



Referee Committee

Minutes of Meeting
October 10, 2018
Conference Call
FINAL

Attendance

Referee Committee:

Andrew Blackwood – Chair
Bob Appleyard – Referee College
Rachel Le Mieux – Trials Coordinator
Dee McComb – NW, Regional Coordinator Representative to Committee
Jean Reilly – FISA Liaison
Gevvie Stone – Athlete Representative
Lyn Wylder – Secretary
Terry Friel Portell – Safety/Referee Utilization

Absent:

Marcus McElhenney – Athlete Representative

Regional Coordinators:

None

USRowing Staff:

Jules Zane, Manager Referee and Membership Programs

Guests:

Patty Hyatt, NW

Andy called the meeting to order at 8:30 PM EDT

- 1) Andy Blackwood
 - a) Welcome
 - b) Roll Call and Identified guests (noted above)
 - c) Announcements – At the end of our regular agenda we will go into Executive Session to discuss award winners and the selection of Chief and Deputy Chief Referees for National Championship Regattas
- 2) Regional Coordinators - Dee McComb (moved to the top of the agenda)
 - a) Clinic Topics – The Coordinators sent possible topics for the annual clinic to Bob. In addition to the usual discussion on any rule changes they proposed that the clinic include the mechanics of time trials. They would also like to cover electronic timing. Not the technical aspects that are provided by the timing contractor, but more about best practices in providing back up timing and when to release unofficial and official results. Bob agreed that these are good topics and that we already have a base PowerPoint for time trials that was prepared by Kirsten Meisner. Gevvie noted that we shouldn't be

pressured into releasing results so fast. Athletes are on the water for a while after a race so releasing them five minutes after the race is over is just fine. Jules noted that his observation is that everyone wants it really fast – until the unofficial is different from official. Bob will prepare update on the Chief Judge’s role, sequence of events and who has what responsibility. Terry asked if we can include USRowing’s policy on releasing results. Bob’s response was yes if USRowing has a policy. Rachael suggested that we should just concentrate on the rules. Bob responded yes that is what will be in the PowerPoint but he will not include any comments on how fast results should be released.

Andy asked for a motion to accept these topics for the Annual Clinic. Rachael moved the motion and Dee seconded it. In favor – all. Opposed – none. Motion passes.

- b) IOP Revisions – Several months ago the Committee discussed IOP Sections 39 and 40 which both deal with the reinstatement of referees after an absence. We felt that they needed to be more consistent. After our discussion Dee rewrote these sections to reflect the Committee’s comments. She submitted these new sections for the Committee to review a couple of months ago. Dee noted that based on comments from various Committee members, she had changed the language to race official and removed references to Safesport.

In the discussion on Section 39 Bob suggested that we change “reinstated” to “in order to obtain a license.” Andy asked Dee to update Section 39 based on the Committee’s comments and reissue it, then we will vote by e-mail.

Section 40 – Andy read proposed new language. Terry asked about why we took out military? Lyn noted that we were trying to make it as simple as possible. Andy thought that we could leave military in. Bob asked why have a list as it limits us if someone needs flexibility in using this section. Why not just make it a for everyone? Rachael noted that we could give regional coordinator some guidelines so that the use of this section was consistent throughout the country. Bob asked us to remember the reason for having an IOP - to make sure that our users are confident that we know what we are doing. Dee will rewrite this section and put the questioned language in a different color and send it out for our review before the next meeting

Section 32 Candidate Referees and Section 34 Assistant Referee Exam - Dee noted that the Regional Coordinators also have suggested changes to these sections. Andy asked that the discussion on these items be postponed until our next regular meeting. Dee will send out proposed changes before the meeting.

3) USRowing Update - Jules

- a) Jules wanted to share with us an incident that occurred at the Head of the Oklahoma during the night sprints. Mark Jordan, MW Assistant Referee, rescued a para-athlete who flipped their single by jumping into the water and releasing the straps. The athlete couldn't release his own straps even though they seemed to meet current requirements. The Coach said that the athlete had trained on ground on how to do the release but panicked and couldn't do it when he was in the water.

Jules asked for ideas about how to recognize and thank Mark. He suggested that USRowing could sponsor his trip to the convention but is looking for other ideas. The question was raised if he should receive the Julian Wolfe award as this is exactly what the award was designed for. The past five award winners have already made a recommendation that we will discuss in Executive Session. This incident happened after the deadline for nominations for the award. Terry was concerned that honoring someone 15 months from now seems like it loses something. Jules noted that the Boy Scouts have an ongoing award for anyone who saves the life of someone and it can be given out at any time. Maybe USRowing should do something similar to that. It could be given out at any time by the Executive Director. The continuation of this discussion was moved to Executive Session.

Jules also asked how can we make para-rowing safer? Rachael requested that this discussion be sent to the safety committee. The safety committee will recommend any changes to para equipment and/or provide feedback on training for referees.

- b) FISA Liaison – Jules noted that he has seen the feedback on the proposed letter to the FISA umpires about the liaison role. He will change the letter to include all of the IOP sections that are relevant. Jules also noted that he will include Bob's suggestion that the letter will solicit interest, not nominations. That way people can volunteer to serve in role and include paragraph on their reasons for wanting to do it and how they will approach the role. We then discussed the voting method proposed by Jules. He doesn't want to change the voting method as it makes sure that the selected person is supported by at least half of the umpires that they represent. The description is in a link attached to his e-mail. Jean expressed concern about the method described and thinks that there will be issues about voting, if more than two people express interest. She also noted that time is no longer an issue as the process for the nomination of umpires for next year's FISA regattas has already started and she will see it through to the end of the process.

- c) Award Nominees to be discussed in Executive Session:
 - i) Franklin Award
 - ii) Julian Wolf Award
- d) Chief and Deputy Chief for National Championships to be discussed in Executive Session.
- 4) Referee College - Bob Appleyard
 - a) Convention – Bob noted that a couple of months ago the decision was made to hold a Chief Referee School at the convention. In the past this has been a 16-hour class but will be shortened to 8 hours spread over two days (Friday and Saturday). He asked Dee to inform him of any specific topics that the coordinators want included in chief referee training for this year.
 - b) License restructure – The addition of a “Chief Referee” license. Jules noted that there is agreement among the Coordinators and the Referee Committee that we need to add a Chief Referee License. He suggested that we set a date of January 1, 2020 for implementation and that the graduates of the Chief Referee School at the convention be given these licenses. Dee stated that she was concerned that just going through the class doesn’t make a Chief Referee and that there has to be an experience requirement. Bob suggested that there are many things that have to happen before we can issue the first license and that the timeline proposed is likely too short. First, we need to confirm that this is the direction we want to go. Then we need work out the parameters and all of the questions. Rachael thought that 2020 sounded doable, but what is our infrastructure to do this and to get approval. She wants to challenge us to be ready to certify chief referees in 2020. She thought that it could be done on west coast where we have smaller regions, but doesn’t know about mid-west or east coast. Bob thought that we have some work to do before we can actually license chief referees. He doesn’t want to make it harder for regattas to find Chief Referees. For example, we need to know how many Chief Referees do we need, what areas do we need them, specifically what do they need to do to get a license and how are we going to “grandfather” in people. Jean also noted that there is a big difference between serving as a Chief Referee for a dual regatta and a championship. Andy noted that we don’t have time to work through his tonight. Terry asked if coordinators can help in developing the process. Dee responded that yes, they could.

Andy took a straw poll asking if people are for or against the addition and development of a Chief Referee License. In favor – all. Against – none. Straw poll indicates support.

Andy stated that now we can continue discussion on how do we proceed, what questions need to be answered, etc.

- 5) The Committee moved to Executive session at 9:45
- 6) The Committee adjourned out of executive at 10:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Wylder
Secretary, USRowing Referee Committee
wylderlyn@gmail.com
503-780-8413

ACTION ITEMS (from October 2018 Meeting)

1. Bob – Prepare materials for the Annual Clinic – specifically on Rule Changes, Time Trials and Electronic Timing
2. Dee – Update IOP Section 39 and send it to the Committee
3. Andy – Once Dee does the update ask for an e-mail vote on IOP Section 39
4. Dee – Rewrite IOP Section 40 and issue it to the Committee for discussion at the next meeting.
5. Dee – Send out the proposed changes to IOP Sections 32 and 34 for discussion at the next meeting
6. Jules – Update notice to FISA Umpires asking for interest in serving as FISA Liaison

ACTION ITEMS (from September 2018 Meeting)

1. Jules – Draft a notification to FISA Umpires regarding Liaison nominations **complete – discussed in October meeting and a new item added to action items in place of this one.**

ACTION ITEMS (from August 2018 Meeting)

2. Andy – talk to Kris Grudt, Ron Chen and other interested parties about the FISA Liaison – **not needed – Committee decided use a different process to fill the Liaison.**

ACTION ITEMS (from June 2018 Meeting)

1. Dee - update the working on Sections 39 and 40 of the IOP and circulate the revised language to committee members for discussion - **complete – discussed in October meeting and a new item added to action items in place of this one.**
2. Jules - review the contract between USRowing and HereNow to see if it specifies how and when results can be posted. (You might also see if there is anything in the contract that specifies how the timing system is started at the beginning of a race (but this wasn't specifically asked in the meeting.))
3. Jules - talk to Kris Grudt to see how FISA handles the coordination between Swiss Timing and the Chief Judge at their events.
4. Unassigned – After Club Nationals work with Lloyd to determine what language about electronic timing should be included in the Rules of Rowing or IOPs.