



Referee Committee

Minutes of Meeting
January 10, 2018
Conference Call
FINAL

Attendance

Referee Committee:

Andrew Blackwood – Chair
Lyn Wylder - Secretary
Bob Appleyard – Referee College
Dee McComb – Regional Coordinator Representative to Committee
Jean Reilly – FISA
Rachel Le Mieux – Trials Coordinator
Terese Friel-Portell – Safety/Referee Utilization (joined the call at 9:05 EST)

Regional Coordinators:

None

USRowing Staff:

None

Absent:

Gevvie Stone – Athlete Representative
Marcus McElhenney – Athlete Representative

Guest:

Patty Hyatt, NW

Andy called the meeting to order at 8:40 PM EDT

1. Andy Blackwood
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Roll Call and Identified guests (noted above)
 - c. Announcements
 1. USRowing has been having staff meetings in Princeton primarily to discuss rolls and responsibilities of the staff members. As a result, James Rawson, the Referee Committee facilitator at USRowing, is unable to join us.
 2. There isn't a change to the people assigned to referee duties at USRowing from what was discussed at the Convention:
 - a. James Rawson, Referee Committee contact
 - b. Sharon Collins, Regional Coordinator Facilitator
 - c. Willy Black, Referee Education – on-line support
 - d. These three people report to Brett Johnson
 3. Andy clarified that John Wik is NOT the person to contact at USRowing for referee related issues.

2. Report from committee members
 - a. Trials - Rachel reported that she is ready to issue the request for referees that are interested in trials events, but hasn't received a response from USRowing for her request for assistance. She will try again this week.
3. Discussion on priorities for 2018
 - a. Andy suggested that based on the white board exercise that was done at the Convention that our priorities could be grouped into four areas:
 1. Administrative Structure/Internal Operating Procedures/Business Plan and Budget
 2. Referee College/License Requirements/Recruiting and Retention
 3. Events/ Staffing/Compensation
 4. Role of Technology
 - b. After a short discussion, the Committee agreed that these four items do cover the priorities that were discussed at the Convention. Items that came up during the discussion:
 1. At the Convention, we discussed making a 5-year projection of staffing needs and if that should be shortened to 3 years. We will focus on 1 and 3 year projections, but look at longer term issues as well. It was noted that it takes 5 years to develop a confident, solid referee.
 2. The Referee College role has evolved over the past few years and is currently focusing on providing consistent information for our Referee Clinicians to use at clinics and other training.
 3. Technology will impact the other three areas and should support them all.
 - c. How should we proceed with each of these items?
 1. Should we assign 2 – 3 people on each item to develop a project plan that would identify what are the next steps, what is needed to move forward, a time line and benchmarks?
 2. How can we proceed until we know what USRowing expects from the referees and the Referee Committee? For example, are we to focus only on USRowing owned regattas; USRowing owned and registered regattas, or; all regattas?
 3. What we can do is focus on what capacity we can support with our current referee corps.
 - a. We need to have each Regional Representative determine the number of regattas in their region and the number of referees needed for each regatta.
 - b. We discussed that we also need to know experience of the referees needed a regatta. You can't staff a regatta with all Associate level referees and you don't need all super senior referees at most regattas.
 - c. We also need for the Regional Reps to indicate the capability of the current corps.
 - d. We discussed how the SW region had collected this data by:
 1. Asking USRowing for their needs for Trials; National Championships; Regional Championships; etc.
 2. Reviewing the information in Regatta Central

3. Taking with coaches and programs in their region
 4. Taking with venues and courses
 - e. The suggestion was the we need to develop a template to collect this information. Three people agreed to work on this and have something for the next meeting – Terry Friel-Portell, Lyn Wylder and Andy Blackwood.
 4. We discussed the need for a face to face meeting where we could develop a business plan for completing our priorities and to plan for the 2018 Convention.
 5. Andy will talk to USRowing about what their vision for the Referee Committee is and what they think about our priorities before our meeting in February.
4. New Business
 - a. Plenary Exam
 1. Dee asked if we should consider updating the exam since it was last done in 2009 and seems to be outdated.
 - a. It seems that all of the exams need to be updated
 - b. We need to start with that do the Regional Reps want to see on each of the exams. What should each exam cover? What knowledge should each level of referee need to display when taking the exam?
 - c. It was decided that the Committee should take on the effort of updating both exams.
 - d. Dee will start by having a discussion at the next meeting of the Regional Representatives
5. Next meeting
 - a. The next conference call of the Committee should be on February 14th but it was decided that we will meet on February 7th at 8:30 EST.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Wylder
Secretary, USRowing Referee Committee
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