



Referee Committee

Minutes of Meeting

March 17, 2016

Telephone Conference

Attendance:

Referee Committee:

Tom Fuller – Chair

Ruth Macnamara – Vice Chair, Secretary

Terese Friel-Portell – At Large Member

Howard Meisner – Regional Coordinator

Marcus McElhenney – Athlete Representative

USRowing Staff:

John Wik – Director of Referee Programs

Tom Fuller called the meeting to order at 5:05pm EDT.

1. Rule 3-108 Foot Gear Release

Discussion

Ruth Macnamara made a motion to accept the following language to be distributed to the Referee Corps by their Regional Coordinators.

Marcus seconded the motion.

Referee Guidance:

March 2016

SUBJECT: Interpretation of Referee Procedures Manual Section:

(5) Procedure - Boat Launching - Safety Checks - Foot Release (Found on pages 79/80 of the 2016 Rules of Rowing).

As we have interpreted Rule 3-108 over the last several years, shoes which are securely attached to the footboards with 3" heel ties are presumed to allow the athlete to exit the boat without the use of hands. This interpretation allows shoes with 3" heel ties to meet the requirement of Rule 3-108 which states:

Quick release foot stretchers: In all boats, the foot stretchers, shoes, or other devices holding the feet of the rowers shall be a type which allows the rowers to get clear of the boat with no delay. Where

shoes or other devices holding the feet will remain in the boat, each shoe or device shall be independently restrained such that the heel will not lift more than three inches (7.5 cm) above the footboard to which it is anchored...

In instances where the athlete cannot exit the boat prior to opening the shoe, the requirement of the single hand release applies. As stated in the second part of Rule 3-108:

... In addition, where laces, Velcro, or similar materials must be opened before the rower can remove his or her feet from the shoes or other devices; these must be able to be released immediately by the rower with a single quick hand action of pulling on one easily accessible strap.

Vote: 5-0 in favor

2. Rule 4-103 Eligibility to Compete in Events

Discussion

USRowing is writing an updated policy on how to handle classification by gender.

John Wik has agreed to meet with each Region's clinicians via conference call scheduled by the Regional Coordinators. On that call, John will share the following:

- a. Clarification of the Interpretation of the Procedures regarding foot releases, Rule 3-108;
- b. 4-103 - Issues of eligibility to compete in events is to be handled by the LOC, not the referees; and
- c. A message from the Safety Subcommittee – to encourage all referees to wear a PFD when on the water as is already stated in the IOP.

3. The next Referee Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2016, 8pm EDT.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Macnamara
Vice Chair, Secretary
USRowing Referee Committee
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