



Referee Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 8, 2014  
Phone Conference Call



Attendance:

Referee Committee:

Tom Fuller – Chair  
Ruth Macnamara - Secretary  
Lloyd McDonald – Regional Coordinator  
Marcus McElhenney – Athlete Representative

Regional Coordinators;

Jorge Salas, SE  
Roger Frederick, MW  
Howard Meisner, NE  
Dee McComb, NW  
Lloyd McDonald, SW – Regional Coordinator to Committee

USRowing:

John Wik – Director of Referee Programs

Absent:

Chris Lang – Vice Chair  
John Musial, MA

Guests:

Kirsten Meisner  
Gary Caldwell, NE Representative to the Board of Directors

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

Tom opened the meeting by asking all those present if they had any additional questions, comments or suggestions regarding the remainder of the “colorized” Rules of Rowing document dated 9/26/14 beginning with Rule 5-209 USRowing Progression Systems, the LOC Guidance Manual or the Referee Procedures Manual. There were no additional questions comments or suggestions. Therefore, the Referee Committee and Regional Coordinator discussion is complete for these substantive documents. Left to be discussed are the “Parking Lot” issues and those Rules the group identified during the review process that need to be “revisited”.

Article VI will be discussed when the group discusses all other proposed rule changes made by the general public.

The list of "Parking Lot Issues" were extracted from the Minutes of the September 15, 22 and 29 joint meetings with the Regional Coordinators and the reorganization group of Laura, Howard and Kirsten, plus our guest Board member, Gary Caldwell.

1. Do just the *Rules of Rowing* go to the Board for final approval of changes, with the LOC Manual and the Referee Procedures Manual under the custody of the Referee Committee with guidance as to changes set out in the Internal Operating Procedures, or does the Board have final approval authority over the entire package? (September 15, 2014 Conference Call)

Much discussion ensued.

Gary emphasized that the restructuring of the Rules of Rowing is much like shuffling a deck of cards and the original premise was to "reorganize" the rules. Therefore, all three documents are part of the rule change process and should come before the Board for approval. This group should go through the process of reviewing all three documents and make a recommendation to the Board. The Board is not interested in taking authority away from the Referee Committee. The Board would then have the final say.

TF summary of discussion: the consensus of the parties participating is that the Board will retain authority over the reorganized *Rules of Rowing* which include the *Rules of Rowing*, the LOC Guidance Manual and the Referee Procedures Manual. The Committee will solicit Laura's comments to make sure she is on board with this opinion.

2. Change from the USRowing Referee Committee to USRowing. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)

TF summary of discussion: We seem to be in favor of this but would like to give folks one more opportunity to address the issue. Tom believes we need to develop a clear procedure as to what "USRowing" means and a well-defined "place" for all inquiries, referrals, protests, etc., to go.

3. Changing the numbering system within the *Rules of Rowing* to have consecutive numbering instead of leaving the numbering system static, even when a rule is removed from the *Rules of Rowing*? (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)

Discussion ensued here. The consensus of the group was that we are OK with the numbering system used in the reorganized *Rules of Rowing* document. Any changes would be a distraction to the more important content of the rules reorganization.

CLOSED

4. Discussion of the asterisk (\*) rules. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)

TF: We will wait until Laura, Howard and Kirsten are all available to participate in this call which should be October 29<sup>th</sup>; John Musial should be back from Australia for this discussion as well.

5. Matching the definition of “Junior” with what the USRowing Youth National Championship Regatta requirements are for eligibility. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)

TF: We will ask the Youth Committee to provide the Referee Committee with their input; we will also discuss this Parking Lot issue in light of the changes submitted by AJ. CEO/Board action may be needed with the Youth Committee.

6. Clarify the ineligible or medical substitution issue – clarify why an athlete is ineligible for substitution. (Came up at the 2014 Youth National Championship Regatta) (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)

Much discussion ensued.

TF: We will wait until Chris Lang can join the call for clarification as to what exactly the issue is with respect to the interpretation of “medical substitution” as it pertains to a lightweight athlete who fails to make weight after having participated with his or her crew in an earlier race within the same event on a previous day.

7. General discussion of Article 5 Regattas and the amount of material moved to the LOC Manual. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)

The group does not have any outstanding issues with respect to this Parking Lot issue.

CLOSED

8. If the Board approves the proposed reorganization of the *Rules of Rowing*, the Referee Committee may need a notification process for the Board if we feel there are emergency “fixes” necessary as the reorganized *Rules of Rowing* are actually implemented. (October 8, 2014 Conference Call)

TF comments: We will continue this discussion as a group; his recommendation would be to hold it for the October 29<sup>th</sup> agenda so we have the most people present for the conference call.

Items 9 and 10 added during comment period of the draft minutes.

9. Broken Equipment Rule change: old Rule 2-311; new Rule 2-310. Change explicitly narrows broken equipment to breakage that occurs after the start of the race but before the crew passes 100 meters.
10. Suspending Racing: Rule 2-201. The change expands authority to suspend racing (i.e. stopping the regatta) to any race official though it's not worded that clearly. Any Referee can stop a race due to conditions – bringing a regatta to a halt should be reserved to the Chief Referee. The way this change is worded any race official can resume racing, too. The proposal is to have the Chief Referee be the only Race Official who can suspend racing except in a dire emergency situation. (Need to work on the wording for “dire emergency”.)

After the meeting was adjourned, Lloyd reminded Tom that we had identified issues that we agreed to revisit in our minutes. Accordingly, they are listed below based on the published minutes of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Tom has included the citation for the rule we wanted to revisit; and in cases where he was not clear on why we were revisiting, we will reconstruct our thinking, or move past it; in others he has listed why he thinks we wanted to revisit.

If anyone recalls additional issues that we should include based on the discussions we have had to date, please advise us so we can get them listed and resolved prior to making our recommendation to the Board.

1. Rule 2-608 Appeal from the Jury (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
2. Rule 3-102 General Requirements for Boats (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
3. Rule 3-104 Minimum Weight of Boats: more complete listing of what is “approved” to be included in the weight of the boat. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
4. Rule 3-110 Bow Numbers: Composition/construction/functionality of bow numbers. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
5. Rule 4-101 Amateur Standing: Who is the primary sanctioning body for a Registered Regatta; this may include a definition of “Scholastic”. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
6. Rule 4-102: Doping (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
7. Rule 4-104.2 Classification by Skill: No enforcement is proscribed unless someone files a complaint. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
8. Rule 4-104.3 Lightweights: Questioning of the use of the word “scholastic”. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)

9. Rule 4-105.1 Coxswain's Weight: Make explicit the coxswain must have their weight with them in the proscribed location when they cross the finish line in order to be placed. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
10. Rule 5-101 Types of Regattas: Howard and Laura were to rewrite and bring back to the group. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
11. Rule 5-103 Regatta Director: Issues regarding eligibility and logistics. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
12. Rule 5-104 Regatta Secretary: "Question about a clear standard about where things are going." (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
13. Rule 5-105 Control Commission: Point was made that if parts (b) 5 and 6 are moved, they should still be deleted. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
14. Rule 5-201 Submission of Entries: Need input from Membership; John Wik to get back to us. (September 22, 2014 Conference Call)
15. Rule 5-203 General Requirements for Entries and Affiliation: John Wik will check with Membership to clarify the several issues brought up. (September 29, 2014 Conference Call)

Going forward:

October 15, 2014 Joint Meeting – Discuss remaining Parking Lot issues, items marked to be revisited and then proceed to the Other Proposed Changes to the Rules of Rowing Submitted by the "General Rowing Community."

October 22, 2014 Joint Meeting – Continue Discussion

First two Weeks of November – The Referee Committee and Regional Coordinators will review and discuss and prepare its recommendations on all proposed changes to the Rules of Rowing for the Board to consider in December 2014.

Ruth Macnamara made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Marcus McElhenney seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Macnamara  
Secretary

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