

Current:**1-202 Other Definitions (*)****Lloyd McDonald**

(bb) “Unsportsmanlike conduct” shall include, but not be limited to, failure to heed the instructions of race officials, use of obscene language or gestures, delaying a race without just cause, intentional or flagrant disregard of principles of safety and fairness, or abusive behavior toward any official, team member, or spectator.

Revised:**1-202 Other Definitions (*)**

(bb) “Unsportsmanlike conduct” shall include, but not be limited to, failure to heed the instructions of race officials, use of obscene language or gestures, delaying a race without just cause, intentional or flagrant disregard of principles of safety and fairness, or abusive behavior toward any official, team member, or spectator *as witnessed by a race official*.

Rationale:

A basic element of fair treatment of individuals subject to the Rules of Rowing includes the application of the Rules by a trained and licensed race official. The purpose of this change is to ensure that findings of Unsportsmanlike Conduct are made solely upon the direct observation of a Referee. This change will also preclude the opportunity for race officials to be drawn into “he said/she said” conflicts.

1-202 Other Definitions

Referee Committee

Original:

(ee) **“Weigh-in Window”** shall mean the period of time that is no less than one (1) hour and not more than two (2) hours before the Scheduled Time of the first race in which the weight is relevant. If the regatta organizers or race officials adjust or alter the period of time for competitors to weigh-in on a particular race day for compelling reasons, so that the relationship between the Weigh-in Window and the Scheduled Time of the first race is extended or shortened (the “Adjusted Weigh-in Window”), a competitor may weigh-in during the original Weigh-in Window or the Adjusted Weigh-in Window.

Revised:

(ee) **“Weigh-in Window” shall mean the period of time that is no less than one (1) hour and not more than two (2) hours before the Scheduled Time of the first race in which the weight is relevant.**

(ff) “Adjusted Weigh-in Window”

Should the regatta organizers or race officials adjust or alter the racing schedule for compelling reasons, changing the amount of time between the Weigh-in Window and the newly scheduled race time, an Adjusted Weigh-in Window shall be created. The Adjusted Weigh-in Window shall be no less than one (1) hour and not more than two (2) hours before the newly scheduled race time. When an Adjusted Weigh-in Window is created due to a scheduling change, a competitor may weigh-in during either the original Weigh-in Window or the Adjusted Weigh-in Window prior to the newly scheduled race time and on the same day as the newly scheduled race time.

Rationale: Reworded for clarification.

Original:**2-311 Broken Equipment****Lloyd McDonald**

[a] If a crew suffers broken equipment before it has left the starting area, it may stop rowing and signal to the Referee. The Referee shall stop the race as described in Rule 2-407(d) (“Referee’s Instructions to Crews”) and inspect the damage. If there is in fact broken equipment, the race shall be restarted after the crew has had sufficient time to make repairs. If there is no broken equipment, the race shall be restarted immediately, and the Referee may impose upon the offending crew one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”).

Revised:**2-311 Broken Equipment**

[a] If a crew suffers broken equipment before it has left the starting area, it may stop rowing and signal to the Referee. The Referee shall stop the race as described in Rule 2-407(d) (“Referee’s Instructions to Crews”) and inspect the damage. If there is in fact broken equipment, the race shall be restarted after the crew has had sufficient time to make repairs. **Sufficient time to make repairs shall be presumed to be not longer than 30 minutes or the scheduled time for the race (when broken equipment is identified prior to the start of the race) whichever is later. The time allowed for any single incident may be reduced by the Chief Referee in consideration of extreme conditions or scheduling.** If there is no broken equipment, the race shall be restarted immediately, and the Referee may impose upon the offending crew one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”).

Rationale:

The concept of sufficient time is undefined in the Rules of Rowing. This Rule does not carry an asterisk so it may be modified by LOCs or sanctioning groups to meet the needs of a specific competition. Providing racing officials with a presumed time limit will greatly facilitate the resolution of these issues on the water and reduce the endless back-and-forth communication these events generate.

Current:**2-409 Racing Cadence****Lloyd McDonald**

A crew must maintain a racing cadence of which it is capable in good faith throughout a race, as indicated by its strokes per minute. Any stroke rate that causes a crew to win or advance in a heat shall be considered in good faith, provided that the number of crews to advance is less than the number of crews competing. The Referee may impose one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”) upon a crew that does not maintain a racing cadence after having been instructed to continue rowing as described in Rule 2-407(e) (“Referee’s Instructions to Crews”).

Revised:**2-409 Racing Cadence**

A crew must maintain a racing cadence of which it is capable in good faith throughout a race, as indicated by its strokes per minute **when the race in question is one of two, or more, races within the same event, racing on the same day**. Any stroke rate that causes a crew to win or advance in a heat shall be considered in good faith, provided that the number of crews to advance is less than the number of crews competing. The Referee may impose one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”) upon a crew that does not maintain a racing cadence after having been instructed to continue rowing as described in Rule 2-407(e) (“Referee’s Instructions to Crews”).

Rationale:

The rationale for this Rule is to prevent crews from gaining an unfair advantage over another crew by failing to put forth a good faith racing effort. The only practical application of this Rule (and the way it is most commonly applied) is when another race for the same event occurs the same day. For example – heats in the morning and a repackage in the afternoon. In some instances Referees have applied this Rule to crews when some or all of the competitors are competing in a different event the same day. This change would prevent that practice, too.

Current:

Matt Imes

Rule 2-409 Racing Cadence

A crew must maintain a racing cadence of which it is capable in good faith throughout a race, as indicated by its strokes per minute. Any stroke rate that causes a crew to win or advance in a heat shall be considered in good faith, provided that the number of crews to advance is less than the number of crews competing. The Referee may impose one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”) upon a crew that does not maintain a racing cadence after having been instructed to continue rowing as described in Rule 2-407(e) (“Referee’s Instructions to Crews”).

Proposed change to:

Excluding this rule in the Trials Rule.

It can be noted as such in 6-306 The Race

Racing Cadence is not adhered to in US Rowing Trials or NSR events.

Reason:

FISA does not impose a cadence rule and it is up to the specific boats to manage the course in any manner to qualify or not. Cadence is a subjective call that places the referees in a difficult position to implement.

Current:**2-411 Unsportsmanlike Conduct (*)****Lloyd McDonald**

(a) A crew that engages in unsportsmanlike conduct may be assessed by a race official with one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”), regardless of whether such conduct otherwise constitutes a violation of these Rules. If another crew’s opportunity to win, place, or advance is affected by such conduct, the Referee shall take appropriate action to restore that opportunity, pursuant to Rule 2-603.

(b) Any team member, including a competitor, who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct at any time during the regatta may have his or her further participation at the regatta curtailed or prohibited by a race official.

Revised:**2-411 Unsportsmanlike Conduct (*)**

(a) A crew that engages in unsportsmanlike conduct, ***as witnessed by a race official***, may be assessed by a race official with one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”), regardless of whether such conduct otherwise constitutes a violation of these Rules. If another crew’s opportunity to win, place, or advance is affected by such conduct, the Referee shall take appropriate action to restore that opportunity, pursuant to Rule 2-603.

(b) Any team member, including a competitor, who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct, ***as witnessed by a race official***, at any time during the regatta may have his or her further participation at the regatta curtailed or prohibited by a race official.

Rationale:

A basic element of fair treatment of individuals subject to the Rules of Rowing includes the application of the Rules by a trained and licensed race official. The purpose of this change is to ensure that findings of Unsportsmanlike Conduct are made solely upon the direct observation of a Referee. This change will also preclude the opportunity for race officials to be drawn into “he said/she said” conflicts.

2-503 Declaring the Race To Be Official

Tom Mannle /Rachel LeMieux

Current Rule:

(a) A race is not complete until the last crew has finished the race and the Referee has declared the race to be official.

(b) After the last crew has finished the race, the Referee shall observe the crews to determine if there are any protests, or if any competitor requires assistance.

(1) Before declaring the race to be official, the Referee may require that a coxswain display any deadweight required under Rule 4-109 (“Coxswain’s Weight”).

(2) If no crew signals that it has a protest, and if the Referee is satisfied that the results of the race are proper, he or she shall declare the race to be official by raising a white flag. The Referee shall announce to the Judges the time of the first-place crew received from the Timer. The Chief Judge shall acknowledge the receipt of the time from the Referee by raising a white flag.

(3) If the Referee decides to impose one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”) upon one of the crews, and there is no further protest as a result, the Referee shall raise a red flag, announce the penalty, and then raise a white flag and give the winning time.

(4) If there is a protest that cannot be resolved immediately, the Referee shall raise a red flag, announce the protest, and give the first-place time for the information of the Judges. The Chief Judge shall thereupon inform the Chief Referee to convene the Jury.

(c) Once the Referee has raised the white flag, the results of the race shall be considered official and may be released by the Chief Judge to competitors, spectators, and the press. The results of a race that has not been declared official shall not be released.

2-504 Placement of Crews

Current Rule:

2-504 Placement of Crews

(a) Subject to the other subsections of this Rule, crews competing in a race shall be placed by the Chief Judge according to the order of finish. Being placed shall entitle the crew to applicable awards, prizes, or advancement in the progression system.

(b) A crew that does not complete the course shall not be placed and shall not be entitled to advance in the progression system, unless the Referee excuses the crew from completing the course due to circumstances beyond its control.

(c) In events with coxswains, a crew that touches the finish line missing its coxswain shall not be placed. A crew, including a single scull, that touches the finish line missing one or more of its rowers shall be placed.

(d) A crew whose equipment does not comply with Part A (Construction and Design) of Article III (Equipment) of these Rules shall not be placed. A crew whose competitors do not comply with applicable provisions of Article IV (Competitors), or with the announced criteria for the event, of these Rules shall not be placed.

(e) A crew that has been excluded or disqualified as described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”) not be placed.

Proposed Changes: Specifies authority of Chief Judge and clarifies when race results are “official” for purposes of progression.

2-503 Declaring the Race to be Official

Sections (a)&(b): No Change

Section (c): ~~Once the Referee has raised the white flag, the results of the race shall be considered official and may be released by the Chief Judge to competitors, spectators, and the press. The results of a race that has not been declared official shall not be released.~~ Once the Referee has raised the white flag, the race shall be considered official. The Chief Judge shall review and approve the order of finish and any accompanying race times before

placing crews as described in Rule 2-504 (“Placement of Crews”). The Chief Judge may then release unofficial results for public use, and final official results after completion of the requirements prescribed under Rule 2-504 (“Placement of Crews”).

2-504 Placement of Crews

Sections (a)-(c) inclusive: No Change

(d) ***Except as provided for in 2-504(d)(1) below***, a crew whose equipment does not comply with Part A (Construction and Design) of Article III (Equipment) of these Rules shall not be placed. A crew whose competitors do not comply with applicable provisions of Article IV (Competitors), or with the announced criteria for the event, of these Rules shall not be placed.

(1) A crew not meeting the requirements of Rule 3-104 (Minimum Weight of Boats) shall be penalized as described in 3-104(g), and placed or not accordingly.

Section (e): No Change

Reasons:

1. It has become common practice for the Chief Judge to review and approve race results before releasing them, but the Chief Judge’s authority to do so is not specified in the current Rules. With the advance of electronic timing, and the growth in interest in the sport, especially at major regattas, there is increasing pressure to release results generated by these systems as soon as they become available. Providing for explicit and formal review of results by the Chief Judge prevents the release of erroneous results, the correction of which has proven more difficult and time-intensive compared to the small delay incurred by the review and approval actions of the Chief Judge.
2. Because of the current wording of 2-503(c), (“...the results of the race shall be considered official,...”), there has been a blurring of the distinction between the *race* (which is an event per se), and the *results of the race* (which is information about the event). The Referee declares the race to be official, i.e, the event is completed, as suggested by the title of 2-503. After which, the results of the race are under the purview of the Chief Judge. The blurring of the distinction has resulted in confusion about when the “race is official”, especially but not limited to when boat-weighting procedures are in effect. The proposed change eliminates the confusing wording in the first line of 2-503(c), and adds procedural detail to guide all parties on the conditions for releasing race results.
3. 2-504(d) is changed and added to, to invoke the requirements of 3-104 as a condition of placement, and to tie together 2-503 and 2-504.

RULE 2-504(c): Placement of Crews

Jay Jacobus

In events with coxswains, a crew that touches the finish line missing its coxswain ***and weights, if weights are required*** shall not be placed. A crew, including a single scull, that touches the finish line missing one or more of its rowers shall be placed.

Reason: To promote fairness.

If a crew is not placed because it is not carrying the weight of its cox,
then shouldn't the same be said of a crew that is not carrying the weight of its weights ?

Otherwise, why weigh at all ?

Current:**Lloyd McDonald****2-602 Types of Penalties**

(a) Relegation: The penalty of Relegation shall consist of placing a crew in last place in a race.

Revision #1:**2-602 Types of Penalties**

(b) Relegation: The penalty of Relegation shall consist of placing a crew in last place in a race. *Relegation is reserved for violations of 3-104(g) Minimum Weight of Boats.*

Rationale:

First, to make this penalty conform to FISA. Secondly, this is a penalty that in most cases duplicates Exclusion. No other penalty is affected by the progression of the regatta as to its effect. Finally, by its nature Relegation, when applied beyond boat weight, is confusing to race officials and competitors.

Proposal #2 – removal of Relegation as a penalty from 2-602 Types of Penalties**Rationale:**

Penalties are designed to impact crews for violations of the Rules where fairness to other crews has been negatively affected. The unrestricted application of Relegation does not meet this test. The indication of Relegation for an under-weight boat opens the door to gamesmanship. For example, it is common practice that only a random sampling of boats is weighed during competition. The Relegation penalty for an underweight boat gives crews the potential to take a chance to advance, through the unfair advantage of an underweight boat, while only risking Relegation to a repechage or lower level final. The same rationale applies to other areas where Relegation might be applied – coxswains for example. The purpose of weighing coxswains is to level the playing field. If the field is determined to be no longer level (a coxswain that doesn't carry required weight) then permitting the offending crew to advance isn't appropriate.

Current:**Lloyd McDonald****2-604 Matters Subject to Protest (*)**

[c] To the extent that race officials acting within the scope of their duties make explicit findings of fact, those findings shall be final and not subject to review by protest, appeal, or otherwise. Such findings shall include, but not be limited to, a finding by the Referee as to whether a crew was out of its lane, a finding by the Judge at Start as to whether a crew left the starting line early, or a finding by the Chief Judge and Judges regarding the order of finish.

Revised:**2-604 Matters Subject to Protest (*)**

[c] To the extent that race officials acting within the scope of their duties make explicit findings of fact, those findings shall be final and not subject to review by protest, appeal, or otherwise. Such findings shall include, but not be limited to, a finding by the Referee as to whether a crew was out of its lane, a finding by the Judge at Start as to whether a crew left the starting line early, or a finding by the Chief Judge and Judges regarding the order of finish. *The authority for making a determination that a crew's protest involves an explicit finding of fact resides with the Jury.*

2-607 Protest Hearing Procedures**Lloyd McDonald**

[e] If the protest involves only the interpretation of USRowing Rules of Rowing, and does not involve disputes of fact, the Jury shall decide the protest after having heard the remarks, if any, of each representative of the crews named or involved in the protest. If the protest involves resolution of disputes of fact, and to the extent that inquiry into those facts is not forbidden by Rule 2-604(c) (“Matters Subject to Protest”), the Jury shall decide the protest after having heard relevant testimony and received appropriate evidence.

Revised:**2-607 Protest Hearing Procedures**

[e] If the protest involves only the interpretation of USRowing Rules of Rowing, and does not involve disputes of fact, the Jury shall decide the protest after having heard the remarks, if any, of each representative of the crews named or involved in the protest. If the protest involves resolution of disputes of fact, and to the extent that inquiry into those facts is not forbidden by Rule 2-604(c) (“Matters Subject to Protest”), the Jury shall decide the protest after having heard relevant testimony and received appropriate evidence. *When a crew’s protest appears to involve an explicit finding of fact the Jury may make the determination that the matter is not subject to protest following a review of the crew’s protest statement and testimony from the appropriate Referee.*

Rationale:

This Rule change is designed to prevent the practice of Referees improperly dismissing Protests. The Rule, as currently written, is ambiguous regarding findings of explicit fact and this ambiguity is used by Referees to limit access to the Jury process by crews. The Jury process is the one-avenue crews have at a regatta to press their case and potentially correct the error of a Referee. The denial of access to the Jury process by the unilateral action of Referees is harmful to the sport and in some cases denies basic fairness to crews.

Rule 4-104.1 (a) (2) Classification by Age

AJ Dominique

Current:

(a) Junior: A Junior is a competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or who is and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school as a full-time student seeking a diploma. A competitor thus ceases to be a Junior after December 31 of the year of his or her 18th birthday, or of the year in which he or she completes the 12th grade of secondary school, having been a full-time student, whichever is later.

(1) A competitor's eligibility to compete in Junior events is not affected by his or her classification by skill under Rule 4-10.2 ("Classification by Skill"). A Junior competitor's classification by skill in non-Junior events shall be provided in that rule.

(2) Within the Junior classification, there shall be a subclassification known as "Junior B" made up of those Juniors who in the current calendar year do not attain the age of 17.

Proposed Change:

(a) A competitor's eligibility to compete in events classified by age is not affected by his or her classification by skill under Rule 4-104.2 ("Classification by Skill"). A competitor's classification by skill in non-age category events shall be as provided in that rule.

(b) The following classifications are used to determine a competitor's eligibility based on age:

(1) U23: A competitor may compete in the U23 category until December 31 of the year of their 22nd birthday.

(2) U19: A competitor may compete in the U19 category until December 31 of the year of their 18th birthday.

(3) U17: A competitor may compete in the U17 category until December 31 of the year of their 16th birthday.

(4) U15: A competitor may compete in the U15 category until December 31 of the year of their 14th birthday.

(c) Youth: A Youth is a competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or who is and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school as a full-time student seeking a diploma. A competitor thus ceases to be a Youth after December 31 of the year of his or her 18th birthday, or of the year in which he or she completes the 12th grade of secondary school, having been a full-time student, whichever is later.

(d) Master: ...

Reason:

This change is proposed in order to improve fairness at junior competition, recognize a growing population in the sport that will provide more racing opportunities, and to help with the development of international talent.

This proposal improves fairness on the junior level in multiple ways. First, by basing an athlete's classification truly on age, junior athletes will have the opportunity to compete against athletes at similar stages in their physical development.

The proposal further improves fairness by creating easily verifiable eligibility requirements for competition. A quick check of a government issues identification card would verify an athlete's eligibility. School transcripts and other extraneous documents are not necessary. Additionally, vague categories such as "novice" are virtually impossible to enforce on a large scale. The new levels create a definitive, enforceable standard.

The proposal also introduces three categories into the rule book, allowing for further growth of competitive opportunities within the sport. On the younger side, the U-15 category recognizes the growing middle school rowing population, and allows an official category where those athletes can compete.

Similarly, adding the U-23 category would include a FISA recognized category. As with the U-15, this would allow for an official category where these athletes can compete.

Having both the U-19 and U-23 categories will help with national team development, as racing opportunities can be geared towards the exact athlete pools eligible to compete in FISA events.

Finally, including the "Youth" category provides for the Youth National Championships to maintain its current eligibility structure. The combination of age and scholastic elements in this definition make the Youth National Championships unique in youth sports, and should be maintained.

Rule 4-104.2 (b) (2) Classification by Skill

AJ Dominique

Current:

Senior: A competitor is a Senior who has won any intermediate or senior event over 2,000 meters at the USRowing National Championships or at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, and who has not advanced to the status of Elite...

Proposed Change:

A competitor is a Senior who has won any intermediate or senior event over 2,000 meters at *a USRowing designated National Championship Regatta* or at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, and who has not advanced to the status of Elite...

Reason:

The reason for this proposed rule change is to both match the wording with the current practices, and to eliminate the need for constantly updating the rule as the USRowing event calendar changes.

The current wording of the rule does not match the current event lists for USRowing's national championship regattas. "Senior" and "Intermediate" events are contested at the USRowing Club National Championships, not the USRowing National Championships, meaning that the current wording of the rule creates a situation where no crew would advance to Senior status except by winning at Canadian Henley or earning "Elite" status. The wording harkens back to when the Club National Championships and National Championships were run together, as the same regatta, under the name "USRowing National Championships". As these two regattas are listed separately in multiple places in the rule book, the wording of this rule should be updated appropriately.

The proposed wording of "a USRowing designated National Championship Regatta" allows this rule to remain applicable, regardless of how the calendar of USRowing National Championship regattas changes over the course of time. This will help prevent the rule from becoming outdated, as it is now, and eliminate the necessity of altering this rule any time USRowing changes its national championship offerings

4-106 Weighing of Competitors

Referee Committee

Original:

- (a) The weight of rowers in lightweight events as described in Rule 4-104.3 (“Lightweights”) shall be determined once each day during the Weigh-in Window. Crews will be weighed in the order that they sit in the boat (bow to stern). Competitors shall be weighed in racing uniform.
- (b) The weight of junior rowers in lightweight events as described in Rule 4-104.3 (“Lightweights”) shall be determined once each day during the Weigh-in Window. Crews will be weighed in the order that they sit in the boat (bow to stern). Each junior rower shall have only one (1) initial opportunity to weigh in. A competitor within one (1.0) pound or less of the weight standard is allowed one (1) re-weigh within the official weigh-in time window. A competitor whose initial weight is great than one (1.0) pound above the weight standard will be ineligible to compete in the event.
- (c) The weight of coxswains as described in Rule 4-105.1 (“Coxswain’s Weight”) shall be determined once each day during the Weigh-in Window. Competitors shall be weighed in racing uniform without shoes or other footgear. In the event a coxswain is weighed after the applicable Weigh-in Window but before the first race in which the weight is relevant, the coxswain may be subject to one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”) in the discretion of the Referee; the presumed penalty for such infraction is a Warning. Failure to weigh-in at any point in time prior to the first race in which the weight is relevant shall constitute a violation of Rule 4-105.1 and result in exclusion.

Revised:

- (a) The weight of rowers in lightweight events as described in Rule 4-104.3 (“Lightweights”) shall be determined once each day during the Weigh-in Window. Crews will be weighed in the order that they sit in the boat (bow to stern). Competitors shall be weighed in racing uniform. ***Rowers who fail to weigh-in during the Weigh-in Window or the Adjusted Weigh-in Window shall be deemed to be ineligible to race.***
- (b) The weight of junior rowers in lightweight events as described in Rule 4-104.3 (“Lightweights”) shall be determined once each day during the Weigh-in Window. Crews will be weighed in the order that they sit in the boat (bow to stern). Each junior rower shall have only one (1) initial opportunity to weigh in. A competitor within one (1.0) pound or less of the weight standard is allowed one (1) re-weigh within the official weigh-in ***or adjusted weigh-in*** time window ***(a maximum of 1 hour from the first weigh-in to the final weigh-in)***. A competitor whose initial weight is greater than one (1.0) pound above the weight standard will be ineligible to compete in the event. ***Rowers who fail to weigh-in during the Weigh-in Window or the Adjusted Weigh-in Window shall be deemed to be ineligible to race.***
- (c) The weight of coxswains as described in Rule 4-105.1 (“Coxswain’s Weight”) shall be determined once each day during the Weigh-in Window. Competitors shall be weighed in racing uniform without shoes or other footgear. In the event a coxswain is weighed after the applicable Weigh-in Window ***or Adjusted Weigh-in Window*** but before the first race in which the weight is relevant, the coxswain may be subject to one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”) in the discretion of the Referee; the presumed penalty for such infraction is a Warning. Failure to weigh-in at any point in time prior to the first race in which the weight is relevant shall constitute a violation of Rule 4-105.1 and result in exclusion.

Rationale: Reworded for clarification.

Current:

Lloyd McDonald

4-106 Weighing of Competitors

[c] The weight of coxswains as described in Rule 4-105.1 (“Coxswain’s Weight”) shall be determined once each day during the Weigh-in Window. Competitors shall be weighed in racing uniform without shoes or other footgear. In the event a coxswain is weighed after the applicable Weigh-in Window but before the first race in which the weight is relevant, the coxswain may be subject to one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”) in the discretion of the Referee; the presumed penalty for such infraction is a Warning. Failure to weigh-in at any point in time prior to the first race in which the weight is relevant shall constitute a violation of Rule 4-105.1 and result in exclusion.

Revised:**4-106 Weighing of Competitors**

[c] The weight of coxswains as described in Rule 4-105.1 (“Coxswain’s Weight”) shall be determined once each day during the Weigh-in Window. Competitors shall be weighed in racing uniform without shoes or other footgear. In the event a coxswain is weighed after the applicable Weigh-in Window but before the first race in which the weight is relevant, the coxswain may be subject to one of the penalties described in Rule 2-602 (“Types of Penalties”) in the discretion of the Referee; the presumed penalty for such infraction is a Warning. Failure to weigh-in at any point in time prior to the first race in which the weight is relevant shall constitute a violation of Rule 4-105.1 and result in exclusion. ***In the case a race official suspects that a junior coxswain has engaged in any behavior designed to temporarily increase their body weight (including, but not limited to, gorging water) they may require that the athlete be examined and cleared by a qualified medical professional prior to their race.***

Rationale:

At this year’s USRowing Youth National Championships there were at least two instances where coxswains drank so much water they vomited on the weigh-in table, in one instance, and just outside the tent in another. It is my understanding that this practice is not isolated to this year’s regatta and is likely occurring at other events. The purpose of the change is to register our disapproval of these practices and to give race officials a tool to protect the safety of the athletes. Recently a young athlete died as a result of over consumption of water.

Rule 5-101 (a) (1) Types of Regattas (*)

AJ Dominique

Current:

(a) A “National Championship Regatta” shall mean any regatta that is explicitly designated by USRowing as determining the national champion for that year in a given event.

(1) The National Championships, the Masters National Championships, the Youth National Championships, and the Club National Championships shall be considered National Championship Regattas.

Proposed Change: (a) A “National Championship Regatta” shall mean any regatta that is explicitly designated by USRowing *in Rule 5-302 Annual National Championship Regattas* as determining the national champion for that year in a given event.

(1) Delete

Reason:

The reason for this rule change is to eliminate a redundancy in the rulebook, and list one location as the official listing of national championship regattas. A complete list of national championship regattas is already maintained in rule 5-302, eliminating the need for a second list.

Rule 5-208 (c) Illness of Competitors

AJ Dominique

Current:

A competitor substituted due to illness or injury under this rule may return and participate in subsequent races in that event, if the competitor is restored to good health.

Proposed Change:

A competitor substituted due to illness or injury under this rule may *not return to competition in the same regatta unless cleared to do so by a certificate from a health professional.*

Reason:

The reason for this proposed rule change is to protect the health of the athletes, increase fairness in how substitutions affect competition throughout a regatta, and more clearly define when an athlete is allowed to return to competition.

The main focus of the proposal is to promote a safe competitive environment for the athletes. The proposed change requires a medical professional to examine and clear an athlete before they are allowed to return to competition of any kind. It takes the burden off of coaches, who may have the athlete in line-ups in later events, and are unable or unwilling to substitute the athlete out of those events despite an injury or illness.

The stringent requirement would eliminate situations in which coaches medically substitute an athlete out of an event in the morning, then allow them to compete in a different event later the same day. Outside of the health concerns, this also presents fairness issues. Coaches utilize this tactic as a way to preserve the stamina of athletes that are competing in multiple events. They will see how a crew measures up to the competition in multiple events, then find a way to medically substitute the athlete out of an event where they expect to place lower in order to preserve their energy for the priority event. Placing a more stringent requirement makes this strategy much riskier for coaches.

Finally, the proposed wording more clearly defines how a medical substitution affects an athlete's eligibility in cases where an athlete is competing in multiple events. The current wording uses "races", suggesting that this requirement only fits the event in which the athlete is substituted. The proposed wording specifically states that an athlete that is not healthy enough to compete in one event is not presumed to be healthy enough to compete in different events unless a medical professional clears them to return to competition.

Rule 5-304 (a) National Champions

AJ Dominique

Current:

(a) At the National Championship Regatta, the domestic crew finishing highest in each national championship event shall be designated as the National Champion for that year and shall receive medals, awards, or mementos reserved exclusively for national champions. If a crew entered by a foreign club or rowing federation, or a foreign unaffiliated single sculler, places first, second, or third in a national championship event at the National Championship Regatta, it shall receive special gold, silver, or bronze medals memorializing the accomplishment, but the national championship medals, whether gold, silver, or bronze, and the designation and entitlements of National Champion, shall be given only to domestic crews according to order of placement.

Proposed Change:

(a) *At the Club National Championship and National Championship regattas*, the domestic crew finishing highest in each national championship event shall be designated as the National Champion for that year and shall receive medals, awards, or mementos reserved exclusively for national champions. If a crew entered by a foreign club or rowing federation, or a foreign unaffiliated single sculler, places first, second, or third in a national championship event at a National Championship Regatta, it shall receive special gold, silver, or bronze medals memorializing the accomplishment, but the national championship medals, whether gold, silver, or bronze, and the designation and entitlements of National Champion, shall be given only to domestic crews according to order of placement.

Reason:

The reason for this rule change is to update the wording of the rule to match the current practices, as well as clarify the scope of the rule. The wording seems to refer back to when the USRowing National Championships was a single regatta. Currently, this rule is applied to both the USRowing National Championships and USRowing Club National Championships. As those regattas are now separate events, and listed separately in multiple places within the Rules of Rowing, they should be listed separately here.

Current

Matt Imes

Rule 6-203 International Classification and Eligibility Rules

Competitors shall comply with the classification and eligibility rules of FISA, or the sponsoring authority of the International regatta for which trials are being held. Rules and procedures concerning the weighing of competitors shall be consistent with the applicable rules and procedures of FISA in effect at the time of the international regatta for which the trails are being held, notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of this rule or any other provision of the Rules of Rowing.

Proposed change to:

Competitors shall comply with the classification, **weigh-in**, and eligibility rules of FISA, or the sponsoring authority of the International regatta for which trials are being held. Rules and procedures concerning the weighing of competitors shall be consistent with the applicable rules and procedures of FISA in effect at the time of the international regatta for which the trails are being held, notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of this rule or any other provision of the Rules of Rowing.

Reason:

There is confusion with the new USRowing weigh-in procedures and how it relates to selection events. Whenever there is a discrepancy, as there now is, FISA rules should be followed. We would request the language change to highlight that the FISA rules will be followed at NSR and US trial events.