Referee Committee Minutes – FINAL
October 14, 2020
7:30 PM EST

AGENDA

1. Welcome (Lyn)
    a. Call to Order – 7:31p Eastern
    b. Roll Call – *Dee McComb (NW Regional Coordinator), Derek Blazo (MW Regional Coordinator), Eric Weir (SW Regional Coordinator), Elaine Roden (SE Regional Coordinator), John Musial (MA Regional Coordinator, Howard Meisner (NE Regional Coordinator), Bob Appleyard (At Large), Jessica McAlear (At Large), Terry Friel Portell (At Large/Secretary), Lyn Wylder (Chair)*
    c. *Kris Thorness (At Large) - Late arrival*
2. USRowing Update (Susan and/or Sarah)
    a. Update on USRowing CEO Search, General Staffing, etc. –
        i. *Amanda starts Nov. 1; No other changes.*
    b. Update on Activities at USRowing – Webinars, National Team, Return to Rowing, Events, Safesport
        i. *Just finished Race Against the Clock, one more event to go to sum up the virtual events.*
        ii. *Press release went out today about Save the Date for Convention. Slow trickle of info coming out regarding convention.*
            1. *USRowing will not be doing a full regatta management track because of covid and the uncertainty there is for 2021 regattas.*
        iii. *No new update on Masters Nationals. No plan B.*
        iv. *Sarah is starting to work with each LOC having calls to prepare every several weeks. Checking on plans and requirements from city/counties etc.*
    c. Covid – 19 Update – still no regattas
    d. Discussion on Survey of Referee Corps on Return to Refereeing
3. 2021 National Championships (Sarah)
    a. Update on Location, Dates, Logistics, etc. (Sarah) – *nothing new*
    b. Proposed Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs for National Championship Regattas (Dee) – MOTION by Howard to go into Executive Session. Jessica seconded. All in favor.
    c. MOTION by Howard to come out of Executive Session. Elaine seconded. All in favor.
    d. MOTION by Howard that the Referee Committee approve the slate as presented by the regional coordinators in Executive Session of Chiefs and Deputies to be sent to USRowing for approval. Seconded by Eric Weir. All in favor.
4. Update of Proposed Rule Changes (Sarah/Howard)
    a. Update on Comments Received so Far (Sarah) – *No comments on the posted Rules Changes which are posted.*

b. Discuss need for special meeting in November to Discuss (Howard) – *If the committee continues our practice of passing eligibility issues to USRowing, we, the committee, do not need to have an additional meeting. Once we have our meeting, we will send our recommendations to Gary Caldwell, Rules Committee Chair, and he will circulate and will have his group vote.*

c. Update on Status of Coastal Rules (Sarah) – *No update on Coastal rules now. Defer to FISA rules is how things are going right now. There was a meeting at USRowing about Coastal events, but there was no discussion on rules*.

5. 2020 Virtual Convention (Sarah/Howard) –
   a. *Week of December 8 – Tu-Sat. 3 days coaching education, 4th day Business of Rowing, 5th day – Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DE&I); 6th day Referees. 11a-5p roughly each day. Each night will have a Ted Talk style keynote speaker. Last day of coaching ed looking for a really great speaker. Pricing for Referees is $25 for all access pass; regular members are $175 for all access.*
   b. *Referee College – thinking some evening sessions might work to accommodate for all; trying to do some panel discussions. One topic is Planning Your Career. Day 1 – two panels – how different organizations select their chief (attributes and skills) (panel might include Jenny Simon O'Neill, Sarah McAuliffe, Gary Caldwell) Moderators will probably be drawn from senior staff of college. Second session – what do Chiefs look for in their jury for a championships? Using the recent past IRA and NCAA chiefs. Theme is if you want to get to this level, here is what you need and you can figure out how to get there.*
   c. *Friday – Demystify some other selection processes such as Trials (led by Rachel, Ruth, maybe Mike Zimmer). What is a trials event? How are they staffed? How are people selected for trials chiefs and juries? And USRowing National Championships selections of Chiefs, Deputies and juries.*
   d. *Saturday is DE&I so no referee programming against that.*
   e. *Sunday – traditional meeting. Have Susan come in as Chief Domestic Officer. Talking to Susan about having Amanda come in and say hello. Normal committee meeting including IOP updates, state of officiating, Ref Corp changes, update on Referee College, recognition of referees (service milestones), etc.*
      i. *Additional topics could be:*
         1. *Return to the insurance discussion but give the carrier a lot more guidance about what we want them to discuss.*
         2. *Another idea is "What's My Assignment?" about why and how chiefs select who to put in what positions.*
         3. *Also have ideas about some Ted Talk type stories to add in.*
         4. *Perhaps can tap into Sheila Tolle for her work on DE&I.*
         5. *Also ideas about getting comfortable with para events.*
   f. *Bob added that we did a really good job at the 2019 convention of getting a broad spectrum of refs and this year we have a good opportunity to really provide transparency to our corps.*

6. Discussion on Clinic Topics for 2021 (Bob/Howard)

a. Review of Basics (suggested by John) - *Bob had a thought of maybe doing a live televised clinic of following a race. Howard thought if we do a national live clinic and then locally do scenarios.*
    i. *Bob asked if we think we will be doing in-person clinics in Jan/Feb early 2021? It affects how they put together what they are creating.*
        1. *Derek said he does not expect so in Midwest.*
        2. *Eric would like to try to get people together as long as people are distanced but he can work with whatever presentation is created.*
        3. *Howard said it is not looking good to gather in the NE in early 2021.*
        4. *John said the same as Howard – probably won't be able to have the large clinics he usually does have.*
    ii. *Whatever we can do to promote uniformity would be great!*
    iii. *If we know we have people who are new, it would be great to share some of our tricks and tips:*
        1. *How do you keep things dry? What apps on your phone are helpful? How do you travel with a megaphone? Where can you buy megaphones? Which megaphones are best? What is in your regatta bag?*
    iv. *What about a special session just for candidates? It would be nice if it could be free for them. A zoom session for candidates don't have the frame of reference that we have so we need to keep that in mind for them. The need of the candidate is different than the need of a licensed official.*
    v. *Online clinics are beneficial and we should continue to offer one for the national corps.*

7. RefCorps Update (Dee/Sarah)
    a. Current Activities – *working on permissions, such as if you are a chief, do you want permission to log in positions worked or should participant just say they worked the regatta. Dee will put together a spreadsheet and send it out. Dee sent out the data call info to each coordinator. Referee resume is still a work in progress. Gear is a work in progress. SafeSport is nearing the end and how it gets executed; SafeSport page is not clear. And should be seeing something in next 2 weeks. Background checks have been put on hold because USRowing has had some issues with the NCSI website.*
8. Areas of Focus for 2020
    a. IOP Rewrite (Kris) – *Two groups are working and doing a lot of work (Evaluations and Ranks, and Complaints and Investigations). The Referee Abilities and Disabilities is still on hold. Waiting to hear back from attorneys and perhaps because of the financial cost it is on hold.*
    b. *Talking about addressing some lesser priority issues while the third area is on hold. Lyn and Kris will talk about this next week.*
    c. Update to IOP on Referee College - Complete
    d. Chief/Deputy Chief for National Championships – Complete
    e. Need to Start Thinking about Next Year's Areas of Focus
9. Review Committee Action Items from Previous Meetings (See Below)
10. Other Issues or Items for Discussion

a. Upcoming Expiring Terms of Committee Members – *Lyn sent the following information regarding terms via email on 10/14/2020.*

From the Notes from our meeting in June 2019 -

"Item 5:
Proposed term ending dates for appointed members of the Committee. Each member is allowed three, three-year terms.
- *Lyn - As discussed when appointed in 2018, her commitment ends on December 31, 2019. 2019 is the end of her first term*
- *Bob – We agree it is critical for the Dean of the Referee College to be on the committee, so his term ends when his tenure as the Dean of the College ends.*
- *Terry - her second term ends on December 31, 2020. She started Jan 2016.*
- *Jess and Kris - their first term ends on December 31, 2021. They began Jan 2019."*

According to the IOP (Section 6) - everyone, excluding the Dean, are allowed 3 consecutive 3-year terms. An individual can return to serve on the Committee with a new 3-term limit after one full term off of the Committee.

- Lyn was reappointed in January 2020 so my second term now ends December 31, 2022.
- Terry is up for final potential reappointment this year.
- Two of our Regional Coordinators will also be up for election by their respective Regions, which I believe are Elaine in the SE and Eric in the SW. Regional Coordinators terms are up at the end of February.

11. Next Meeting – November 11 (October 28 and November 4 (for Rules) also available, if needed)
12. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Elaine. Seconded by Jessica. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:28p Eastern.

OPEN Action Items				
When?	*Who?*	*What?*	*Target Completion*	*Status?*
August 2020	*Sarah*	***ACTION**: Sarah will check on getting a response from the attorneys regarding Abilities/Disabilities because Susan said it should get done.*	*Sept 2020*	*Pending*
August 2020	*Elaine*	***ACTION:** Elaine will send proposed new wording for IOP paragraph 65 regarding retirement.*	*Sept 2020*	*On Hold*
August 2020	*Derek / Sarah*	***ACTION:** Derek and Sarah will discuss what is possible on website relative to referees.*	*November 2020*	
April 2020		***ACTION**: ~~If we are not printing new rulebooks, are the 2019 books appropriate for use?~~* *2021 Rule Books will include 2019 and 2020 changes.*		
April 2020	*Sarah*	***ACTION:** Recover Emeritus pins from USRowing to use.*	*December 2020*	
March	*Jules*	***ACTION**: Jules will draft a message regarding what we want to communicate regarding viability of regattas, travel concerns for referees, etc. and send it out by 3/13/20.*		*Outdated / Closed*
Feb 2020	*Jules*	***ACTION**: Jules said he will take our Motion to remove Lightweight Protocol 7b to Chris Chase and Susan and get back to us.*		*Postponed until there is a regatta with Juniors*

February 2020	Lyn	**ACTION:** Lyn will try to attend Board meetings in 2020		
February 2020	Jules	**ACTION**: Provide a USRowing contact for any regatta where there isn't a staff person on-site re: lightweight protocol.		HOLD til Junior regattas resume
February 2020	Jules	**ACTION**: Jules will pursue viability of what he suggested regarding bringing in evaluators at National Championships	2021	
February 2020	Jules	**ACTION**: Jules will provide a report of what has been completed in RefCorp in the past weeks and show what is on the docket at subsequent Ref Committee meetings	Ongoing	Sarah will share with committee (4.8.20)
February 2020	Howard	**ACTION**: Howard will begin some drafts of Regional Coordinator job descriptions and process outlines.	May 2020	Open
January 2020		**ACTION**: Send a clarification note to all Emeritus members about the change of definition of Emeritus		Open / Hold
January 2020	All Coordinators	**ACTION**: Check our Emeritus list for deceased members.	Before 12/20 meeting	Ongoing
December 2019	Lyn	**ACTION**: Work with Jules to post our meeting times and participation information on website and also post in RefCorp	April	??
December 2019 / October 2020	Bob?	**ACTION**: Create materials for a topic next year (2021) on "Stopping a Race" because this is a shared responsibility between Starter and Referee	Nov 2020	Open
November 2019	Committee – Howard (?)	**ACTION:** Decide next steps regarding Coastal Rules for U.S.; decide if rule change needed for 2021 Rule Book	August 2020	Open
December – November 2019	Elaine	**ACTION:** Elaine should talk to regional reps about how to recognize retiring refs and what would be appropriate and appreciated. (Answer: a letter from USRowing; Note: this was created back when Julian retired but seems to have been lost including a very nice certificate and some accolades. Jules is not aware of anything. Eric will work with Elaine to try to recapture and bring something back to committee)		Open – in progress
November 2019	Terry / Mariah	**ACTION:** Jules will check with RefCorp team to see what sort of living list can be utilized for Recycled gear notices.		In progress
November 2019	Terry	**ACTION**: Terry will bring recommendation regarding ref badge to January meeting		Open
October 2019	Jules /Terry	**ACTION:** Fix RefCorps so that every notice from RefCorp does not come from Jules		Open
August 2019	Jules	**ACTION:** Jules check with other NGBs regarding which have separate policy documents from Rules or included. (Rules of Rowing has lots of non-rules)		Open - In progress
May 2019	Jules & Lyn (Chair)	**ACTION:** Ask Patrick if Referees should be considered in Board discussions and we'd like to have a voice when issues affect us. (Lyn: He was not really in favor of this because we have a referee on the Board.)		For meeting with PM (5/01, 6/12, 7/17, 9/11, 10/09) Ongoing

COMPLETED

August 2020	Sarah	**ACTION:** Sarah will send out the Chief and Deputy interest form before Sept 15.	Sept 15	Complete
August 2020	Sarah	**ACTION:** Sarah send the new IOP 44 and 60 info to the whole corps by 8/15/2020.	8/15/2020	Complete
August 2020	All	**ACTION**: Read this Nationals interest survey and guidelines (attached) and get comments to Dee.	8/26/2020	Complete
July 2020	Committee	**ACTION**: Lyn asked for everyone to review action items and send any updates to Terry.	August 12	Complete
May 2020	Committee	**ACTION**: Discuss if new or same chiefs should be used for Nationals 2021.	June	Complete, voted at July 2020 mtg
May 2020	Howard and Dan Thompson	**ACTION:** Howard and Dan will join the USRowing regatta guideline development group with the Events department.		Complete
April 2020	Sarah	**ACTION:** Find out what the current status is on Rule book and report back to Lyn/committee.	May	Complete

April 2020	*Sarah*	***ACTION**: Send email to Corp advising of Jules and staff current status and changes at USRowing.*	*May*	*Complete*
March	*Jules*	***ACTION:** Jules should check with Ruth and Rachel to ensure the High Performance Group is monitoring and communicating with referees and Chiefs.*		*Complete*
Feb	*Howard*	***ACTION:** Record Rules clinic for 2020 so clinicians can play it*	*March 11*	*Complete*
Feb 2020	*All*	***ACTION:** Committee members provide feedback on future meeting dates.*		*Complete*
Feb 2020	*Lyn*	***ACTION:** Find the dates for the Chief/Deputy process; check if they coordinate with current activities and are synched up with the IOP and backed up for the work that needs to be done.*		*Complete*
Feb 2020	*Lyn & Howard*	***ACTION:** Lyn & Howard will work on getting the Chief and Deputy solicitation and selection process set up to be used for 2021 Selection*		*Complete*
February 2020	*Jules*	***ACTION:** Jules will send coordinators a link for clinic attendance and online clinic attendance.*		*Complete*
February 2020	*Lyn & Howard*	***ACTION:** Lyn & Howard will work on getting the Chief and Deputy solicitation and selection process set up to be used for 2021 Selection;*	*Before 2021 process begins (Sept 2020)*	*Complete*
February 2020	*Lyn & Dee*	***ACTION:** Update the process docs for naming Chiefs and Deputies for USRowing events and any other regional administrator is welcome to assist; Need process for selection of referees for national events in 2021 and beyond; For IOP define Chief duties, Deputy duties and a policy/plan for how we select these teams.*	*Before 2021 process begins (Sept 2020)*	*Complete*
January 2020	*Lyn*	***ACTION**: Add RefCorp items to be addressed to agenda*	*May 2020*	*Closed*
December 2019	*Jules*	***ACTION:** Get our old minutes posted and/or available through RefCorp.*	*Jan*	*Complete*
December 2019	*Lyn*	***ACTION:** Set a meeting to decide what we want to do in 2020. What is a realistic task list for 2020? What are our priorities? Then create a roadmap for the year.*		*Complete*
October 2019	*Jules Sarah*	***ACTION:** Jules will send a notice to Referee Corp that new IOP is available on USRowing website. (With Board approval item and the struck half line on Emeritus from 12/6 meeting)*	*April*	*Complete*
August 2019	*Howard*	***ACTION:** Create a google form for IOP deep dive*		*Complete*
April 2019	*Jules & Lyn*	***ACTION:** Send out FISA Liaison nominating letter.*		*Complete – John Walker is the FISA Liaison, term ends July 31, 2023*

###