

US SAILING Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday March 19, 2006
Spring Meeting
Chicago, IL
Minutes

President Janet Baxter called the meeting to order at 9:49 AM CST.

Board of Directors members present were: Janet Baxter, Jerelyn Biehl, Dean Brenner, Jim Capron, Ruth Creighton, Susan Epstein, Tom Hubbell, Rich Jepsen, Leslie Keller, Patty Lawrence, Charlie Leighton, Dick Rose, Bill Sandberg, John Siegel, John Strassman, and Jim Tichenor. Missing was Bob Billingham.

Action Item:

A motion by Dean Brenner to correct the February 20, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes in respect to the motion regarding the United States Sailing Foundation was moved, seconded and passed.

The minutes of the March 18th Board of Directors Meeting were distributed but the Board concluded that they were not ready to make any decisions regarding the minutes that meeting and Secretary Strassman was directed to resend them to the Board electronically. This will allow the body to have a chance to review them thoroughly and then the Board will amend and approve the minutes at a later date.

The Board then received a series of Committee and Council reports.

Olympic Sailing Committee:

Dean Brenner asked that the Board review his report On Friday to the House of Delegates.

Budget Committee:

Charlie Leighton presented the report for James Appel. Appel's report described the progress of detailing the budget since it was passed last October. During the process of itemizing the budget the current staff identified various spreadsheet logic errors. The CFO has corrected errors and the staff has made adjustments to maintain the break-even bottom line. The report noted that variances to budget will occur and will be legitimately noted due to inaccurate preparation of the original budget spreadsheets.

Sailor Athlete Council:

Sandy Grosvenor recapped the written report from Bob Billingham. The Sailor Athlete Council has created a first draft of council bylaws. The draft is being circulated for final discussion and approval on a conference call in the very near future. The SAC is reviewing the definition of Sailor-Athletes. The SAC is also reviewing the composition of the several committees that require a percentage of the members to be Sailor-Athletes. The SAC also reported that the majority of meetings are conducted via telephone conference calls and the Council feels that it is a very efficient way of conducting its business.

Council of Sailing Associations:

Susan Epstein presented the CSA bylaws for review of the Board.

Community Sailing Council:

Saul Shumsky presented the report. The Community Sailing Council Bylaws provide that any amendment must take place during their annual meeting which happens at the National Sailing Program Symposium. This prevented them from acting on passing changes pursuant to the reorganization. The Board understands and approves any necessary transitional changes.

Offshore Committee and National Offshore Council:

John Siegel and Ken Morrison, Chair of the National Offshore Council presented four items for the Board's attention.

1. Mr. Jim Kilroy communicated with US SAILING regarding concerns about whether boats with canting keels should be allowed to compete. The Offshore Committee sympathizes with Mr. Kilroy but states its position that US SAILING is in no position to dictate to race organizing authorities how to organize and conduct their races.
2. A BOD Action Item was submitted requesting that the Offshore Committee should be retained within the Competition Division. This matter has to do with the fact that the new draft regulations did not have the Offshore Committee listed. The Offshore Council feels that the several committees that form the offshore group would benefit from retaining the Offshore Committee. The matter was referred to the Regulation Working Group and the Board will take this proposal under advisement.
3. A BOD Action Item was submitted that would have the Spring Meeting continue to be held each year at such site as the Board directs. The committee feels that two formal on-site meetings are important for the proper functioning of their committee. The Board will take this proposal under advisement.
4. A BOD Action Item was submitted that the Safety at Sea Committee be retained within the Competition Division. The committee believes that tasks of interpreting and sanctioning the Special Regulations are a technical matter best handled by the Offshore Office which is under the Competition Division. The Board will take this proposal under advisement.

During the Offshore Committee discussion regarding the handling of technical issues, Dick Rose raised the point that, to date, the equipment regulations in our sport have been primarily for offshore boats. Now, however, ISAF's Equipment Committee is developing ISAF Safety and Equipment rules for inshore boats, and US SAILING should consider which US SAILING committee would be responsible if US SAILING ever has to coordinate with ISAF on these technical issues.

Race Administration:

Reporting on behalf of David Dellenbaugh, Chair of the Racing Rules Committee, Rose stated that the Rules Committee is considering proposed changes in to racing rule 18, the rule that governs rounding or passing marks and obstructions. There are three versions under consideration and the Rules Committee is asking for local fleets to test the new versions during local races. If anyone is interested, please contact him for details.

Rose then suggested that the Board should hear reports from other Race Administration committees.

James Tichenor reporting for the Race Management Committee responded to a request originating in the House of Delegates to report on the appeals process for those individuals denied Race Officer certification. Tichenor said that if an individual is declined certification, that individual receives a completed form that identifies specific items that the committee has determined that are not satisfactory. Tichenor then quoted the Race Management website specifically regarding the review process:

Reviews of Certification Decisions

Anyone who feels that he has been denied certification inappropriately may request a review of that decision. Such requests must be in writing and submitted, with any supporting material, within 30 days of receipt of the letter denying certification. They must be sent to US SAILING, Attention: Race Administration Director. The full Race Management Committee will review the request and make a final decision no later than its next regular semi-annual meeting.

Sandy Grosvenor reported that the Umpires Committee did not meet at the Spring Meeting. Grosvenor continued that the Umpire Committee does not have a review process in place because every application already goes to the full committee.

Cruising Sailors Council:

Greg Norwine reported that the Council is soliciting a USCG grant to conduct safety programs for Cruising Sailors.

Commercial Sailing Committee:

Greg Norwine reported that the Committee did not meet at the Spring Meeting. Norwine did report that the commercial schools are reporting that the number of adults entering sailing is continuing to decline.

Training Committee:

Rich Jepsen presented a written report from the Committee. Jepsen reviewed that the Committee had a successful NSPS. The Committee met on Saturday and discussed many items including an initiative to develop a Spanish bilingual learn to sail program.

United States Sailing Foundation:

Hortensia E. Sampedro gave the report to the Board. Sampedro began by thanking President Janet Baxter and the Chicago Yacht Club for their wonderful hospitality. She also thanked the Board of US SAILING for clarifying the motion concerning US SAILING Policy regarding fundraising for the United States Sailing Foundation.

Sampedro continued that the USSF held its semi-annual meeting of the trustees Saturday, March 18, 2006.

1. The FYE 10/31/06 audit report was received. It carried an unqualified statement and the Foundation expects a clean management letter, the second one in a row.
2. The February 28, 2006 YTD financials which show a positive cash flow and balanced accounts.
3. The United States Sailing Foundation continues to phase out the sailors accounts over the course of one year to four or five other foundations throughout the United States. These foundations are on both coasts as well as in Texas.
4. A \$2,000 grant to support a US sailor to ISAF Women's Match Racing World Championship in Denmark in May 2006 was approved. Inshore grants since 1985 have exceeded \$810,000.

Sampedro announced that her successor as president of USSF is Bill Waggoner. She concluded by thanking everyone at US SAILING for their warm hospitality and expressed an eagerness to reciprocate by inviting everyone to visit her at the Key Biscayne Yacht Club in Miami, Florida and, after the demise of Fidel Castro, at the Havana Yacht Club in Havana, Cuba.

Championships Committee:

Karen Reisch reported that the Committee met and requests an action item to be considered by the Board.

Action Item:

A motion was made to authorize transfer of up to \$7,500 from the Board designated Junior Championship fund to supply funds to provide top level coaching at the U.S. Junior Championship finals. The motion was seconded and passed.

Reisch also reported that a working group delivered a report suggesting improvements for the Adult Championships.

Risk Management Committee:

Allan McMillan reported that the Committee had adopted their Roles and Responsibilities document. The process of the annual insurance review will start in May with work continuing through June and July. A final report will be delivered at the AGM. The Committee is also reviewing the Sexual Harassment and Physical Abuse Regulations together with the Legal and Governmental Relations Committee. There will also be a draft of Health and Safety Guideline sent out to member LSO's.

Nominating Committee:

Dave Rosekrans stated there was no formal report but wished to announce that the Nominations for the new slate of Officers will be presented to the Board on June 15, 2006 and will be posted on July 1, 2006.

Secretary John Strassman read a short report from Jim Capron of the Regulation 15 Working Group. The group has collected input from interested parties during the Spring Meeting and Capron will distill these into a submission to the BOD for their next meeting.

Dick Rose raised a question regarding drug and alcohol policies at Junior events. Chris Luppens stated the three US SAILING Junior and Youth Championship have adopted such a policy and it is found in the respective Championship Conditions. Luppens suggested that these Conditions would offer a template for any Junior event.

A question was raised regarding the numbering system in the draft regulations and the Regulation Working Group responded that they were aware of several discontinuities and they were being addressed.

The Board then received a two action items from the House of Delegates

The HOD presented an Action Item originally presented by CSA:

“Resolved, that the House of Delegates strongly feels that the interaction between the volunteers during two meeting sessions per year is extremely important, and urges that the Spring Meeting be continued in a format that will continue to foster face to face communications and camaraderie among the volunteers of US SAILING.”

The BOD did not want to pass a motion to that effect but acknowledged that there was an apparent majority of members who shared that sentiment. Rich Jepsen suggested that more information could be gained by surveying the members.

The HOD then presented the following resolution to the Board;

Action Item:

Whereas: Hawaii was originally a part of Area H which also included the Pacific Northwest and Alaska and

Whereas: US SAILING realized that Hawaii is uniquely different from the Pacific Northwest and Alaska and created Area H-E and H-W (Hawaii) as sub-areas, and

Whereas: Hawaii, though uniquely different from any other state in the U.S. because of location, culture and unique sailing experience, it nonetheless shares common objectives with mainland states, for example, youth and high school sailing and intercollegiate sailing.

Therefore be it resolved:

That the Board of Directors of US SAILING create a new Area for Hawaii within US SAILING, and be it further resolved that necessary changes in the Bylaws of both US SAILING and the House of Delegates be made by amending those documents to reflect the new Area.

The resolution was moved, seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned 11:58 AM CST

Respectfully submitted,

John Strassman
Secretary