

USRowing Referee Committee subcommittee Updates

February 17, 2016

Ad Hoc Committees- these four Ad Hoc Committees report directly to the Chair of the Referee Committee: Ethics, FISA Liaison, FISA Candidate Subcommittee and Referee Education/Dean of Referee College

1) **Ethics Committee** – Marcus McElhenney, Chair

Submission in response to Ruth Macnamara's request for the activity of the Ethics Subcommittee.

1. *Who is on your subcommittee?* The subcommittee is currently ad hoc with only Marcus N. McElhenney sitting as chair. Additional subcommittee members are appointed by the Chair of the Referee Committee in the event that an administrative hearing is convened to adjudicate any complaints within the Referee Corps.

2. *What action(s) have you taken since our last meeting (Convention) or what is your subcommittee currently working on?* There have been no actions taken since the last meeting. Fortunately there have been no formal complaints in quite a while and only once since I have been Chair of the Subcommittee.

2) **Referee Education/Referee College** – Bob Appleyard, Chair

Referee Education and the Referee College:

- We completed a one day Advanced College at the convention this past December, attended by approximately 70
- We completed a Basic Skills School in Sarasota Feb 5-7; this was attended by 16 assistant referees and 5 candidates
- Tentative plans are to again run an Advanced School at the 2016 convention
- The training manual prepared last fall for the Candidate Mentoring beta test, that was put up on the RDS, was provided to those attending the Sarasota school Feb 5-7; this material was also distributed to Referee College instructors with the request that they take sections to review and submit comments and recommendations for editorial improvements, technical and factual corrections, while also noting any missed information
- I am coordinating planning for the College with John Wik, with input from John Walker, Jean Reilly, Chris Lang, Elaine Roden, and Kirsten Meisner.

3) **FISA Liaison Update Report, Jean Reilly** (this report includes the FISA Candidate Subcommittee Report)

Request from Ruth Macnamara for Referee Committee Minutes
February Meeting 2/17/2016

Accomplishments/Deliverables

- USA FISA Umpire Data Sheet completed and validated with FISA (9/2015).
- FISA Regatta Reports – call for all reports to be submitted (9/2015). All received reports have been uploaded to the RDS through 1/2016.
- 2016 FISA Regatta Umpire Nomination process completed, nominations sent to FISA by USRowing, and Regatta selections made by FISA (10/2015-11/2015). Detail in Appendix.
- USA FISA Umpire Peer Hard Rank
 - USA Active FISA Umpire peer review poll completed (1/2016)

- Peer Review Hard Rank results and statistics have been completed and validated to be directionally correct by multiple FISA Commission members. Results e-mail sent to Tom Fuller, John Wik 1/30/2016 for communication to USRowing and USA FISA Umpires.
- FISA Candidate Sub Committee (formed 8/2015):
 - Members – Appleyard, Chen, Zandbergen, Tolle, Walker, Grudt (ex Officio)
 - All FISA Candidate Sub-Committee deliverables have been completed (list below)
 - Prospect/Applicant/Candidate Rubric of IOP (timeline format)
 - Roles and Responsibilities at World Championship Observations (timeline format)
 - Best Practices at World Championship Observation
 - Mock Written Exam questions and answer sheet (100+ questions; 2 hour exam)
 - Mock Practical Exam guidelines
 - FISA Candidate Study Manual.
 - Over 50 documents on the RDS relating to the FISA exam were removed, reviewed, and reconciled for relevance. A new 140 page study guide was created to work in connection with the FISA Rules, FISA Umpire Commission Candidate webinars, USA mock written and practical exams. Hero status goes to Sheila Tolle for creating the new study guide. Shout outs to Doug Jones, Alice Henderson, Ruth Macnamara and Jean Reilly for review and comments on the Study Guide. The guide has been distributed to USA FISA Candidates and Applicants.
 - Prospect and Applicant changes:
 - John McKenna has been moved to Candidate status to sit for his exam in 2016 (12/2015). Requested exam date March, 2016. Candidate form submitted 7/2016, mock written and practical administered 11/2015. Candidate has attended all FISA Umpire Candidate seminars.
 - Tiffany Knapp has been moved to Applicant status (12/2015). Application received 11/2015. Applicant observation selected (Rotterdam). Applicant form submitted 11/2015.
- Job Description for NTO Lead (World Championships and World Masters Championships) provided to USRowing and Sarasota Organizing Committee 12/2015.
- Introduction of USRowing ED to Head of NAOC – World Beach Games for purpose of including Coastal Rowing as an event at the Games (USRowing & FISA request) (12/2015).
- USA hosting of FISA Umpire Clinic request approved by USRowing for World Championships 2017. Request for 2016 clinic was deferred in favor of 2017 clinic.
- IOP Amendment to Appendix Section 55B Nomination Process passed (12/2015).
- Quarterly Report Communications to USA FISA Umpires completed (9/2015; 12/2015). Any off-cycle monthly updates requested by the Referee Committee will simultaneously be provided to USA FISA Umpires.
- USA FISA Umpire Exchange Regattas (detail information in Appendix):
 - US Exchange Regattas validated 10/2015; two East Coast regatta additions 1/2016 (shout out to Kris Grudt for offering the venue to accommodate key timeframes requested by European countries)
 - Exchange Invitations extended to participating countries 11/2015
 - USA FISA Umpires nominated to attend Exchange Regattas 1/2016

Next Steps

- FISA Candidate Exam processing – 2/2016

- FISA Applicant Introductions – 6/2016
- 2017 FISA Regatta Nominations Q4-2016
- 2017 FISA Candidate and Application Recommendations Q4-2016
- Updated FISA Data Sheet Q4-2016
- Request FISA Umpire Regatta reports Q4-2016
- Address Exchange Regatta items as needed (e.g. hosting of Exchange Umpires at US Regattas)
- FISA Liaison Sub-Committee – on hiatus for Racing Season. Will meet as necessary to handle any emergency update reports needed by USRowing Referee Committee. Committee will reconvene 10/2016.
- Suggestion has been made for all USA FISA Umpires to have an open discussion meeting in 2016. Suggested time is at 2016 Convention. No agenda items have been discussed.

Risks Identified

- Not applicable

Decisions/Actions/Votes needed by Referee Committee and/or USRowing

- By 2/27/2016 USRowing must communicate with FISA and gain credentials for John McKenna to sit for the FISA Umpire Exam in Chile March, 2016. FISA Liaison submitted request to USRowing 2/10/2016.

Appendix

2016 USA FISA UMPIRE JURY NOMINATIONS										
Umpire Hard Rank	WRC 1	Final Para Qual Regatta	WRC 2/Final Olympic Qual Regatta	WRC 3	WRSr., U23 and Jr. Championships	FISU Rowing Championships	World Masters	World Coastal Championships	2016 Olympic Games Rowing Regatta	2016 Para Olympic Games Rowing Regatta
1	Jones	Meisner	Appleyard	Jones	Lang	Manion	Vajda	Zandbergen	Jean Reilly	Lyn Wylder
2	Gallagher	Crowe	Manion	Henderson	Meisner	Macnamara	Forester	John Wylder	Lyn Wylder	John Wylder
3										

2016 FISA Jury Nominations and Selections

USA Exchange Regattas Offered

- **San Diego Crew Classic** – Mission Bay , San Diego , CA – April 2-3, 2016
- **SIRA** (Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association) Oak Ridge , Tennessee - April 16-17, 2016
- **NERC** (New England Rowing Championships) – Lake Quinsigamond , Worcester MA – April 30, 2016
- **ECAC/NIRC** (Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference National Invitational Regatta Championship)– Lake Quinsigamond , Worcester MA - May 8, 2016
- **Dad Vail** (Championship for smaller colleges from USA and Canada, and NCAA qualifier) Philadelphia, PA - May 12-14, 2016
- **US Rowing North West Junior Regional Championships** – Vancouver Lake, Vancouver, WA - May 20-22, 2016
- **ACRA** (American Collegiate Rowing Association Championships), Lake Lanier GA - May 28-29, 2016
- **IRA Championships** (USRowing Men's Varsity Collegiate Rowing Association Championships), Lake Mercer, Princeton NJ - June 3-5, 2016 (approved by PNRA, awaiting approval by Gary)
- **USRowing Youth National Championships**, Lake Mercer, Princeton NJ - June 10-12, 2016
- **Head of the Charles** - Boston, MA – October 15-16, 2016 (special considerations and expectations need to be set with Umpires working this regatta). Head of the Charles will be eliminated from the Exchange Program in 2017. A replacement will need to be identified.
- **Additional fall and early season regattas need to be added to the 2017 Exchange schedule**

USA FISA Umpires Nominated to Attend 2016 Exchange Regattas

Denmark (New Program Participant)

- Copenhagen Spring Regatta – Peter Zandbergen
- Soro Regatta – John Wylder

Austria (New Program Participant)

- Ottensheim Regatta – Peter Zandbergen
- Villach Regatta – John Walker

The Netherlands

- Koninklijke Holland Beker - John Musial
- NSRF – Elaine Roden

Great Britain

- National Schools Regatta - Scott Woodworth

Norway

- East County Regatta – Doug Jones

Belgium

- Ghent Regatta – TBD

Umpires coming to US Exchange Regattas as well as the regattas they will be attending will be communicated when received. To date we have received the following requests:

Head of the Charles

- Netherlands (likely Referee Lead position as Umpire has attended previously and gone through HOC Volunteer process, training, security, etc. previously))
- Norway (declined – offered alternate regatta)
- Belgium (TBD)

Other TBD

- Britain
- Denmark

NTO Invitations

- World Masters NTO invitations have been extended by the LOC to:
 - Doug Jones
 - Kirsten Meisner

US Representation at additional international events

- Kris Grudt – FISA Umpire Commission Member
 - March 2-5 FISA Joint Commissions Meeting and National Federation Meeting – London
 - March 22-24 Olympic Qualification Regatta for the Americas (PoJ)
 - March 25-27 South American Rowing Championship (PoJ)
 - May 22-25 Final Olympic Qualification Regatta (Umpiring Commission Alternate)
 - May 25-29 NCAAs (CA – upon succession from the nation following political primaries)
 - Aug 20-28 FISA World Championships (Umpiring Commission member)
 - Sep 2-4 FISU Regatta (Alt Technical Delegate)
 - Sep 5-14 Paralympics (PoJ)
 - Oct 21-22 FISA Coastal (Umpiring Commission)
 - Dec 2-4 Umpiring Commission Meeting (tentative – Ghent)
- The following have been selected to volunteer at the Rio Olympic Games.
 - Nikola Vajda
 - Scott Woodworth
- John Walker will be a volunteer at the Nepal Invitational

Invitations extended to FISA Umpires from other Countries

- SIRA – Sweden (Jim Ramsey)
- Dad Vail – possibly Mexico (Santiago and Marta)
- NW Juniors – Canada – names TBD by Regional Rep.
- NW Masters – Canada Scott Woodworth – chief will determine names

Subcommittee Updates, the following six subcommittees are standing working groups who report directly to the Referee Committee: Coastal/Open Water Rules, IOP, Para/Adaptive Rules, Referee Evaluation, Referee Safety and Referee Testing

1) **Coastal/Open Water Rules** – Elaine Roden, Chair

- The Coastal Rules Sub-committee members are John Musial, Sam Dempsey, John Wik and chair Elaine Roden.
- The rules will incorporate the FISA Coastal Rules, FISA Beach Sprint Rules and US Open Water Rules. These items plus the Pensacola International Coastal Regatta rules and race packet have been distributed to the sub-committee. Some of this material is new and the members are currently reviewing it.
- The next step is editing suggestions from the members.

2) **IOP Subcommittee**, Ruth Macnamara, Chair

Members:

Ruth Macnamara, Chair
Dee McComb
Letcher Ross
Josie McNamara

Relevant materials have been distributed to be reviewed before first conference call to discuss the scope of our project. Some of the other subcommittee's work will influence our work.

3) **Para/Adaptive Rules Subcommittee Update Report**, Kirsten Meisner, Chair
Request from Ruth Macnamara for Referee Committee Minutes February Meeting
2/10/2016

Accomplishments/Deliverables

Formation of Subcommittee 1/29/2016

Current Members

Kirsten Meisner, Chair (Referee)
Judy Morrison (Head US and FISA Classifier)
Deb Arenberg (USRowing Adaptive Programs Development Specialist)
Invitations also sent to Tom Darling (USRowing Director of Para Rowing), Ellen Minzner (Director of Outreach at Community Rowing, 2015 US LTA 4+ coach) with no response

Next Steps

Review comments received from posting of Draft Adaptive Rules on USRowing website; comment period ended 1/31/2016; awaiting comments from John Wik for review by subcommittee (3/2016)

Modify rules as needed from comments and submit recommendations to USRowing Referee Committee and USRowing Rules Committee (3/2016)

Submit rules for formal inclusion in 2017 Rules of Rowing (8/2016)

Risks Identified

Not applicable

Decisions/Votes needed

Anticipate vote 3/2016 on draft rules

4) **Referee Evaluation Subcommittee**- Chris Lang, Chair

The subcommittee consists of –

Chris Lang, Chair
Howard Meisner
Michael Rosenbaum
Mariah McAfee

We are in a holding pattern while waiting for direction from the Committee to address some areas including –

- Why was the CARA model rejected that was presented at the Seattle Convention?
- What is the plan for remediating substandard referees?
- Is USRowing prepared to pull the licenses of substandard referees?

Howard, as a member of the Committee, has been asked to pursue these questions at the next meeting. In a conversation with Tom (NW Clinicians phone call) he indicated the Committee would not be able to address these questions during the Committee's February meeting because it included the Regional Coordinators.

Before time is invested in this project I believe the Committee needs to take the lead on determining the long term goals and impacts of evaluations. Referee evaluations have been taken several forms over the many years I have been a referee and none have been consistently applied. This has the potential to be a big project with lasting impact therefore needs a thoughtful consideration from the Committee/Wik/Appleyard group.

5) **Referee Safety Working Group Update Report**, Terry Friel Portell, Chair
Request from Ruth Macnamara for Referee Committee Minutes February Meeting
2/12/2016

Working Group Members

John White, MA Referee, Safety Committee representative
Dee McComb, NW Referee Regional Representative
Terry Friel Portell, Referee Committee Representative

Accomplishments/Deliverables

- Identified representative from Safety Committee to move forward (John White)
- Representatives from Referee Committee met with Safety Committee representative via conference call 2/9/16
- Team identified three areas to focus on for 2016
 - Uniting USRowing, Referee and Safety Committees to support and encourage all referees to wear a PFD
 - Conduct conversations with USRowing to lead the way in setting safety standards for referee working conditions at national regattas such as:
 - Hours per day
 - Hours worked in light of time in sun and heat
 - Providing time or ability for working refs to have bio breaks during long sessions (i.e., marshal assigned in warm-up)
 - Supply PFDs for on-the-water-referees working national events
 - Providing overnight lodging on night following regatta
 - Create a clinic for the 2017 annual clinic requirement
- Team discussed how many people should be part of this working group and we feel we'd like input from individuals with the following experiences (one person may have multiple categories of experience to provide)
 - National regatta chief
 - Medical background
 - New assistant referee

Next Steps

- Present plan to Referee Committee for approval to move forward
- If approved,
 - identify additional 1-2 people to invite to join group
 - set timeline to work
 - create plan to move forward

Risks Identified

- 1) Costs involved

Decisions/Votes needed

- 2) Would like approval from Referee Committee to move forward

6) Referee Testing Subcommittee – John Musial, Chair

Members:

John Musial, Chair
Tom Mannle
Linda Muri
Elaine Roden
John Wik

Currently we are reviewing the assistant exam for rule change modifications. Once completed, the full exam will be reviewed. Subcommittee comments are due to the Chair by 2/18. Once they are in, they will make edits and submit to the Referee Committee.

Question to the Referee Committee: Do we want to review the full exam or rewrite it? If we rewrite it, we need guidance from the Committee.

Rules Subcommittee, Chair Tom Fuller –reports directly to the CEO and serves in an advisory capacity to the Referee Committee

The Rules Committee is a newly formed Committee reporting to the USRowing CEO. Based on the Minutes of the June 20, 2015 Minutes of the USRowing Board of Directors, the Board approved a recommendation to create the Rules Committee to formally give users of the *Rules of Rowing* input into their scope and content. This is similar to how the changes in the 2015 edition of the Rules were achieved.

The inaugural members are:

- Coaches:
 - Greg Harsuff, Heads Men’s Crew Coach, University of Michigan
 - Lou Berl, Head Coach, St. Andrews School, Middletown, Delaware
- Local Organizing Committees:
 - Gary Caldwell, USRowing Collegiate Rowing Series; (formerly ECAC Director of Rowing)
 - DeDe Birch, Sacramento State Aquatic Center (Lake Natoma), and former Lake Merritt Rowing Club rower
- Athletes
 - Marcus McElhenney, Athlete Representative, USRowing Referee Committee
 - Mara Allen

- Tom Fuller, Chair, USRowing Referee Committee
- John Wik, Director of Referee Programs, staff

The purpose of the Rules Committee, in keeping with the restructuring of the *Rules of Rowing* that was approved by the USRowing Board of Directors in December 2015, is to provide input from the primary users of the Rules. As proposed rule changes are submitted to USRowing, they follow the “normal” process whereby they are submitted to USRowing by August 31st. The Referee Committee solicits feedback from the general rowing community through the USRowing website and other appropriate venues from October 1st through October 31st. The USRowing Director of Referee Programs prepares a document containing all of the proposed changes. This document is provided to the Rules Committee, to the Referee Committee and to the Regional Coordinators. The Referee Committee reviews and evaluates such feedback and modifies proposed changes if necessary. The Rules Committee is provided with the full package prepared by the Director of Referee Programs and the Referee Committee; the Rules Committee meets and makes their recommendations on all proposed Rule changes to the Referee Committee. The Referee Committee meets with the Regional Coordinators to solicit the Regional Coordinators’ input; the Regional Coordinators are provided the recommendations of the Rules Committee prior to the meeting. The referee Committee takes into account all of the input it receives and makes its final recommendation on all proposed changes to the *Rules of Rowing* to the USRowing Board of Directors. If the Rules Committee and the Referee Committee are not able to agree on all of the proposed changes to the Rules, their respective positions shall be presented to the Board by the Director of Referee Programs, and the Board will make the final decision on any proposed change(s) on which there is disagreement. The USRowing Board makes its decision on the proposed changes to the *Rules of Rowing* at the annual meeting in December.