



## Referee Committee

Minutes of Meeting  
September 2, 2015  
Telephone Conference

### Attendance:

#### Referee Committee:

Tom Fuller – Co-Chair  
Chris Lang – Co-Chair  
Ruth Macnamara – Vice Chair, Secretary  
John Musial – Regional Coordinator

#### USRowing:

John Wik – Director of Referee Programs

#### Absent:

Marcus McElhenney – Athlete Representative

Tom Fuller called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

1. Tom Fuller addressed replacing Lloyd McDonald, SW Regional Coordinator, who is moving out of the SW Region.  
ACTION: The Referee Committee's recommendations will be forwarded to Glenn Merry.
2. John Musial presented the Slate for Chiefs and Deputies of USRowing's 2016 National Championships for approval by the Referee Committee. The slate was prepared by the Regional Coordinators.  
ACTION: John Musial will contact the proposed candidates and confirm that they want the positions.  
ACTION: Once confirmed, the Recommendations will be forwarded to Glenn Merry by 9/22/15 with the Committee's approval.
3. Tom Fuller – Report that the Referee Committee voted by email for the following sub-committees:
  - a. FISA Candidate/Applicant Sub Committee – Members:  
Bob Appleyard  
Ron Chen  
John Walker  
Peter Zandbergen  
Shelia Tolle

b. FISA Selection Committee for 2016 Regattas

John Walker  
Rachel Le Mieux  
Ron Chen  
Sam Dempsey  
John McKenna  
John Quinn – alternate

4. Tom Fuller – Reported there were no nominees for the Julian Wolf Award for 2015.
5. Tom Fuller – The recipient of the Mama Z Award has been decided by the sub-committee.
6. Tom Fuller – Administrative Change in the IOP to bring the IOP in compliance with the By-laws.

“The Athlete Member to the Referee Committee may serve a maximum of three consecutive 4 year terms provided he/she continues to meet the definition of Athlete Representative under Section 11 of the USRowing By-Laws at the beginning of each new term.” The Bylaws in Section 49 clearly state that, the Athlete Representative shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. (“No person shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms on the Board of Directors, except AAC Athlete Representatives who shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.”)

The Committee Voted in favor of the proposed Administrative Change 4-0  
(Marcus Absent)

ACTION: Change will be made to the IOP immediately.

John Wik noted that while making this change to the IOP, the Committee should consider making another administrative change to the IOP. In Item 44, remove the reference to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy for National Championships.

The Committee Voted in favor of the proposed Administrative Change 4-0  
(Marcus Absent)

ACTION: Change will be made to the IOP immediately.

Tom Fuller stated that the Referee Committee will be adding an additional meeting to the 2015 calendar, date to be determined. John Musial has requested this meeting for the purpose of setting Committee Goals for 2016.

ACTION: Set date for Referee Committee Meeting to discuss 2016 Goals

Ruth Macnamara made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

John Musial seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

At 8:20 p.m., the Regional Coordinators joined the conference call for the joint quarterly meeting.

Regional Coordinators:

John Musial, MA – Regional Coordinator to Committee  
Jorge Salas, SE  
Roger Frederick, MW  
Howard Meisner, NE  
Dee McComb, NW

Absent: Lloyd McDonald, SW

1. John Wik
  - a. Update on Mentor/Candidate Program  
John Wik has been working with InstaViser to create a training module to be used for the mentoring program. The training module has been modeled from the Referee Procedures Manual in the 2015 Rules of Rowing. It will include videos, photos and test questions. There are three beta testers, Bob Appleyard, John McKenna and Ruth Macnamara. They have been working in conjunction with John Wik to edit the referee procedures manual. Beta testing will begin in October. Each beta tester will have 5 candidates and or newly licensed referees. We will introduce the training program at the Convention in December and our goal is to go live in late December / beginning of 2016. The program is to enhance recruiting, training and retention.
  - b. Update on International Coastal Rowing Event – Pensacola  
We have interest from Ukraine, Turkey, Italy, Jamaica, Virgin Islands, Barbados, Canada and USA.  
The co chiefs for this event are: Elaine Roden - USA and Guylaine Bernier - Canada
  - c. Boathouse Sports Referee Store is open. Discussion from the group as to why there is a delay in delivery after ordering.
2. Ruth Macnamara – 2015 Test Event in Rio, Junior World Championships  
Ruth gave an overview of her experience at the test event including volunteer training, the venue, water conditions and volunteer opportunities. There were three referees from the US who were at the test event as volunteers.
3. Howard Meisner
  - a. Proposed Referee Calendar Changes  
All the Regional Coordinators are in support of the proposed calendar updates. The purpose of the changes are to move the deadline dates up so the Regional Coordinators can use that information, and to move some dates later so they have more information to share.  
Tom Fuller asked if the Chiefs and Deputies of National Championships are comfortable with moving the dates later for receiving their juries, etc.?  
Roger Frederick stated that the proposed calendar matches what they are trying to do.  
John Musial commented that moving the dates out shouldn't affect the Chief's and Deputy's responsibilities and organization of the National Championships.

It was noted that the latest version of the IOP is not available on the USRowing website. The latest version is available in the RDS.

ACTION: John Wik will make sure the latest version of the IOP is on the USRowing website.

John Musial commented that while the Regional Coordinators were discussing calendar changes, they did not discuss any other changes to the IOP.

A motion was made to vote to move the Data Call Closing date from October 31 to September 30.

Seconded.

Discussion

Vote in favor of moving the closing date of the Data Call year from October 31 to September 30. 4-0 (Marcus absent)

ACTION: Cheryl and Regional Coordinators will get the word out to the Referee Corps of this change!

ACTION: Kirsten Meisner will make changes to RDS.

No vote on the other proposed calendar changes at this time.

b. Proposed IOP Calendar Updates

Discussion. No vote on the IOP changes to incorporate the proposed date changes.

ACTION: Tom Fuller and Chris Lang will consult and put a group together for the October Meeting to discuss the 2016 Referee Committee agenda. Add to October Agenda

4. John Musial – Report on Chief / Deputy Referee Survey

Dee and Jorge wrote the survey that was sent to 31 past and present chief and deputies of USRowing's National Championships from the past 5 years. 26 of the 31 responded to the survey. They feel that is a good representation of the past 5 years.

In this initial survey to chief and deputies, the questions were guided around staffing: How best to ensure we have the best referees? What numbers of referees are needed at each event? How many referees from each region – balance of regions or balance of the corps? How do we continue to staff these Championships with the same number of referees when the entries are rising every year? Balance the safety of Athletes vs. the safety of the Corps, very long days in challenging conditions for an aging referee corps.

Discussion

Many questions and comments were made that USRowing will need to make changes.

John Wik – We need to look at all the issues. Funding is a big issue that drives what USRowing can and cannot do.

John Musial – Our goal is to use the statistical data to support the issues that are being raised as concerns when we address USRowing.

There is a second part to this information gathering.

The second survey is being written now. We have added Howard and Roger to the initial group of Jorge and Dee. This survey will be sent to the jury members of USRowing's National Championships from the past five years. This survey will be focused on the number of years a referee has worked a national championship; would they continue to work them if the staffing and conditions do not change.

Tom Fuller – John Musial we look forward to your analysis after you have responses from the second survey.

5. Status of Regional Coordinators' Job Description

Tom Fuller asked John Musial to work on the job description.

Discussion. Tom shared that it would have been helpful when looking for a replacement for Lloyd, SW Regional Coordinator, who is moving out of his region and his position needs to be filled. John Musial stated he was working on a job description for the Regional Coordinator Representative to the Referee Committee. Tom asked John to take a look at the IOP and see if he can't get his group to write a job description for the Regional Coordinators too. Tom emphasized that as we move forward, the Regional Coordinators are the most important positions in how we reach out to the corps. John and Roger will work on this.

ACTION: Add to the October Agenda – Update on Regional Coordinator Job Description and Update on Regional Coordinator Representative to the Referee Committee.

Ruth Macnamara made a motion to adjourn.  
Chris Lang seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Macnamara  
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USRowing Referee Committee  
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