

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)

Our answer: Yes, all three documents need to go to the Board for approval. We are not seeking to change the existing review and approval cycles and processes.

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

Our answer: This is an organizational issue that USRowing needs to resolve. We would be perfectly happy to put in an email address that could be routed to any staff member that the CEO designates.

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)

Our answer: Follow the numbering as we have proposed which includes renumbering where necessary.

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

Our answer: We would like to remove them entirely, but we are willing to compromise for this proposal and leave them in.

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

Our answer: We did not recommend a change to the definition of “Junior”. This issue came up as part of the broader discussion of the proposed changes, but was not in scope for the proposed changes.

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)

Our answer: This issue came up as part of the broader discussion of the proposed changes, but was not in scope for the proposed changes.

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

This is part of our proposal. Our understanding is that this has been discussed and the Committee 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)

Our answer: All issues should be treated the same as the current procedure.

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.

Our answer: Our proposal is based on feedback received from Bob Appleyard. If breakage occurs in the warm up area, it is a courtesy for us to try to accommodate the crew. The clarification is to keep the issue to a one-race problem rather than a multiple-race problem. Specific example of 2014 Club Nationals, breakage in the warm-up with 5 minute centers, crew unable to race because we couldn't reschedule the entire event and subsequent events.

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”).

Our answer: We understand the concern being raised that a lesser skilled referee may make a decision that has consequences that they are unable to see. However, modifying the rule to require checking with the Chief Referee creates a situation where the safety of the athletes could be in jeopardy while the referee tries to communicate with the Chief.

Other: Are the procedures listed in the Referee Manual considered rules and have the force of a rule?

Our answer: No. They are a codification of best practices and content from the approved mechanics manual. If they have the force of rules, they would be subject to protest if a referee incorrectly executed a procedure. That is not the intent. We want to know if a referee has incorrectly executed the procedure so that we can train them properly to enforce consistency, but not hold up a race or event for “human error”.

After further review of 2-604, we believe that reinstating subsection (b) “Only matters that affect the substantial rights of a crew shall be subject to protest, and the Jury shall disregard harmless errors that did not affect the outcome of the race.”, resolves the issue of what procedures can be protested because those procedures would have to affect the substantial rights of the crew.