



Referee Committee

Minutes of Meeting
May 4, 2016
Telephone Conference

Attendance:

Referee Committee:

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

Absent:

Tom Fuller – Chair

Ruth Macnamara called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM EDT.

Tom Fuller called in stating that he was not able to participate on the call due to a previous work commitment.

1. Safety Sub-Committee Update – Terry Friel-Portell (document attached)

The Sub-Committee would like the Referee Committee to support its proposal to be taken to USRowing for changes to enhance referee safety; specifically at the 2016 Club Nationals.

Discussion

The Referee Committee completely supports the work of the Safety Sub-Committee and appreciates the time and effort that has been put into this document. It is a very thorough compilation of suggested changes.

Marcus – with the list of requirements in the document, 9 weeks out may not be enough time to implement them. We need to be careful how we put this on the table. This is what we want but they likely can't do all of this in 9 weeks. We would like them to do as much as they can.

Terry – John and Willie should sit down with AJ and share the document with him and the Events team. Some of these things are really important. They could be prioritized to see how many things can be implemented now. For future contracts,

someone needs to review the contract and regatta packet to include the referee safety items identified in this list.

ACTION: John Wik, on behalf of the Referee Committee will take these recommended safety requirements to the Safety Committee (Rachel Le Mieux and Willie Black) and Events Committee (AJ) and see how much can be implemented in an ADVISORY capacity for Clubs 2016 and for future contracts.

Wik – regarding the Safety Subcommittee’s recommendation to wear life jackets. That recommendation has gone out to the corps through the Clinician meetings Wik held a couple of weeks ago over four separate nights of conference calls. In addition, Wik is following up with West Marine regarding a contract for life jackets; he hasn’t heard back yet. He is now looking into an opportunity to work with the manufacturer, Mustang.

2. Suggestion/Discussion of Recommendation to USRowing Coaching Education Program – “Training crews to properly enter, back and lock-on to a starting platform” – Ruth Macnamara

This was brought to the attention of the Committee by an active referee.

Discussion

ACTION: John Wik and Marcus will speak to Kris Korzienowski as to what is the best way to get this information out to the Coaching Community. They will bring his suggestions back to the Committee. At that point, the Referee Committee may consider making a recommendation to the Coaching Education group at USRowing to include this topic in their licensure requirement for Coaches.

3. Ethics and Performance Subcommittee Update – Marcus McElhenney

- a. Referee Code of Conduct – Marcus and Ruth
Marcus - A draft has been circulated to the Committee.

Discussion

ACTION: The draft will be finalized and circulated for comment before the June Committee Meeting. Add this topic to the Agenda of the June “in person” meeting of the Committee in Philadelphia, PA

- b. Sub-Committee for Ethics and Performance Complaint Investigation and Hearing Process – Marcus and Tom

Tom circulated a draft / red lined version to the Committee. This document is the reporting and enforcement mechanism for complaints.

Discussion

ACTION: Tom and Marcus will continue to work on updating the *USRowing Referee Committee Sub-Committee for Ethics and Performance Complaint*

Investigation and Hearing Process, dated April 2016; to include information for filing a Code of Conduct complaint. A final draft will be circulated for comment before the June Committee Meeting. Add this topic to the Agenda of the June “in person” meeting of the Committee in Philadelphia, PA

Wik – Ruth and Marcus, thank you for pulling this together, it will be beneficial.

Committee members, if you have comments on either of these documents, have them back to us in 3 weeks, May 25, 2016.

4. Update on Para / Adaptive Rules role out – John Wik
The information has been posted on the USRowing website. It was sent to referees throughout the country. It has been sent to the Board of Directors.
ACTION: Wik is gathering the names of the organizational members to send the rules to them. Wik is working on the Para/Adaptive Article with Alison Frederick. Howard will remind the Regional Coordinators to send their Regional paragraphs to Wik to be included in the Article. Once Wik has compiled the information and drafted the Article, he will share with Ruth and Terry for comment and editing before it is sent to the magazine.
5. June 2016 Referee Committee Meeting – Philadelphia, PA, Marriott Airport Hotel
John Wik – Meetings will begin with Sunday evening Dinner, continue Monday at 8am through 3pm. This will be a strategic planning meeting.
6. John Wik is also working on a recruiting article for the rowing magazine. He will send in after the Para/Adaptive Article has been submitted.

Marcus made a motion to adjourn.
Terry seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

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