



Referee Committee

Minutes of Meeting
April 27, 2016
Telephone Conference

Attendance:

Referee Committee:

Tom Fuller – Chair
Ruth Macnamara – Vice Chair, Secretary
Terese Friel-Portell – At Large Member
Howard Meisner, NE– Regional Coordinator Representative to Committee
Marcus McElhenney – Athlete Representative

Regional Coordinators:

Derek Blazo, MW
John Musial, MA
Mike Rosenbaum, SW
Jorge Salas, SE

USRowing Staff:

John Wik – Director of Referee Programs

Absent:

Dee McComb, NW

Topic: Proposed Para / Adaptive Rules.

Before the meeting began, the below memo was circulated to the group:

The consensus of the Rules Committee is that the proposed Adaptive / Para Rules should be accepted by the Referee Committee and Regional Coordinators as written, then moved forward to the USRowing Board for approval with the recommendation that they be adopted as advisory for the remainder of 2016.

Tom Darling provided the following comments on the proposed Adaptive / Para Rules. (Tom's responses reflect earlier discussions with Judy and Kirsten.)

1. I agree with the use of "Impairment" instead of "disability" to be on par with FISA's wording (P 5, 1-202 (a)) I was using the Wikipedia definition of the word disability in my suggestion <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disability> Wikipedia (not a great resource) does list a disability as a "consequence of an impairment." personally I like the use of impairment

2. I agree with including both internationally INAS and domestically Athletes without Limits when describing eligibility/requirements when classifying ID

(c) LTA-ID (Legs, trunk, and arms – Intellectual Disability): allocated to Adaptive Rowers meeting the eligibility/classification requirements set by INAS and managed domestically by Athletes Without Limits.

3. I agree with the use of "predominately" instead of "exclusively" with AS

*It's great that Judy will add another column to the master list that will distinguish athletes with an impairment who are also classified to compete in the LTA 2X event
The Rules Committee is aware of Tom's responses.*

Tom Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM EDT.

Tom stated: The proposal is to adopt these para / adaptive rules and make a proposal to the Board to use in an advisory capacity this year. This will allow the rules to be used and applied and see we can see how they work. The para rules are for elite level athletes. The adaptive rules are to be used to encourage and allow more participation at our regular weekly regattas.

John Wik: Glenn Merry, the CEO, in discussion with Wik, suggested that the Rules once adopted by the Committee should be posted on the USRowing website as "Advisory"; they can then be modified based on comments from the rowing community prior to being finalized for review and adoption by the Board of Directors.

Discussion

Tom - I would like for us to promulgate these rules and get them out and start allowing people to officially use these proposed rules as a guide.

Tom Fuller Motion: The Referee Committee will post these proposed rules in an advisory capacity to be promulgated with a pdf copy sent to every member organization and licensed referees for the rest of 2016. A copy of this motion and rules sent to each board member and CEO.

Ruth seconded.

Discussion - Terry suggested that a copy of the motion and rules should be sent to the registered regatta program. Every time someone registers for a regatta, they should get a copy of the motion and proposed rules. These would be included when Jules sends out the registration information.

Tom Amended his Motion: The Referee Committee will post these proposed rules in an advisory capacity to be promulgated with a pdf copy sent to every member organization and licensed referees for the rest of 2016. A copy of this motion and rules sent to each board member and CEO. In addition a copy will be included with every registered regatta packet.

Ruth seconded the Amended Motion.

Discussion

Regional Coordinators:

Derek Blazo – I like the idea getting them out there, I want membership to have the opportunity to comment.

Tom Fuller – Regional Coordinators please reach out to your clinicians and talk to your chief referees and LOCs and encourage them to add adaptive races to their regattas. Make them aware that these rules have been promulgated. Ask the clinicians and Regional Coordinators to actively work with them. Report back to the Referee Committee with any comments and suggested changes.

John Musial – it will be a great help to standardize everything that is going on. It will make our life easier. We can encourage LOCs to use these rules to run their events. The one thing I would suggest is along with giving them a copy of the rules and of the motion, tell them what advisory means and that we are looking for feedback. What works and what doesn't. We can make changes as we go along; advisory gives us flexibility to make changes as we go and not have to wait for the yearly window. Notify them of what we are looking for, what kind of feedback we are looking for. We are looking for constructive feedback. Keeping them advisory allows us to make changes from the feedback.

Tom Fuller - Comments and suggestions are to come to the Referee Committee in care of John Wik.

Mike Rosenbaum –I am supportive of adaptive rowing, but it will be challenging working with difficult LOCs. It will be an effort to make this work. I would like the LOCs to be responsible for meeting the ADA requirements and specifications, not the referees.

Dee McComb – absent....

Jorge Salas – Sarasota has an active group. Miami has an active group. We all have to get used to using this guidance. We have had very good participation in FL. There are problems popping up so this guidance should be helpful.

Howard Meisner – Excited in the NE to have this guidance. Looking forward to putting these rules in to practical use and see how they function in day to day use.

Tom Fuller - To get some exposure on the posting of the Proposed Para/Adaptive Rules, USRowing has 12 pages in the rowing magazine to fill. Could we put together an article about these rules and something specific from each region? I would like each coordinator to please send something to John Wik to be included in the magazine. John Wik will put together an article for the magazine. Ruth and Terry will help in editing once it has been assembled.

ACTION: Each Regional Coordinator will submit to John Wik a paragraph about para/adaptive rowing in their region to be included in the Article. John Wik will put together the general information to include a blurb from each region. Ruth and Terry will edit the article once it has been assembled.

Discussion

Tom Fuller Second Amended Motion: **The Referee Committee will post these proposed rules in an advisory capacity to be promulgated with a pdf copy sent to every member organization and licensed referees for the rest of 2016. A copy of this motion and rules will be sent to each Board Member and the CEO. In addition, a copy of the motion and rules will be included with every registered regatta packet. An explanation of the advisory capacity will be included stating that the Referee Committee is looking for ongoing feedback.**

Ruth seconded the Second Amended Motion.

5-0 approved

John Musial: I met with John Garnjost on my way back from Florida last week. I presented him his emeritus pin. He wanted me to thank each and every one of you on his behalf. And we have thanked him for all the work he has done on our behalf.

Marcus made a motion to adjourn.

Ruth seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Macnamara
Vice Chair, Secretary
USRowing Referee Committee
carczar01@aol.com
703-201-4547