



Referee Committee

Minutes of Meeting  
October 5, 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

USRowing Staff:

John Wik – Director of Referee Programs

Absent:

Marcus McElhenney – Athlete Representative

Tom Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:00PM EDT.

1. Update on Re-Structure: WIK

Comments were received and considered on the draft documents circulated last week for our meeting. The revised documents were submitted to USRowing with the approved Minutes from our 9/28/16 Committee Meeting to be posted on the USRowing website. John Wik advised the Committee that USRowing has posted the Minutes but will hold off posting the two draft documents until Glenn Merry reviews them.

John Wik is working with USRowing Staff to get the attachment to the Committee Minutes from the 9/14/16 Meeting posted. He will ask USRowing to post our documents and Minutes in PDF form to protect their integrity. Before the creation of the new website, all Committee Minutes and attachments were posted in PDF format.

Follow-up from last week's meeting:

Tom Fuller reported that, after reaching out to Jean Reilly our current FISA Liaison and other senior FISA Umpires, he recommends the FISA Liaison position on the Committee be a 3 year term with a maximum of 3 consecutive terms served. This aligns with all the current terms and term limits for the other At-Large Members on the Referee Committee (less the Athlete Representative who has a different set of terms). Changes will be made to the draft CEO Policy Manual to reflect this recommendation.

2. Update on Rules – Public Comment Period Open: WIK

The comment period is now open until October 31, 2016. The proposed Rule changes have been posted on the website and can be found here: <http://www.usrowing.org/rules-of-rowing/>.

3. Recruiting – Sharon Collins: WIK

Sharon lives in the Philadelphia area and has been hired in a part time position to help lead the recruiting efforts for the Referee Corps. She will attend some of the larger regattas as an official recruiter and set up a booth in the USRowing Tent. Sharon will hand out flyers, answer questions, and be an overall recruiter. In addition, she will be working with John Wik to follow up with the Regional Coordinators about Candidates who have been lingering in the RDS. If the Coordinators want her help in pursuing these Candidates, she will contact and follow-up with them on their remaining steps required to become an Assistant Referee.

The upcoming events she will be attending are: Head of the Hooch, Head of the Charles, Sarasota Chase and Head of the Schuylkill.

Additional Recruiting Suggestions: Create a College recruiting video for College Coaches to show to graduating seniors. Get College Coaches on board to encourage their graduates to become Referees.

Suggestion was made to send an email to the Corps introducing Sharon and announcing her position, job description and providing her contact information. John Wik is in the process of doing this.

4. FISA Application – Tiffany Knapp: FULLER

Tiffany sent her letter of interest to Jean Reilly on August 30 while she was at Rotterdam at the Mega World Championships. She sent Tom Fuller her formal letter on September 15. She has been vetted by the FISA Applicant and Candidate Committee and they are requesting she sit for the exam in Gent, BEL in December, 2016. Howard moves that we recommend to the CEO that Tiffany sit for the exam in December 2016. Terry seconds the motion. Discussion Motion passes 4-0 (Marcus absent)

5. Convention – Travel, Lodging Expenses (Committee and Coordinators): WIK

The 2016 Convention is in Springfield, MA. Arrive NLT Thursday evening; Hartford Airport in West Windsor, CT; cab is approximately \$35. Send John Wik travel schedules to try and streamline our arrival and keep transportation costs down. There is no shuttle between hotel and airport.

Schedule

**Thursday:** Arrive

**Friday:**

8am – 10am Regional Coordinator Meeting (Closed)

10 – Referee Committee Meeting; end of year house keeping (Open, unless move into Executive Session)

12 – Lunch

12:30 – 3pm - finish Referee Committee Meeting/introduce the reorganization of the Committee and its Members (Open, unless move into Executive Session  
3-5:30 – training for Clinicians who will be Adjunct Instructors for Referee College (invited Clinicians only)  
Friday night – on your own

**Saturday:**

8am – 10am Continue training for Clinician as adjunct instructors  
10am - Advanced College – open to any referee who would like to attend  
12-12:30 - Lunch  
12:30 – 5:30 – Continue Advanced College  
5:30 – 6:30 Cocktail reception  
Awards Ceremony

**Sunday:**

8 am – Adaptive Clinic – Open to anyone who would like to attend  
Debbie Arenberg, USRowing Adaptive Programs Development Specialist – demonstrate equipment;  
Para/Adaptive Rules – Presenter TBD

**Funding for the Convention**

The Referee Program will fund the Committee Members and Regional Coordinators' travel and hotel rooms. The Awards ceremony will be covered. The Clinics will cost each referee \$20. John Wik would like all Referees who plan to attend the Convention to register for the Clinics. Currently 30 referees have signed up.

6. Calendar – Upcoming Events: List from IOP: ALL

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

The Regional Coordinators will submit the proposed Chief and Deputy List for the 2017 National Championships to the Referee Committee by October 15. The Committee will need to set up a separate meeting before the end of October to review and make recommendations to the CEO by November 1, 2016. John Wik and Howard will talk tomorrow morning about how to meet this deadline.

**Committee Meetings: 8PM ET**

November 2, 2016 – Regularly schedule Committee Meeting;

Include on the agenda but not limited to:

- How many referees need to be added to each National Championship Jury; make recommendation to Referee Program Director to forward to Events Staff
- Code of Conduct

November 9, 2016

- Discussion of Proposed Rule Changes and Comments; include Regional Coordinators

November 16, 2016

- Vote on Proposed Rule Changes and make Recommendation to the Board; include Regional Coordinators

## 7. RDS Data Call – Compliance by Region: HOWARD

### 2016 Data Call Year

Region	Total Licensed	% Completed Data Call	% Met all Requirements*
NE	76	95%	80%
MA	174	87%	68%
SE	99	74%	62%
MW	103	87%	73%
SW	53	100%	85%
NW	37	76%	70%
TOTAL	542	86%	71%

\* waiver on meeting all requirements for assistant referees licensed more than half way through the data call year

#### Key Points:

- 1) The completion percentage is lower than in 2014 (92%) and 2015 (89%)
- 2) For the second consecutive year, the SW reached 100% completion
- 3) 29% of licensed referees aren't meeting at least one of the licensure requirements (4+ days worked, attend clinic, submit data call)
- 4) SW has the highest compliance at 85%, SE has the lowest at 62%

Total: 542 licensed referees in the RDS. 192 Candidates; 248 Assistant Referees; 294 Referees

The RDS is approximately 5 years old; there are some deficiencies using iPads and Mobile phones, etc. Howard is working on redesigning parts of the system to make it more user friendly.

There is a lot of data in the RDS. The stats that they are putting together are a good overview of the state of referee corps. If you are looking for something more specific, please let Howard know. He will work with you to get it into the best format to work with.

## 8. Update on Code of Conduct: MARCUS

Postpone presentation and discussion to the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Agenda. Comment period closed October 1, 2016 per the cover letter sent to the Corps on June 21, 2016.

## 9. Update on Safety – TERRY

The Safety working group has been dormant this summer. The working group includes: John White from USRowing's Safety Committee, Dee McComb and Terry. Their next step is to look at the LOC procedure manual and referee suggestions to suggest revisions where they can ensure referee safety. The Working Group is meeting next week to talk about next steps. Terry mentioned, with the creation of the Board working group, their group may be duplicating their work. The Referee Working Group provided suggestions in May for Club Nationals. There is a need to get recommendations for 2017 National Championships to the Events Group now.

Glenn and the Events group at USRowing have the Working Groups recommendation document from May 2016.

Terry will consider setting up a meeting with Events at the Convention. Also, review 2016 National Championships and Regional Championships to see if her group can identify any issues that need to be addressed.

#### 10. Update on Board Sub-Committee efforts – WIK

John Wik reported that the USRowing Board Sub-Committee on Referee Safety has not met or done further work since the letter they sent out to the Referee Corps on 9/2/16.

John Wik will invite Gary Caldwell to come to the Referee Committee Meeting to update the Committee on their work and progress towards Referee Safety.

#### 11. World Championships – Sarasota, FL

John Wik is going to Sarasota this weekend to meet with members from the FISA Events Commission and the LOC to begin talking about the NTO and Volunteer positions for the 2017 World Championships. John has been working with John Walker and Bob Whitford. John Walker has estimated that approximately 50 volunteers (NTO, National Referees and LOC Volunteers) will be needed to work the Championship.

#### 12. Masters National Championship –

19 people rallied to the call and showed up at Masters to help with the Championships. They were not compensated in any way. John Wik wants to recognize this group. He is getting them the Masters Nationals shirt and will be covering their mileage.

Recommendation of the Committee is to acknowledge the additional volunteers at Youths and Clubs too. John Wik will send an email to the Chiefs at Youths and Clubs to get the list of volunteers from those two Championships as well.

Howard made a motion to adjourn.  
Terry seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Macnamara  
Vice Chair, Secretary  
USRowing Referee Committee  
[carczar01@aol.com](mailto:carczar01@aol.com)  
703-201-4547