



Referee Committee Meeting Notes
January 9, 2019
7:30 PM EST
DRAFT

Call In:

Phone #: 515-604-9745

Pin #: 716806#

Attendees: Derek Blazo, Howard Meisner, Kris Thorsness, Terry Friel Portell, Bob Appleyard, Dee McComb, John Musial, Bill Eldon, Lyn Wylder, Josie McNamara, Jules Zane, Patti Hyatt (guest), Jess McAlear

AGENDA

1. Lyn

- a. Roll Call
- b. Welcome
- c. Announcements
 - i. Get comments on December meeting notes to Terry by Sunday
 - ii. John will do National Championship update and Coastal activities so that will add to agenda tonight

2. Referee Program Update - (Jules)

- a. Welcome Jess McAlear to the call and she has been named by Patrick as the 5th At-Large member of the Referee Committee
- b. Compensation at National Championship Regattas
 - i. Budget for 2019 will more than double the per diem paid to referees working National Championships
 - ii. We have a better system for people working practices, we have a transportation plan for each event – USRowing will provide 3 large vans for referees; adding bonuses for Chiefs and Deputies; line item for appropriate gift specific to that regatta; and significant increase in budget. It is a 53% increase overall for referees and related items. This is a big step but not the end of the road.
- c. Communication Improvements from USRowing to Referees
 - i. Later this month we will start a monthly newsletter for referees with updates of things going on. We will attach notes from Ref meetings; other updates can go in there. New we will be doing a monthly referee spotlight (same 5 questions) to be more visible with members. We did this with regattas and our registered regatta program grew quite a bit. Recurring things on the website can have a positive impact.
- d. Approved Rule Changes
 - i. Not much of a Rules discussion at Convention at Board Meeting. About 10 days later on a call, they agreed to approve the rule changes that had majority approval by Referee and Rules Committees. Several more controversial ones were 'punted' and will be reviewed this year for 2019 before we go to a 4-year cycle. The ones approved were:
 1. Get from Jules

- 2. Get from Jules
 - 3. Get from Jules
 - ii. Comments/Questions – Howard: Can you confirm the Rules changes so I can create the PDF? A: There are two proposals regarding strapping on para boats which need to be finalized by the Board at their meeting in about 10 days and then will be added to the list of changes. All the other things are good to go. Howard: Should they be presented this Sunday? A: Should tell people they are ‘very likely’. Approval is a formality but it hasn’t been done.
 - iii. Dee: A couple coaches asked me about a couple things: One had to do with the Junior 155 lb issue from last year. A: I don’t think there has been a recommendation which has led to a rule change. I do not believe they have submitted a final proposal; it is still active and there is nothing formal and nothing changed by the Board.
 - iv. Dee: What about the Concept II shoes? A: Is that strictly erg equipment? Not sure what the status is but don’t think that anything has changed.
 - v. Lyn: While we are working on IOP about Rules, if that is a Board decision, we need to know. A: I’m sure that will be a Board or Patrick decision. Input from this committee will be important; the makeup of the new Rules committee which will do it all (Rules review etc.) should have referees and input of this committee probably will be considered heavily.
 - vi. John: Are we not making any further rules changes for 2019? A: The decision of the Board is no additional changes will be made unless we really want something put on the agenda for their meeting in 10 days. Anything the Board punted on, would not be approved until the next cycle 11 months from now.
 - vii. Josie: Regarding compensation for Nationals and Regionals, travel is not provided for regionals and I’m saying this just for the record. A: For example, for Central Regionals, instead of per diem, USRowing picked up the travel expense. An exception already existed for that regatta but we can’t give everyone that deal. We are discussing and I will update you at the next meeting. Regionals get a per diem of \$100 + additional for practice days and we pay for hotel, but a lot of people drive and we haven’t covered travel. In Central region, we covered travel, but they got no per diem. The issue in SE is that when the championship is in Florida, which has high ticket prices, and higher than the per diem so they could be spending their own money. Bob: In Centrals, the referees who work for me said they wanted travel covered and so they haven’t gotten the per diem. Howard: USRowing needs to look at where they are putting their event because you can’t do compensation like that. Jules: I know and we **are** working on it.
3. Discussion on IOP Update - (Kris)
- a. We started talking about reworking the IOP a while ago and I’m in charge of this. In consultation with Lyn and Jules, we have talked about having a working group including 12 people with me as Chair. Division of working group: 5 slots (self-nominations) – Jules will send an invite to all referees to self nominate, from that, we will select the 5; the other 7 we have invited and they have accepted: Howard Meisner, John Musial, Annette Forster, Bob Whitford, Dee McComb, Rachel LeMieux, Sheila Tolle. Is this an editing project? Probably not. Some people have suggested the doc may need to be split into multiple docs. We’d like to get the last 5 named by the end of the month.
 - i. Howard: Will you be publishing criteria for people to be on the self-nomination side and if not, how will you select people? A: The hope is we will get people who will put themselves forward who have valuable insight and experiences to offer. We don’t have a set criteria. We are looking for people who can bring experience and knowledge to the table. We kind of need to see what happens... When we get them, I’ll sit down with Jules and Lyn to discuss selecting those people. We might have

some holes we need to fill and we'll look at that too. One thing I want to emphasize is I really intend to solicit input from everyone on this call and the entire referee community. I think there is an erroneous thought out there that the direction of the referees is done by a special group and that isn't true and this gives everyone an opportunity to be a part of this important group.

- ii. Dee: Will they be asked how they think they can contribute? Yes, Jules and I will draft some basic questions.
- iii. Lyn: I would recommend you circulate that request soon and include the people in this group. And this group will be very involved in reviewing. KT: We didn't include more people from this group as we wanted people who are not the usual suspects. The working group will bring work to this committee and the Ref committee will review and it will go back to the working group, etc.

4. Process and Update on National Championship Jury Selection - (John)

a. Discussion we had at convention was revamping the process of how we select our national championships juries. Talking to Lyn about this, what seems to make sense in 2019, is to operate the same way we did in 2018. What it entails is an open window of expressing interest, which is open now. When that closes, each coordinator pulls down their list of who is interested in what and then selection is made for each event. When we get through this process and in working through the IOP, we can talk about the process and codify it to go forward. Coming out of that, there are two questions to which we need answers relatively quickly: Masters and Youths will have 30 selections, each regional will get 4, each chief gets 6 picks and we will work among coordinators to get appropriate level of experience etc. The changes we have are:

- i. For the U15/17, there are 21 funded slots. Question becomes how do we allocate those slots among the regions. If you divide by 6 regions, that would be 3 and Chief selects 3. If a region doesn't have enough qualified candidates, then those slots go to another region who does have qualified candidates.
 - 1. Terry – Does it make sense to then have empty slots go to the hosting region? A: I think we (regional coordinators) can work through it amicably so let's not restrict ourselves. Josie: I think it worked very well last year and had good results.
 - 2. Terry: I worked at one of the championships and from talking to people, there are referees who are not up the task. A: We haven't had enough strong people applying but hopefully the new compensation will help.
 - 3. Discussion regarding feedback on referees working at nationals and giving feedback on referees who worked and how they did.
- ii. John makes Motion to allocate referees at U17/15 as presented above. Terry seconds. All approve.
- iii. New Club Nationals – working with 45 slots. 30 are ½ regatta slots since it is a 6-day event. 15 will be there throughout for continuity and then 15 for first half, then replace by a new 15. How do we allocate those 15 slots and more importantly, how are those times divided?
- iv. Jules: USRowing will send out a survey to the people interested in Nationals to find out if they want to work 6 days or the first or last half. Will do that immediately. We don't have to split the days if we get enough people interested in working the whole time. Don't have to switch people out, we do have that in the budget.

5. Coastal Update (John Musial)

a. There are 5 events planned for summer and fall: Sarasota, Boston, New Jersey, Seattle, and fifth, maybe Great Lakes. There may be some clinics and presentations for referees working those events. If people are interested in participating, they can talk to John Wik.

- b. Howard – Are these events USRowing-owned or just happen to be Coastal? A: I believe they are just Coastal. There may be a National Championship (not this year) down the road.
 - c. Terry – How will people know about this? A: There will be info coming out. The races will be summer through Nov (Sarasota may be the week before Thanksgiving.) More info will be sent out to the rowing community.
 - d. Josie: Will there be training for people who work these? A: The rules are being put together and a clinic will be prepared for the referees who work that event. Josie: Sarasota has a good group of refs who might be a good group to train. A: Wherever these are, we'll try to find local-ish FISA refs and then support with local refs. Costs will need to be kept down.
 - e. Lyn: At FISA when you work one of these, you go in a day early and do a clinic on the rules and how it runs, etc. FISA is taking about having a different licensure for referees who do Coastal. The referees can get seasick, especially if you are a referee anchored on a bouy taking swells.
6. Terms that Need to be Defined in Ref Corps (Terms listed below) – (Howard)
7. Update on 2019 Clinics
- a. Presentation Update – (Bob and Howard)
 - i. Bob – time trials final presentation was sent to Jules this morning so it is ready to go. Finish Line presentation collecting info and comments now – should wrap it up in the next 4 to 5 days. Comments about if it addresses all of Lloyds concerns (based on his role as Chief at Clubs in 2018); sent it to Lloyd but he hasn't commented. Goal really is to set a standard not address past issues. Crew at finish does what they have always done. Chief Judge used that info and the electronic info to declare results final. Presentation doesn't address how to use electronic equipment. He suggests clinicians should – if there are specific issues in a region – address specifics where appropriate. This presentation is for the whole country.
 - ii. Dee – why didn't you specifically discuss time trial clinic. Working with electronic timing is pretty much the same. It is discussed in the time trial presentation. It still serves as the back up
 - iii. Bob – assumes that the clinicians understand the how to do these things
 - iv. Howard will update Rules presentation
 - b. Discussion on Online Availability - (Jules)
 - i. Jules: A lot of referees in more remote areas have requested online availability of the clinic. I would like to record appropriate clinics in regions, please let me know if you have good room for people to call in or to record the session. If you have a clinic where people can call in live or film it for putting on the internet – then let Jules know
 - ii. Do we want to allow these online sessions to count as a clinic...maybe make them come to one every two years?
 - iii. Howard – does several around the region and then does a Webex version in March. Tries to get people in person first.
 - iv. Dee NW already does a recording and by Webinar.
 - v. Consider a national online clinic with approx. three dates to be offered in the later spring and hosted as webinar and not recording? Take dates when we can have webinar version maybe late march and early April.
 - vi. There is general agreement to accommodate this request and at the following meeting the Committee aims to pick dates and clinicians.
 - vii. Lyn: Request to put Clinic dates on website. Jules confirms.
 - c. Scheduled Clinics
 - i. NE – 1/13 Worchester; Others TBD

- ii. SE - 1/20 Atlanta; 1/21 Orlando; 2/9 Charlotte; + 3 TBD
- iii. Other regions TBD

8. Any Other Issues or Questions – (All)

9. Next Meeting Wednesday February 13 @ 7:30 PM EST

10. Adjourn to Executive Session

TERMS IN REFCORPS

Term	Current Understanding of Term
Regatta Day	Regatta day that event runs. Counts towards base required number of regatta days
Canceled Regatta Day	Regatta Day that referee arrived on site, but event was canceled without any races being run. Counts as regatta day, but does not count towards base required number of regatta days
Practice Regatta Day	A day that a referee helps with practice, but does not gain credit towards their base requirement number of regatta days
Sanctioned Practice Day	Practice day at a regatta that gains credit towards base required number of regatta days
Desired Referees	Desired number of referees wanted for the event
Position Worked Count	Each position worked during an Active Regatta day [example: 4 shifts, 4 positions (Starter, Referee, Referee, Finish) gains count for 1 starter, 2 referee, and 1 finish for that day] ???
Classroom Clinic	Clinic that takes place only in person at a site
Blended Clinic	Clinic that takes place in a classroom, but also offered virtually with a link
Virtual Clinic	Clinic that takes place only in a virtual classroom
Active Referee	The referee rank structure requires all Referees to work a Nationally Recognized Regatta at least every other year.
License Suspended - USRowing Admin	User is missing Membership and/or Waiver
License Suspended - Safety Compliance	User is missing SafeSport and/or Background Check
License Suspended	User is missing Membership, Waiver, SafeSport and Background Check
Rental Car at USRowing Owned Event	Chief and Deputy's car only (2 cars total)
Assistant Referee	

Referee	
Clinician	
Chief Referee	