



Referee Committee

Minutes of Meeting
February 17, 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

USRowing Staff:

John Wik – Director of Referee Programs

Tom Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:10PM EST.

1. Discussion of potential second yearly “in person” meeting of the Referee Committee – When / Where: July 9 & 10 Chicago?
John Wik has done some research on costs regarding location: Houston vs. Chicago. Chicago was least expensive.
Is everyone available? No. Reviewed and discussed all potential dates between May and August.
Proposed new dates? June 5 & 6 in Philadelphia, Sunday afternoon and all day Monday.
Is everyone available? Yes; John Wik will work on the details of setting up a hotel and meeting space and confirm with the Committee before travel arrangements are made.
2. Rules Committee Structure (description included in attachment #1 under Rules Subcommittee Updates)– Tom Fuller
3. Budget 2016 – John Wik – no budget available yet. John has not gotten back his revised budget yet. He also hasn’t gotten the January report from USRowing. He will circulate the budget to the Committee Members when he receives it.

Terry: Does the Committee have priorities or key initiatives that we are working towards?

Tom: That is why we are trying to set up an in person meeting. John Musial suggested that during his term and we were never able to schedule it.

Terry: What are the moving parts?

Tom: The Board is moving in a direction to implement the Carver Model; Glenn spoke to us about it in Philadelphia. There are 4 new Board members coming on board in March. We are holding off until we get further direction from the Board of Directors before we delve in.

John Wik made the suggestion that each member of the Referee Committee put pen to paper and come up with what they think the direction of the Referee Committee should be. Terry added that she would be willing to pull this together.

Discussion

Decision: Hold off until we get further information/direction on how restructuring by the Board of Directors will affect the direction of our work.

Recruitment and Retention should be our focus at the moment. John Wik suggested that we forward any new ideas to him.

Coordinators starting joining the call at this point.

Suggestions regarding recruitment and retention made during the discussion:

1. Advertise “becoming a referee” in College Alumni newsletters;
2. Distribute a video to College Membership that can be shared with college seniors encouraging them to get involved with the sport and give back as a referee.
 - Mike Rosenbaum suggested that each of the SW Clubs should have to put one referee in the pool of candidates each year; much like soccer teams have to do. MA has done this in the past at the scholastic level; NW has done it too.

8:30PM

The Regional Coordinators joined the call.

Regional Coordinators:

Derek Blazo, MW
Roger Fredrick, MW
Dee McComb, NW
Mike Rosenbaum, SW

Absent:

John Musial, MA
Jorge Salas, SE

1. Welcome – Tom Fuller
Welcome Derek to the group.
2. Subcommittee Reports (**Attachment #1**) – Ruth Macnamara
I think the practice of asking for updates from the Subcommittee Chairs has proved to be valuable. We can now see what work is being done on behalf of the Referee Committee and by whom. This will allow us to make necessary modifications so that we do not duplicate work.

Since forwarding the summaries as part of the agenda yesterday, there have been some modifications to the list of subcommittees as they were listed on Attachment

1. Below is an updated list and breakout of where they fit into the current structure:

In addition to the two Subcommittees currently listed in the IOP:
Grievance and Appeals
Ethics and Performance

The following is a list of current subcommittees that have been formed to do work on behalf of the Referee Committee. The summary and status of their work is shown on **Attachment 1**:

Ad-hoc Committees – report directly to the Chair of the Referee Committee:
Referee Education/Referee College
FISA Candidate
FISA Liaison

Subcommittees – are standing working groups who report directly to the Referee Committee
Coastal/Open Water Rules
IOP
Para/Adaptive Rules
Referee Evaluation
Referee Safety
Referee Testing
Rules (The Rules Committee reports to the CEO)

Discussion/Questions: During this time, each Subcommittee's summary was presented and questions and comments were addressed.

Referee Education/College – Will be addressed later with John Wik

FISA Candidate and Liaison – John Wik reported that John McKenna's letter has been sent to FISA to request that he be allowed to sit for the FISA Exam in Chile, March 2016.

John Wik reported that USRowing has reviewed the results of the self-ranking evaluation submitted by the FISA Liaison. It has been decided to not distribute those results to the larger group of USA FISA Umpires. USRowing believes the evaluation criteria was lacking in clarity.

Coastal/Open Water – no additional questions or comments

IOP Subcommittee – Direction was offered by John Wik and Tom Fuller. This Subcommittee's work will be put on hold until there is further direction from the Board of Directors. John and Tom will notify the four people on this Subcommittee when they should resume work.

Para/Adaptive Rules – Received one comment during the open comment period. John Wik will put together the comments and circulate to the Rules Subcommittee, Referee Committee and Regional Coordinators. The Rules Committee will then meet and discuss the proposed para/adaptive rules; they will invite the experts to join them in their discussion. Tom, Marcus and John will bring information from that meeting to the Referee Committee and Regional Coordinators in their joint meeting

to review, discuss and make their evaluation and recommendations to the Board of Directors. If there are unresolved differences between the Rules Committee and the Referee Committee/Regional Coordinator group, and they are unable to reach a resolution, both recommendations will be forwarded to the Board of Directors with the Board making the final decision. The rules will be in an advisory capacity for the remaining of the year and potentially longer.

Referee Evaluation: Howard - Chris shared the information she has. There are some substantive questions that need to be answered before moving forward with their work. There is a need to understand where Evaluations fall in the spectrum of training and the direction the referee program office is going.

Ruth: Is this being covered in any other area?

John Wik: Yes, Referee College is putting together training materials meeting National Standards. These materials will be distributed to the regions. Regional clinicians will be provided with training to present the standardized training materials. In addition to training, an evaluation tool needs to be developed. The leadership of Referee College will be working to create an evaluation program. The Referee Evaluation subcommittee should work with the Referee College to develop the evaluation program. John Wik will talk to Chris Lang about facilitating this relationship.

Mike – I’m on this subcommittee. Are we looking for a “yelp” review? Can coaches review us? There are 360° review programs already on the market? There are programs out there that would allow us to receive feedback.

John Wik: There are two parts to referee evaluations. First, the evaluation process needs to allow for constructive feedback from a trained evaluator. Constructive feedback is a major part of the educational process. The second part of evaluation allows the Regional Coordinators to rank referees within their regions. Providing these rankings to the Referee Committee allows for identification of national juries, national chiefs, etc.

Referee Safety Work

Terry – a major focus of the referee safety subcommittee has been to suggest that all referees wear PFDs. This should start with the referee leadership; Committee Members and Regional Coordinators. We need to be wearing our PFDs every time we are on the water.

Mike – does this trickle down to the boat drivers/volunteers.

Terry – our focus is Referee Safety. We will encourage LOCs to support this for all support staff/volunteers on the water.

John Wik – Have you given any thought on how we might get a bulk order of PFDs, maybe through a grant?

Terry – We were thinking of using the ones provided on the USRowing website but we are happy to consider all those ideas.

John Wik – Terry, let’s explore the concept of a grant.

Referee Testing Subcommittee - no questions/comments.
Making progress and has a plan.

Rules Subcommittee – no additional questions/comments.

- Suggestion made that it needs to be included in Regatta Packets and on Safety Check List
 - Lots of discussion
 - Marcus and John Wik will have a conversation with Glenn.
 - SafeSport / NCSI Background Checks – Update
 - USRowing will send out another email blast requesting compliance
 - Can this be linked to the USRowing website when we pay our membership dues and sign our waiver?
 - Discussion
4. Regional Coordinators Reports – Howard Meisner
- Last met 1/26, next meeting 2/23.
 - Nominated Dee to the Referee Safety Subcommittee
 - Discussed Para Rule Process
 - National Championship Survey is still being worked on
 - Presentations for Annual Clinics this year – Howard, Terry and John Wik have worked on; will report at their next meeting.
 - Continues to gather additional requirements for RDS. Howard will meet with John Wik about changes and updates that have been requested. Need to discuss funds, etc. Howard will update everyone after the meeting.
 - They had a discussion for finalizing juries for national championship regattas.
5. Additional Items to bring to the Committee
- Mike Rosenbaum - SW has two referees recommended to advance to Clinician status.
 - Mary Bush – San Diego
 - Robin Kenney – Arizona

Motion:

Howard: I move that we allow Mary Bush and Robin Kenney to be moved forward to Clinician.

Tom Fuller seconded

Passed, 5-0.

Ruth makes a Motion to Adjourn.

Marcus seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06PM EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Macnamara

Vice Chair, Secretary

USRowing Referee Committee

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