



Referee Committee

Minutes of Meeting

October 7, 2015

Telephone Conference

Attendance:

Referee Committee:

Tom Fuller – Co-Chair

Chris Lang – Co-Chair

Ruth Macnamara – Vice Chair, Secretary

John Musial – Regional Coordinator

Marcus McElhenney – Athlete Representative

USRowing:

John Wik – Director of Referee Programs

Chris Lang called the meeting to order at 9PM EDT.

Old Business from September's Referee Committee Meeting

1. Done
2. Done
3. Done
4. Done
5. Done
6. Administrative Change to IOP re Athlete Representative
ACTION: John Wik reported that this change was made to the IOP. In addition, the Publications department at USRowing was notified to post a current version of the IOP on the USRowing website that can be accessed by the general membership, not just inside the RDS section. Done
7. Additional Referee Committee Meeting scheduled to go over 2016 goal setting.
ACTION: Tom Fuller reported that he will pick a date for this additional meeting through email exchange with Committee Members re availability.

Old Business from September's Combined Committee and Regional Coordinator Meeting

1. A. Mentor Program – John Wik updated the Committee on the status of the Mentoring Program. The manual for the mentoring program is on the RDS. As a training manual, it includes pictures, videos and a knowledge section where candidates can test their knowledge before scheduling a mentoring session with

their Mentor. John Wik has identified 12 candidates and/or newly licensed assistant referees and 3 mentors to beta test the system. Beta testing will run through the month of October. The Committee members will be added into InstaViser so they can sign up and get a sense of the mentoring program and the process. USRowing hopes to roll out the program in January 2016. The Regional Coordinators will be added into InstaViser before the roll out so they can access the program and become familiar with it.

B. Coastal Event – John Wik reported that the event is going well in terms of staffing referees and LOC volunteers. There is international interest from Canada, Jamaica, Barbados and trying to include Puerto Rico. He also tried to include Turkey, Ukraine, France, Italy and Cuba. Those countries are likely not going to be able to participate because of VISA problems, funding and time constraints. Registration from the domestic side is not as high as hoped despite the amount of advertising that has been done. FISA, as an organization, is pleased with the USA hosting this event and the efforts that have been made to include the island nations.

C. Boathouse Sports – John Wik reported that the delay from the time an order is place to the shipping date is that Boathouse Sports drop ships and therefore, they likely do not have the quantity in the stock. It has been suggested that when the Referee Store opens, a notice needs to include the delay in shipping.

2. Done

3. Additional Proposed Calendar Changes in the IOP

Action: Tom Fuller will circulate to the Committee Members, via email, the proposed calendar changes requested by the Regional Coordinators. A vote on the changes will be done via email.

4. Regional Coordinator Update –

A. John Musial updated the Committee on the results of moving up the data call deadline date and the record breaking participation by the Corps in general. The RDS sent out emails to those referees who had not completed the RDS requirement right up until the deadline. John shared that Kirsten and Howard Meisner have made some additional changes to the RDS to provide the Regional Coordinators easier access to quantifiable information. The system will now reconcile who has met the yearly requirements instead of each Coordinator having to do it by hand. It allows the Regional Coordinators to see a “Referee Resume” for each referee in their region which provides them with a list of regattas a referee has worked. John also wanted to thank USRowing for providing the money to fund this project and to thank the Meisner’s for getting this project done in time for the Regional Coordinator’s yearend reports.

B. John Musial reported that the Coordinators are still working on the second survey regarding National Championships. The first survey was for Chief and Deputies; this second survey will be geared toward referees who have worked National Championships in the recent past. They hope to have the survey done in the next 4-5 weeks. The survey should be circulated in late October with a reply window of 7-10 days. Their goal is to have the results and recommendations at the Convention. They also hope to compare the USRowing Owned National Championships with some of the other larger regattas held in the USA.

C. Regional Coordinator Job Description – still working on these. The goal is to ease the process when transitioning into a new position. John Musial asked the Committee Members to share with him via email what expectations they have of the Regional Coordinators in addition to the Representative to the Committee.

With a one year term as the Representative to the Committee, it is hard to get up to speed before racing season is in full swing.

- D. Recruitment – increase the number of referees. The coordinators have shared ideas on recruiting but there is no formal process in place as of yet.
- E. Candidate Expiration – Discussion of how long a candidate can take to fill out the required blue card observations. Chris Lang suggested that the Coordinators discuss and bring a proposal back to the Committee.

New Business

1. Rules Committee – Tom Fuller reported that the Board of Directors adopted a Rules Committee in their June Meeting. For the current proposed rule changes for 2016, the Referee Committee and the Rules Committee will work together to make recommendations to the Board. The Rules Committee will consist of two coaches, two LOC members, two athletes and the Chair of the Referee Committee. Beginning in 2016, this new Rules Committee will be the body that will advise the Board on changes to existing Rules. Discussion ensued.
2. Transgender athletes. Tom Fuller introduced the subject and the Committee discussed.
3. The Schedule for the Convention is being put together. Referee Committee Meetings will be Friday and Saturday morning. There will be an advanced referee college offered Saturday and a special topic clinic on Friday. The Regional Coordinator meeting will be a closed meeting on Friday afternoon. If any of the Referee Committee Members would like to sit in on the meeting, they are welcome to.
4. National Head Race – some weather conditions. Discussion.

John Musial made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ruth Macnamara seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned 10:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Macnamara
Vice Chair, Secretary
USRowing Referee Committee
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