



Referee Committee

Minutes of Meeting
November 17, 2014
Phone Conference Call

Attendance:

Referee Committee:

Tom Fuller – Chair
Chris Lang – Vice Chair
Ruth Macnamara - Secretary
Lloyd McDonald – Regional Coordinator
Marcus McElhenney – Athlete Representative

Regional Coordinators:

John Musial, MA
Jorge Salas, SE
Howard Meisner, NE
Dee McComb, NW
Lloyd McDonald, SW – Regional Coordinator to Committee

Absent:

Roger Frederick, MW

USRowing:

John Wik – Director of Referee Programs

Guests:

Tom Mannle, Trials Coordinator
Rachel Le Mieux, Co-Trials Coordinator
Christine Collins, Co-Chair of the High Performance Committee (HPC)
Curtis Jordan, Director of High Performance

Tom Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

I. Article IV Trials – Discussion

Christine Collins spoke first. She emphasized that she stands by her previous statements and nothing has changed from the HPC's perspective. They are in support of the proposed rewrite as it stands. Christine signed off as soon as her statements were made.

Curtis Jordan stated that he echoes everything Christine said.

Tom Mannle – Curious why you wanted additional input from us.

Tom Fuller – You and Rachel have had several conversations with folks and we wanted to make sure you had an opportunity to address any issues with the Referee Committee and Regional Coordinators.

Tom Mannle – I stand firm on my comments previously submitted and would like to push off this change to the next quadrennium. The Committee now needs to make the decision.

Rachel Le Mieux: Thank you for inviting us to this call, I know lots of work has been put into this. I too share the concern that we are acting too quickly. I would like to push this off to 2017. There is an element of uncomfortableness for the trials pool.

Lloyd McDonald – Curtis, there has been some discussion and confusion about the Trials Selection Procedures as they are posted now for the comment period. Those that are currently posted do not reflect the anticipation of the new proposed Rewrite being approved. If the change does get approved by the Board, will the Selection Procedures be rewritten to reflect the proposed rewrite?

Curtis Jordan –

Tom Fuller – If the proposed restructuring of the *Rules of Rowing* and specifically Article IV are approved by the Board, then the HPC will go back and adjust the Selection Procedures to reflect the changes.

Ruth Macnamara – In previous meetings – Christine Collins has stated that the HPC would rewrite the Selection Procedures once the Board approved the rewrite and then there would be enough time for a comment period on the new Selection Procedures before they were to be used.

Chris Lang – Question for Tom and Rachel – If the change goes through as presented, have you penciled out how you will implement them into your trials pool?

Rachel Le Mieux – Yes I have, there are various methodologies available to provide training.

Tom Mannle – Chris Lang, anything specific?

Chris Lang – Change is difficult and to manage change can be difficult.

Rachel Le Mieux – It is going to change regardless of comments.

Tom Mannle – Any resources available?

Ruth Macnamara – When this goes before the Board, I think it is imperative that the Referee Committee and the HPC emphasize that resources need to be set aside so this transition can be made as seamless as possible.

Tom Fuller – Tom Mannle and Rachel Le Mieux, please get a sense of what is needed and let me know what that is.

Tom Mannle – will do.

John Wik – Are you thinking of holding a special clinic for your jury?

Tom Mannle – not sure yet what we will be doing.

Vote for the rewrite of Article IV:

Regional Coordinators

JM – no

DM – no

HM – yes

LM – no

JS – absent

RF – absent

Committee

RM – yes but with specific resources made available

CL – yes, same as Ruth

MM – yes

TF – yes

LM – no

Goes forward with a vote of 4-1.

Tom Fuller excuses Curtis, Tom Mannle and Rachel Le Mieux. TM and RL choose to stay on the call.

II. Who can stop a race?

Lloyd brought this issue up to Tom Fuller after receiving the comments from the unintended consequences group. In our previous call, the vote passed 3-2 to keep the language in the proposed restructured *Rules of Rowing* where the Chief Referee, the Starter and any Referee following races can suspend racing. Lloyd emphasized there is a difference in stopping a race and stopping racing.

Tom Mannle – why dilute the Chief Referee’s authority by changing the language?

Howard Meisner – The change was made because we continue to see at races, conditions deteriorate and put competitors at risk; sometimes the Chief Referee is not available in a timely manner to make the call. This broadens the authority.

John Musial – The Starter or Referee can stop a race – the Chief Referee has to be available to make the call. I don’t believe the Referee or Starter have the authority to suspend racing.

Jorge Salas joined the call.

Chris Lang cautioned that expanding authority can increase confusion and indecision.

Revote for who has the authority to suspend racing. Voting yes means you support the proposed restructuring *Rules of Rowing* language. Voting no means you want the language to reflect that only the Chief Referee has the authority to suspend racing.

Regional Coordinators	Committee
JM – no	RM – no
DM – no	CL – no
HM – yes	MM – no
LM – no	TF – no
JS – no	LM – no
RF – absent	

Vote passes to change the language in the proposed restructuring *Rules of Rowing* to reflect that only the Chief Referee has the authority to suspend racing.

III. Proposed Restructure *Rules of Rowing*

Tom Fuller – I want to take an advisory vote for where we are now in the process. This will be subject to us getting the final copy and reviewing it. If the final copy we receive doesn’t represent what we talked about tonight, we will revisit.

MOTION – Lloyd McDonald

To delay the implementation of the proposed restructured *Rules of Rowing* until 9/1/15 or 1/1/2016 to give us time to get this done thoroughly and completely.

Ruth Macnamara seconded Lloyd’s motion to allow discussion.

Tom Fuller will give each Regional Coordinator and each member of the Committee two minutes to share their thoughts about this motion.

John Musial – No. I do not believe we have had enough time to compare all three documents and how they will interrelate to each other, i.e. the trials piece. I am in favor of adopting the format but we need more time to perfect the documents.

Dee McComb – Yes. The unintended consequences group pointed out that everyone looks at the three documents carrying the same weight. We should move ahead.

Howard Meisner – Yes. Change is hard but change is also good. We have spent a lot of time putting together the initial proposal and then an equal amount of time adding the suggestions made. This is not a perfect document but it does provide an opportunity to change with the times. The change, in reference to the competitors and their points of view, allows them to better understand and adhere to the rules. If we push this out, there will be no deadline. I believe this is the right way to go.

Jorge Salas – I acknowledge we have done all this work and spent all this time and effort. I agree with Howard – if we delay, we will keep pushing it down the road. Let the Board know we do not have a unanimous document, why are we rushing? I would like us to go to the Board with a different start date than 1/1/15.

Lloyd McDonald – No. There is a common theme by those proposing this change that, change is good. Change is not good just for the sake of change. Progress is good. Change for no reason is useless. This will have an effect on training referees and referees being able to do their jobs. Don't start living in a house before the roof is on.

Ruth Macnamara – Yes. Continue forward with the expectation that there will be a thorough review of these three documents before they are published.

Chris Lang – Yes. Continue the process for 2015 racing season. I support the education piece.

Marcus McElhenney – Yes. Move forward. I don't see any major reason to not move forward.

Tom Fuller – Yes. I second Marcus' comments.

Tom Mannle – I have two questions:

1. Will the responses from the unintended consequences group be available to the public?
2. The *Rules of Rowing* are not typically released until early February. When would a final version be available on line and when would the printed version be available. Keep in mind, racing season starts in mid-February in some regions.

John Wik – The *Rules of Rowing* document will be on line as soon as the board approves it with the caveat that a small group will be combing through the three documents and minor changes may need to be made for consistency and clarity.

Vote on approving the proposed restructured *Rules of Rowing* as presented for 1/1/2015 effective date.

Regional Coordinators	Committee
JM - no	RM - yes
DM - yes	CL - yes
HM - yes	MM - yes
LM - no	TF - yes
JS - yes	LM - yes
RF - absent	

Unanimous approval of the Referee Committee to continue with the proposed restructured *Rules of Rowing* for an implementation date of 1/1/15.

Tom Fuller: Process - Howard will incorporate all the changes suggested into the final version. The final version will be similar to the one posted on the website for comment. It will be one document: 2015 *Rules of Rowing* with three sections: 1. Rules of Racing; 2. Referee Procedures; 3. LOC Procedures. This final version will be available to the Committee and Regional Coordinators on or about 11/24/14.

Tom indicated that there is a small working group that has agreed to work on the final version, they are: Ruth Macnamara, Tom Fuller, John Wik and Bob Appleyard. They will consider all comments that have been made and consider them carefully.

John Wik - Snowflake Regatta - John gave us a summary of his findings from his investigation of the Snowflake Regatta. Discussion ensued about what to do with the information, how to use it as an educational situation and how to prevent it from happening in the future. John took some suggestions from the group and will try and incorporate them for future regattas.

Chris Lang made a motion to adjourn.
Marcus McElhenney seconded.

Meeting adjourned 9:50 P.M. EDT

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Macnamara
Secretary
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