly. We will be presenting a slate of rule clarifications at the winter meeting to be voted in. No changes from how things have been done, but some codification of the way the scheduling process works, so that's a work in progress. If you have input on that, please email me.

- c. *Kalin*: We want to be as transparent as possible. So, if people add events, if they notice there's a need for an event, an event is added, can we do a broad announcement about the procedure and if you want to add an event how that gets done?
- d. *Martin*: The schedule is set at the winter meeting, and the goal is that it doesn't change at that point. So, we'll go back at the winter meeting, and we had lots of events pop up and get canceled this year, so we'll see where the actual demand is. People have big teams and were concerned about capacity on the schedule – for the schedule, you can see a lot of stuff that was added and crossed out. So, we're going to make sure that when we go into this next season, the capacity is what is actually needed and we're not coming up with events mid-season that then get pulled off the schedule because they're not actually needed. We do have some events that have been added in in-season this year, and the way those events are being populated depends on the weekend they are, and they are being populated by their open right now. The only exception is the potential for an event the weekend of the Schell and Urn. There are teams at the Schell and the Urn who wanted another opportunity in Boston for an event to sail, and that will be populated in reverse schedule order, the teams that are going to the Schell, so 10-18 basically. The goal with all of this is that we don't create events that hurt our B level events downstream. That's the only one that's been added and we have a weird scheduling thing.
 - i. *Leonard*: I know how challenging this semester has been because I'm seeing teams... like I'm just seeing Moose's email that Cal can't come because of COVID. This is obviously extra strange with COVID, but it may be a good idea that we have a small committee look at the schedule, specifically thinking more about some new event structures, and how we can maybe take advantage of fewer cars on the road and fewer coaches needing to be hired if we have more multiple-team events. I find that the hope to figure out what capacity we need is like the Nirvana, but it's like when my department makes me order our team gear in October, and that's before admissions has even happened, so I don't even know how big the team will be next year. I think the schedule is sort of like that too. I think we should look at some of the things we've learned from COVID, like having so many second teams, and frankly for us that's been official, because we haven't had to put as many cards on the roads or as many coaches, so I think it would be good if we have a committee look at that. I know a lot of coaches have been talking about it.
- e. *Martin*: So right now, me and Frank and Justin on that committee looking at the scheduling stuff for the winter meeting. If you have input, please send input, I'm happy to consider any sort of adjustments as well come out of COVID to get back to normal.
 - i. *Leonard*: Can you let us know when you have calls so we can join?
 - 1. *Martin*: Sure.
- f. *Kalin*: So, the event the Schell weekend in Boston is on the schedule now?
 - i. *Martin*: I don't think it is on the schedule right now, but it will be.
 - 1. *Kalin*: So, there's a two-week deadline now, and it will get opened up to...?

- ii. *Martin*: So right now, that event is set up, and it will go on the schedule for teams ranked 10-18 at the Schell, and then, as with everything, within that two weeks it will be open. Teams that qualify for the Dinghy Tournament are not eligible for that regatta.
- g. *Legler*: The Lane trophy also got added to the schedule recently, and the schedule doesn't show any teams signed up yet. But, I'm pretty sure Yale wants to go, and of course we do, possibly with two teams if it doesn't overfill.
 - i. *Martin*: We've run into this a couple of times where schools are talking behind the scheduling coordinator's back and then emailing me saying "hey I think this team wants to go and this team wants to go". I will add events when I hear specifically from that coach that they're requesting berths. I will add things to the schedule if that school emails me, neisascheduler@gmail.com, and the host of that event. Otherwise, it makes everyone's lives a little bit more confusing. The Lane Trophy was added for October 24th at Tufts, so email Ken and email me.

IX. NEISA Graduate Secretary Update – Frank Pizzo

- a. *Pizzo*: Just wanted to send out those early season reminders about NEISA reps and providing sailors opportunities for bathroom breaks and whatnot. We've established good best practices, and I think those go a long way to making for quality events that are respectful of everyone's time and give everyone a sense of what they're getting into. I think a lot of teams like, the Wednesday prior to the event, are emailing any sort of updates or weird things to their sites and that has been really good because we haven't been to a lot of these places in a while. I know that has been particularly important. I have a scheduling question because I've had people emailing me with scheduling stuff and I'm consistently sending them to Taylor, but as we enter our out of conference days of the schedule, I know some teams are looking to drop some events, and maybe Taylor you could remind people what the procedure for that is because they're often much longer deadlines to get out of them, and what the penalty is for a late-drop or a no-show at those events.
 - i. *Martin*: We are at one month for those out of conference events. If it is an out of conference interconference, if you late drop that then you're prohibited from scheduling out of conference interconference events the preceding spring season. If it's in conference interconference event, you're excluded from scheduling in conference interconference events the following season. As always, the late drop for in conference NEISA events has not changed.

X. Additional Updates from the ICSA Meeting – Preston Anderson

- a. *Anderson*: When Mitch was giving the update on the sexual assault reporting, he emphasized that his primary goal of importance was making sure the survivor is supported and in well-being. One of the things coming out of this is that he's putting together a task force to advise the ICSA to 1) have better policies around making sure all our sailors are safe and 2) having some education come out. I think Mitch said somewhere around spring they'd have some education around keeping more sailors safe.

XI. TIDE Update – Preston Anderson

- a. *Anderson*: We're trying to figure out how we can start meeting and get things going within NEISA TIDE. Our subcommittees are starting to start meeting this week or next. We'll have an education discussion program hopefully released in about a little more than a month, but I know it will look a lot like the ICSA discussion series from last spring. It may look familiar with some tweaks here and there. Our other subcommittees are working on other small projects, like the Sail Newport community outreach initiative about a week ago, which sounds like it was a great event, and our school outreach and recruiting subcommittee is making guides and partnering with groups on your campuses. Look for a more thorough update in October about some of the projects we are working. The executive leadership of the group is looking at how we will handle the turnover in January to bring in new members and transition out the old members. Another quick note, the BIPOC affinity group, the ICSA sailors of color coalition, sent out an email soliciting new members, so it would be helpful if coaches could send that email to their team if anyone who identifies as a person of color would like to join, just email back to the BIPOC@collegesailing.org email and that would be great to get that group going.

XII. Competition Committee Update – Justin Assad

- a. *Assad*: Question about the Schell – what is the format be for the extra event Taylor was talking about; is the one day, two day, who's hosting it, what's the deal with that?
- b. *Kalin*: Jeff might have the most details, it was kind of his brain child, or if Kevin Dooley is on the call?
 - i. *Bresnahan*: I was just talking to Kevin, and they will host a 9 team, no rotation event with 8-races on Saturday, 6-races on Sunday, they can't guarantee switching because around that time of year that BU dock is about 40 degrees colder than any place else on the planet, so they're comfortable having just 9 teams go, leave the dock, limited substitutions, but Kevin will rip off about 8 races Saturday and 6 Sunday. We just did reverse order, so it was a way to get a lot of our rosters and get opportunities for those kids to get to regattas.
- c. *Assad*: All of that sounds great, no qualms at all with that, but I think the one-day events, like we did one with Brown a couple weeks ago, and start time was 12:30, which seems totally reasonable if we're not rotating and we didn't need to get hotel rooms. I was pretty anti- that set up for a long time, but for that bulk of my roster, the one-day event is really attractive.
 - i. *Bresnahan*: I think that's exactly what Zack was talking about, and really examining what September is. We're excited for the Danmark, but then Salve coming to Conn for a one-day event, like utilizing filling of vans or multiple vans where one coach can service multiple teams, like that's something Taylor's group is going to work on. We're just trying to figure out how can we be more cost effective?
- d. *Kalin*: For any teams that were able to get second teams added I know that's huge, because for some kids they may only be able to sail one time other than that. So, it's just an awesome boost to their experience and makes them a more engaged member of the team for doing it. Justin did you have anything from the competition committee?

- e. *Assad*: I'm happy to field any questions. I know the national selection process is new and everybody is a little unsure how it will play out but we're hopeful it will be advantageous for New England. Those committees are set. The women's committee members are Clinton Hayes, Kelsey Wheeler, Ally Bleacher, an older guy. That's the basic format we looked for. The basic format is former coach, older at-large person, former college sailor of the year, former strong contributor who knows the game, and one more middle-aged alumnus. So that's the basic format we tried to follow. It looks similar for coed; Barnard is the former college sailor of the year, Greet Watson is on there, she's Greer Parker now, and I'd have to look at the official list. Charlie LaLumiere is the young alum, he's a Dartmouth alum that both match raced and was very active with team racing.
 - i. *Pizzo*: I don't understand why we have to wait so long to get the singlehanded list? It seems like a way to waste money, and everything's already in, so what's the holdup?
 - 1. *Assad*: This may be an oversight, but I do think there's some positives. Singlehanded criteria is results in XSA singlehanded conference championships, results from XSA singlehanded regattas, and results from XSA doublehanded regattas. So, for that third criterion, we have several more weeks of those to utilize. Then results from previous years. I think the reason there is a gap because we want to do match racing and singles at once. We could look at separating them and doing the singlehanded earlier in the future.
 - ii. *Pizzo*: Especially if it's going to be out west, it's crazy to do it that late. I understand the doublehanded thing may be a factor, but especially the first year where we don't really know what we're going to get, I don't think it totally makes sense that we're waiting so long.
 - 1. *Assad*: I can relay that to the competition committee. Because it's the first year, I think we're trying to be consistent with what we've announced. It's certainly something we can look at. Any other questions about the selection process?
 - iii. *Kalin*: That's the yearlong committee, right?
 - 1. *Assad*: One women's committee and one coed committee. Women's does women's singles and then the spring women's championships, and coed does match racing, open singles, and the spring open championships.
 - a. *Kalin*: Did they determine a date in the spring when they have their announcement?
 - 2. *Assad*: I don't know yet. I think the Monday after the New England championship.
- f. *Assad*: I do think our September A-level events, and the women's circuit in September should be A-level as well. I do think those events will be relevant for selection committees. I think those are relevant metrics. I think there is a good argument to be made to try to do multiple teams at one day events, but be careful of how we manipulate those A-level events.

XIII. Closing Comments

- a. *Kalin*: It's been hard to nail down the next meeting. I'll try to get the announcement of that October meeting, it'll be before Schell, and David Thompson had the idea to make the winter meeting, which was four and half hours last year which basically means it has to be on a Saturday which I know folks don't love. So, David Thompson had an idea of hosting some town hall meetings to go over content, and hopefully reduce the time in the meeting. My initial idea was to host these meetings around 4-7 on one night, or 4-6 on two nights. Those are my initial thoughts and I'd love to hear responses to that forum and model to get together in a more reasonable time frame. Any thoughts?
 - i. *Callahan*: The winter meeting is usually in Park City? Is that still a thing?
 - 1. *Anderson*: Yes, January 15th.
 - ii. *Kalin*: That's the ICSA meeting, we're talking about the NEISA meeting. And that's a week later than normal.
- b. *Kalin*: There was an email that went out about that right?
 - i. *Martin*: Yes.
- c. *Kalin*: Can anyone speak to the positive effect that holding these meetings on weeknights or late afternoons would be good or bad or might hurt us in some ways?
 - i. *Bresnahan*: I think ultimately, we're trying to find a way we can all meet, and the never-ending thing of just Saturdays, we're looking for another avenue there.
 - ii. *Assad*: I agree with Jeff 100%, I think it's kind of BS that we can't do it during the week. I like the idea of these town halls things to not make the meeting so long, but I also kind of worry that that ends up being a lot of time. I don't see why we can't run a four-hour meeting from 5-9 on a Thursday night. That seems totally fine to me and I'd rather do that than Saturday. I do think it's kind of hard to pin all of these town halls into 9-5 times, but after the second week in November, most teams should have time in the afternoons beginning around 2 pm whenever practice normally starts. But it does feel like we'd just be portioning that time, and we wouldn't really end up saving that much time.
 - 1. *Kalin*: My recollection is after about the 3rd hour, it gets a bit tedious, and people try to put a lot of effort into reporting on something, and people have then checked out.
 - iii. *Assad*: I like it when people get cranky at that point though, and we get some real hot and spice in those meetings and it gets exciting.
 - 1. *Bresnahan*: Well, that's when the people that are lying really lie.
- d. *Anderson*: I know that there was the Slack that was developed by Justin, would it make sense to find ways to have more thorough conversations on the Slack so we're not on Zoom calls for hours on end? Wasn't that the plan?
 - i. *Kalin*: I like that idea that's great.
 - ii. *Assad*: I think what we were hoping was to replace the NEISA list discussion area and to use Slack for discussion, so that's a good idea.
 - iii. *Pizzo*: And also having everyone do their reports a week before the meeting so that stuff can get sorted well in advance so there aren't big surprises, that I think is very helpful. I think the other obvious thing to mention is, I'm not a fan of multiple town halls, if it's the same people that are in here. So why do we

need to talk to each other that often. I'm not signing up for more meetings, I'd rather have one 5-hour meeting than four 4-hour meetings. At some point, if people don't show up, that's on them. We have a lot of resources out there.

Teams need information and help, but it's on them to get there.

- e. *Kalin*: Is there an undergrad on the call that can speak to how this may affect your team on if we went to a weeknight meeting vs. a weekend meeting?
 - i. *Valentino*: If we're out of season we can make weeknight meetings.
- f. *Assad*: I know a big problem has been volunteer coaches that they can't meet during the day. I know that's always been a big concern.
 - i. *Kalin*: When does the "day" end? When can we have that meeting?
 - ii. *Anderson*: I think the issue, when you get into December with undergrads is finals. So, we need to be conscience about undergraduate's times and thinking about that. December is usually a pretty stressful month.
 - 1. *Bresnahan*: Preston, I get that, with these teams, if somebody has a final or is studying for a final, why can't another person come? If people can't come, they can find another rep, or we can tweak the time.
- g. *Kalin*: I think we're kind of before finals in early December. I know you're wrapping up assignments, but for Jack's point, one 5-9 meeting would be better for undergrads studying for finals than a Saturday meeting.
 - i. *Anderson*: When we scheduled the annual meeting last year, it was later than when we normally would have an annual meeting, so if we kept it to early December, I think it would be fine. I was just trying to give a point of why undergraduates might not come.
- h. *Kalin*: There was one thing I forgot to mention, that we're seeing a lot more of these early season events that are judged by coaches, and I think it might be helpful if we have a conference or ICSA guideline or guidebook for protest hearings just to ensure no steps are being skipped. Trying to think of the best way to get that accomplished. We have a rules committee – who's on it?
 - i. *Assad*: I think it's John or Stan. Over the weekend Bill Healy heard a protest for me and he suggested to me that we have a basic cheat sheet for all of the judges when we hear protests, like basic procedure, validity test, that witnesses shouldn't be there when the testimony is being given by the protestor and the protestee, just quick and dirty basics on running a quick protest hearing. I know Amanda is dealing with this right now, but it seems like all of the weddings and sailing events that didn't happen are all crammed in and it's very hard to get judges this fall. So having a little more of a standard that's easy for people to follow might be wise.
 - 1. *Callahan*: US Sailing already has that cheat sheet, and maybe it needs to be reformatted for different college sailing rules, but I can at least circulate that or send it over to John and Stan or whoever is on that committee.
- i. *Kalin*: Thanks to the coaches that have been doing that, it's always difficult to administer justice when you know the players. So having more of a format and a methodology

makes it a little easier for everyone. Amanda if you could get that and maybe circulate it. I don't think it really needs to be changed for college sailing.

- i. *Callahan*: US Sailing is a little bit more formal in some aspects than college sailing, so I'll take a look and send it off.
 - ii. *Assad*: And the validity, like notification on shore, aren't there a couple nuances to the validity that might be relevant. I suck at hearing protests so maybe I just need to review the sheet.
 - iii. *Legler*: It's not that hard to judge if you're a former college sailor. If you have good judgement, know the game, and see the protocol you can do it. It's not that hard.
 - iv. *Radtke*: I do remember talking to some of the judges at Newport Nationals, and they had talked about their form they had created for college sailing. So, if we ask some of those we have at the top level of competitions, I think they have one written out that may not be published.
- j. *Kalin*: Well good luck to everyone this weekend, should be another awesome weekend of competition.