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:

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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