Referee Committee Minutes
March 11, 2020
7:30 PM EST

AGENDA

1. Attendence
    a. *Lyn called the meeting to order at 7:31p*
    b. *Roll call: Lyn Wylder, Kris Thorsness, Bob Appleyard, Terry Friel Portell, Jess McAlear, Dee McComb, Eric Weir, Derek Blazo, Elaine Roden, John Musial, Howard Meisner*
    c. *Staff: Jules Zane, Susan Smith*
    d. *Guest(s): Dan Thompson, Referee, USRowing Covid-19 Task Force*
2. USRowing Update (Susan)
    a. Update on USRowing CEO Search
        i. *BSG (Boston firm) is conducting search for us. Job description is on USRowing website. Looking for 250 prospects to have a group to present to search committee who will then cull candidates and present to Board. When candidates get down to 10 or so, then staff will get involved. Feeling is that it will take 5-6 months to get a CEO for a non-profit. Hoping to have search competed by June with a CEO in place before Olympics.*
    b. Update on USRowing Budget
        i. *As part of Q1 BOD meeting, the (eleventh) budget for 2020 was approved. Ended 2019 with a deficit of about $500,000. This budget had to be realistic and bring us back from the deficit. When the auditors finish with it, it will be posted on the USRowing website. Organization has changed auditors for 2020. No changes to compensation for referees, despite pressure from people on the finance committee. Susan explained there was a multi-year commitment to improving referee experiences and the referee staffing and plans. Many departments were not as lucky.*

ii. *Do Regional Coordinators still have their discretionary budgets? Yes, they each have $2,000.*

3. Update on Covid-19 (Dan Thompson and Susan Smith)
    a. *There is a cross-organization Corona-virus working group who is meeting weekly. Dan Thompson is part of that group. Meet on Mondays at 8p. First meeting had 4 people involved; second meeting was longer and with a few more people. The meeting two nights ago was very dense and lots of people involved.*
    b. *Set up a 3 person CV Response Team – Susan, Matt Ims, Brett Johnson. Looking at the last 24 hours – what do we need to react to, act upon and communicate. We have a CV webpage in the news scroll and top navigation. Every day at 1p there is a posted update.*
    c. *Dan mentioned there was discussion regarding control commission checking because of close proximity and implementing a system like ECAC uses where coaches certify their boats meet requirements.*
    d. *Ivy League has announced no spring sports so collegiate racing and championships are really in question.*
    e. *A planning timeline will be published next Monday of when USRowing will make decisions so people can plan.*
    f. *USOPC – There was an NGB Council meeting and another will be held Friday. They are being held as needed and increased frequency.*
    g. *FISA – The last email from FISA is they are looking to do same thing of timeline. FISA has canceled the first two World Cups. There are some classification regattas which have been canceled and they are trying to figure out what options they can provide.*
    h. *Our attitude is continue as planned until we hear from relevant local or national authorities that plans should be changed. Susan emphasized that decisions are not being made in a vacuum. Next week's trials in Sarasota are still as go as of this moment. We are putting in place ways to keep everyone – staff, referees, athletes, volunteers, and spectators – safe. Adding washing stations and reminding everyone about hygiene and sanitizing and having supplies there for that.*
    i. *Princeton employees have the option to work from home. Work phones are being forwarded. Microsoft Teams is being used so everyone can chat and conference and Zoom meetings are being used.*
    j. *Questions – Is it advisable to have in-person clinics or direct everyone to online clinics? Zoom is a good tool so that seems prudent. The first*

online clinic had 44 participants. USOPC has canceled all in person clinics/meetings/summits until after the summer.

k. *Kris asked how this impacts the clinic requirement for 2020. Discussion. Perhaps we should waive the clinic requirement. May need to waive regatta requirements as well. Jules got 2 regatta cancelations today.*

l. *Howard asked Susan about the protocol regarding communications out regarding referees. Lyn suggested we summarize any decisions we make and have Jules send them out to the corps. Susan said that the corona virus web page can also be used to communicate our decisions. Jules said he does not want people worrying about requirements and traveling when they should not. ACTION: Jules will draft a message regarding what we want to communicate and send it out by 3/13/20.*

m. *Dee mentioned that we also need to communicate with our candidates and that they don't feel left out of the loop. Dan pointed out that we should communicate what we know at this moment.*

n. *Liability and Insurance – Susan was talking to the insurance group today and they will get back to her tomorrow. Her question was if we proceed with certain regattas, would the underwriter possibly come back and say they won't insure the regatta? Second question is if we have to cancel regattas, would the property policy cover per 'business interruption'? And, if a regatta goes on and someone is exposed to Covid-19, is that covered?*

o. *Susan left the call.*

4. Discussion on Handling Control Commission

a. *Jules suggested that the coordinators work on list of shadow alternate referees for the Championships. Two of the Championships are in areas densely populated with referees. Want people to feel OK canceling. Jess said we are putting the cart before the horse. Kris disagreed and as long as the LOC is going forward, we should plan as if it is. John said let's have a plan in place in case the regattas do go forward.*

b. *Bob suggested that a communication comes from one source – maybe USRowing or the Chiefs – and be sent to the National Championships juries. Tell them we are monitoring the situation and as of now the event is on. If you make a decision that you will not travel, please let us know.*

c. *Trials also needs a similar communication. ACTION: Jules should check with Ruth and Rachel to ensure the High Performance Group is monitoring and communicating with referees and Chiefs.*
d. *Status of San Diego Crew Classic – Eric talked to the Exec. Director. Their inclination is to continue as of last week. San Diego is not currently in a state of emergency.*
e. *Are Chief Referees the one to cancel a regatta? As soon as a chief does not have the referees to run a regatta, they would have to cancel.*
f. *What are the implications of a State of Emergency? Jules thinks it limits the number of people gathered at one time. Currently in California, it is county-wide, but is it responsible to host an event when people are coming from counties where there is a State of Emergency. Washington Governor has put a ban on gatherings of more than 250 people so several regattas were canceled. John said all of the regattas around here are on park or city land where permits are needed. The Parks would pull the permits for States of Emergency. The LOCS are talking to the parks; the parks are going to make the decision for us.*
g. *Bob asked the group are scholastic and colleges just shutting down for the spring and racing? It appears so as of today. Ivy League has canceled all spring sports & racing, NESCAC, entire UMass system, BU, BC are all on remote learning. Yale has indicated season is over. Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio State and UWashington are done.*
h. *MOTION 1 – "As of March 11, in an abundance of caution, the Annual Clinics, which are part of the licensing requirement, which were offered live, now shall be replaced with online opportunities. Further in-person clinics shall not be held in 2020 or until this motion is lifted by the Referee Committee." made by Howard Meisner. Seconded by Jess McAlear. Discussion. (All live referee clinics will be canceled.) Wordsmithing discussion. Kris mentioned there is a difference requiring an in-person clinic versus choosing to attend a regatta. We own these events so we can cancel them and move the training online.*
i. ***MOTION REVISED** (Howard) – "As of March 11, all annual clinics shall be delivered online." Jess seconds. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIES**.*
j. *MOTION 2 (Howard) – I want to somehow say that whatever regatta days people complete in 2020 will meet the regatta requirements; we have the flexibility to accept whatever people do. Kris said at this*

point, we really are only suspending the regatta day requirement. Therefore Howard revised motion to say, "As of March 11, the license requirement for the number of regatta days required to work in 2020 are suspended." Dee seconded. Discussion. Bob suggested "if, because of the corona-virus, you do not meet the requirement, it will not be held against you". Committee agreed referees should not feel compelled to work in order to meet the days requirement. Missing a licensure requirement in one year, is equivalent to a reprimand. What about "Warnings will not be issued in 2020 for failing to meet the regatta day requirement." If you feel uncomfortable working, don't. ***MOTION REVISED:*** *"As of March 11, the obligation to work 4 days will be forgiven for the 2020 Data Call." Dee seconds the amendment. All in Favor.* ***MOTION CARRIES****.*

k. *Any other virus-related issues? Jess asked if Knecht Cup is canceled. Jules said yes and John M. confirmed. Dee asked John when they will make a decision about Dad Vail; he said in next few weeks.*

l. *Lyn thanked Dan Thompson for joining us.*

5. Executive Session (Jules)
    a. *Motion to move to Executive session by Kris, seconded by Dee at 7:50p.*
6. Next Meeting – Wednesday March 25
7. Regular meeting Adjourned at 7:50p.

March	**Jules**	*ACTION: Jules will draft a message regarding what we want to communicate and send it out by 3/13/20.*	
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