Referee Committee Minutes - FINAL
November 8, 2022
7:30 PM EST

AGENDA

1. **Welcome (Lyn)**
    a. **Call to Order** – *7:31pm*
    b. **Roll Call**
        i. Attendees – *Bob Appleyard, Dee McComb, Elaine Roden, Eric Weir, Howard Meisner, Jess McAlear, Lyn Wylder, Mike Murphy, Terry Friel Portell*
        ii. Absent – *Derek Blazo, Kris Thorsness*
        iii. Staff – *Jules Zane*
        iv. Guests – *Patty Hyatt (until 8:52pm)*
        v. *Jules Zane started the recording of the meeting.*

2. **USRowing Update (Jules)**
    a. **Update on Upcoming USRowing Elections** – *The election documents are up. Will send email to all referees about the openings on the Referee Committee.*
    b. **World Rowing Umpire Nominations -** *I'm working with John Walker as the World Rowing liaison to get the nomination forms for event selections.*
    c. **Confidentiality Agreement Update** – *We're in discussions with lawyers to finalize.*
    d. **Referee Apparel - How did the store do?** – *About 70 people placed orders. The folks at 776 will be doing another store before the end of the year so that more can order and hopefully get gear before the start of the spring season.*
    e. **Referee Assistant Package Status** – *We're going to get those packages out. Regatta Print is also going to work on getting a Referee Store, for things like referee name tags. I got written approval that the USRowing Referee logo is not exclusive to any one vendor.*
    f. **Insurance FAQ**
    g. **Update on Annual Convention** –*I'm looking for feedback if a get-together is wanted. I certainly want to offer a deal to the referees that want to go. Programming will mostly be Coaching Education. There will be some programming for athletes as well.*
    h. **Status of Longevity Awards (watches and oars)**
    i. **When Does Rich Need Input for His Next Presentation to the Board** – *There's a main board meeting in December. There's also a Board Meeting this Monday, but it's about a specific topic, like renewal of the Insurance contract. It continues to go up, but not as much as we worried, but it's still a significant cost increase in the six*

figures. I'll ask when exactly the December board date is, and when Rich needs information before then.

3. Rule Changes - Vote Needed? Jules and Howard

- **a.** *(Howard) There are a total of four changes this year. (RULE 2-502) The first change is a recommendation I made in regards to placement of crews in dead heats, to clarify that the Chief Judge works with other judges, but that it's the Chief Judge that declares a dead heat. The wording right now makes it seem that the finish judges can declare a dead heat. Our recommendation would be to adopt the change or not to adopt the change.*
- **b.** *Elaine MOVED that we recommend to adopt the proposed changes to Rule 2-502; seconded by Dee. All in favor. 7:58pm.*
- **c.** *(Howard) (RULE 3-111) The next one, from Margot Zalkind, is to have lights on the bows and sterns of their boats during a race. Her submission goes through the dangers of rowing at dusk and dawn.*
- **d.** *Mike MOVED that we do **NOT** recommend to adopt the proposed changes to Rule 3-111; seconded by Eric. All in favor. 8:07pm.*
- **e.** *(Howard) (RULE 4-104.1) The next change is a modification of age ranges to be consistent with a school year of August to June. The committee has looked at such rules changes, and said, look, we're the enforcing arm. If this is what USRowing wants to do, we'll figure out a way to enforce it. We'll enforce whatever they want to write. If not, we'll continue what we've been doing since the last change.*
- **f.** *(Jules) This is something that gets enforced at Registration. It shouldn't go through the Referees. As written, it would only change the Youth Nationals. There are other language issues. There are a lot of flaws with this as written. We might get a work group to talk this through. We got a lot of feedback; more than usual. This certainly got a good conversation, and warrants USRowing taking it seriously. This adds on eight additional months of eligibility for our youngest categories. It would make U15 a high school freshman race rather than a middle school race.*
- **g.** *Howard MOVED that we make NO RECOMMENDATION to adopt the proposed changes to Rule 4-104.1; seconded by Bob. All in favor. 8:11pm.*
- **h.** *(Howard) (RULE 11-402) The last one is a change to classification by age for Indoor rowing. The proposal is to add more Masters categories. This goes by the same kind of thing as the previous proposal.*
- **i.** *Howard MOVED that we make NO RECOMMENDATION to adopt the proposed changes to Rule 11-402; seconded by Elaine. All in favor. 8:17pm*
- **j.** *(Howard) I'll work on the wording with Jules and get it out soon.*

4. **Selection Process for 2023 Chief and Deputy Chief for National Championships (Dee)**
    a. *(Dee)How far back do we want to go back, considering the Covid disruption? Do we want to go back four years? I don't know if we can pull a list of chiefs of deputies for Nationals and Regionals from past years.*
    b. *(Jules) I can pull that together.*
    c. *(Bob) Because of the Covid interruption, and the uncertainty, I would consider throwing in a date, such as since 2017, so you can capture a person's experience. I'm throwing that out from the top of my head.*
    d. *(Lyn) I like that. I would also add that I like the open ended question about why you want to do this, as well as for them to add any other information that they think would be relevant to selection.*
    e. *(Jules) Do we want them to list references? We probably know them already.*
    f. *(Terry) Would that have changed any of our selections?*
    g. *(Jules) It could be a political endorsement.*
    h. *(Terry) Do you think people ask those others to put their name down, or not?*
    i. *(Dee) I think most people would ask. It also is something that, if we want to, we could have a form letter that goes out to references.*
    j. *(Bob) Was the purpose of this to allow people out in the field to put their name in, or are we now limited that the chief referee can only be selected by someone who completes this form?*
    k. *(Lyn) USRowing can overturn it.*
    l. *(Bob) The committee makes the recommendation. Is the committee limited only to people who have completed the survey?*
    m. *(Dee) We've had this conversation before. If there's someone you think would be a good chief or deputy, talk to them and encourage them to complete the survey. This way it's not an old boys referee network of who knows who.*
    n. *(Bob) Then I think the question for this discussion, is what information has really been used? Let's not layer in things that haven't been used. Maybe we just want the history of the people. We don't want to make it too burdensome.*
    o. *(Elaine) One referee asked me if I'd make a recommendation on their behalf. I said I no. They went to another former chief, who also said no. That person ended up not submitting a survey, so that weeded out one person.*
    p. *(Jules) I think with the limited interest we've had for some events; I don't know if we want to put up more barriers. Maybe we leave the question as optional, but not mandated.*
    q. *(Bob) Let's not throw Indoor Rowing into this one. The timeline doesn't work.*
    r. *Howard MOVED that USRowing work directly with the regional coordinators of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast to pick a Chief and jury for the Indoor Championships; seconded by Eric. All in favor. 8:38pm.*
    s. *(Lyn) When do we want responses? I will remind everyone, that we are advisory. If we issue it by Friday November 11th, when do we want it back by? They'll have plenty of time to get it in by the end of the month.*

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION Referee Awards (Jules)**
    a. **Select Jack Franklin Awardee**
        i. *Elaine MOVED to go into Exec Session; 2nd'd by Bob. All in favor. 8:53pm.*
        ii. *Dee MOVED to go out of Exec Session; 2nd'd by Mike. All in favor. 9:13pm.*
    b. **Update on Mama Z and Julian Wolfe Awards**

6. **Data Call (Howard)**
    a. **Status of Referee that Didn't Meet Minimum IOP Requirements Referees with IOP**
        i. *(Howard) We had made a motion, and that motion had passed, that anyone who did not complete the clinic, had to complete the clinic, and anyone who didn't do their four days, had to do a recertification exam. We can have the comments and exam ready to roll by December 1. What do you want to do?*
        ii. *(Elaine) Is it pass/fail? Is it open book?*
        iii. *(Bob) It was either 70% or 80%. It was a one-time attempt.*
        iv. *(Howard) You can piecemeal it out, as long as you do it in the 30 days.*
        v. *(Bob) You can only do it once. Once you submit the exam, you can't retake it.*
        vi. *(Mike) What happens if they don't pass the test?*
        vii. *(Lyn) If they fail in their attempt, their license remains suspended.*
        viii. *(Eric) How many questions are there? Sixty?*
        ix. *(Howard) Yes, approximately sixty.*
        x. *(Mike) Couldn't the committee also find that if you don't pass the test the first time, then you could take it again?*
        xi. *(Bob) You have to work to maintain your knowledge and your skills and to remain current with the rules. This is the test to get your first time license. This is not an advanced referee exam.*
        xii. *(Mike) I couldn't figure out the wording of the exam.*
        xiii. *(Bob) What was sent to you was perhaps a bit confusing because of how it prints out from the system. They're basic questions. What steps does a former referee take to regain a license? That's a separate conversation.*
        xiv. *(Howard) Jules, you're the USRowing liaison to the committee. What do you think USRowing is looking for in the referee corps? Do you think this process is supportive of those goals?*
        xv. *(Jules) I think it's important where we're putting in process a way to cull the group that aren't doing the work. We need something to push people to either actively participate or give up their license.*
        xvi. *(Mike) You might have done the days, and done the clinic, but didn't hit the button for the Data Call. You're going to see those anomalies.*
        xvii. *(Terry) Do we have any idea how many people we're talking about?*
        xviii. *(Jules) About 400 people submitted the data call. We have about 550 in all.*
        xix. *(Bob) To get to Mike's point, as a regional coordinator, this is one of your responsibilities. If you've got people you know who met the requirements, but didn't submit the Data Call, then deal with it in the system.*
        xx. *(Lyn) You can have the exam ready by December 1st, but can USRowing be ready to send notifications by then? Are we ready as a committee to do this?*
        xxi. *(Dee) I think separating the days and the clinic are critical. SafeSport and Background Checks are critical, but those are filing through a third party.*
        xxii. *(Terry) Let's start with one. Let's start with the biggest one. Let's send a note to those who didn't do the days to take the recertification exam.*
        xxiii. *(Jules) Because of the timeline, it's better to split them. If the committee is ok with a couple of emails, rather than one email that outlines up to four potential issues, then we can do it. If we do the SafeSport email now, and the retest in early December, we're not piling everything on them at once.*
        xxiv. *(Elaine) What was the passing margin for the exam?*
        xxv. *(Lyn) Let's just set it at 75%.*

7. **IOP Update (Lyn/Howard/Eric)** – *postponed to next meeting.*
    a. **Changes Approved at Last Meeting**
    b. **More Minor Changes Proposed**
    c. **Those Changes Approved by Mail Vote**
    d. **Questions from Eric**

8. **RefCorps Update (Dee)** – *postponed to next meeting.*

9. **Action Items (Jess)** – *postponed to next meeting.*

10. **Other Items or Issues for Discussion** – *Special meeting December 7th to discuss Chiefs & Deputies for the National Championships.*

11. **Next Meeting December 14 – Regular Meeting – Must Include Review of Clinicians, New Emeritus Referees, Retirements, Regattas, etc.**

12. **Adjourn** – *MOTION to Adjourn by Mike; seconded by Eric. All in favor. 9:53pm.*