



## US SAILING Executive Committee

July 25, 2005

Telephone Conference

Minutes

President Janet Baxter called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time

Present were Janet C. Baxter, Jim Capron, Ruth Creighton, Louise Gleason, Fred Hagedorn, Dick Hanneman, Tom Hubbell, Patty Lawrence, Leslie Keller, Rich Jepsen, Bill Munster, Joni Palmer, and Bill Sandberg. Also present were: guest Director Jan Visser, and Executive Director Charlie Leighton. Absent were directors Dean Brenner, Susan Epstein and John Siegel.

**Action Item:** A motion to approve the Minutes of the Executive Committee telephone conference meeting of June 27, 2005 was made, seconded and carried.

President Baxter commented on the outstanding performances of US Sailors at the ISAF Youth Worlds and pointed out that Sally Barkow had won the Yngling Worlds. She noted her travel includes both sailing in and visiting regattas around the country.

Executive Director Charlie Leighton, in his monthly report, expressed a concern that renewal rates had declined in the past few months. He noted that membership letters and materials are being improved, and that automatic renewal plans and plans to target specific member categories, (ie: PHRF sailors) are under consideration.

He pointed out that while we are earning a modest rate on return on accumulated dues that have been paid in advance, our line of credit borrowing costs has increased considerably. A proposal to use the advanced dues account as an internal line of credit, with the stipulation that no more than 50% of the line of credit be from advance dues, will be drafted for consideration at the next meeting.

Treasurer Leslie Keller reported that the Audit Committee has met by phone to review results and recommendations. The committee is drafting its final response to the Board for presentation at the August 16, 2005 telephone conference call Board of Directors Meeting. She noted that the Auditor's Report for 2004 is Unqualified.

General Services Chair Ruth Creighton also pointed to the decline in membership renewals. She said staff is concentrating on clearing up administrative issues that effect membership renewals.

Race Administration Chair Jim Capron presented a series of issues involving submissions to ISAF and proposed changes to US SAILING prescriptions. Rules Committee Chair David Dellenbaugh joined the conference call for this discussion.

**Action Items:**

Motion to approve Racing Rules Committee submissions to ISAF on changes to Rules 64, 31 and 44, which seek to clarify the language dealing with penalties and exonerations, was made, seconded and carried.

After a long discussion, a motion was made to ask the Racing Rules Committee to rework the US SAILING prescription to rule 86.3 to allow testing of proposed rules at other than local events, either by dropping the word “local” from the prescription or requiring US SAILING written permission when testing proposed rules at international events conducted in the U.S. The motion was seconded and carried.

Also discussed was rule 75.3, a US SAILING prescription dealing with what are commonly known as “hold harmless” agreements, that some, including the US SAILING judges committee, believe should not be part of RRS 75. A motion to ask the Racing Rules Committee to review the prescription and make a recommendation as to where the Prescription should be found in the RRS was made, seconded and carried.

A proposal from the Match Racing Committee to establish new grading criteria in an effort to equalize the opportunities to earn ranking points was reviewed. After discussion it was moved, seconded and carried to approve the ISAF submission in principal and forward it to ISAF subject to rewording by a sub-committee of the Executive Committee.

**Action Item:**

At the request of the Multihull Council, a motion to allow the Council to withdraw up to \$2000 to provide coaching at this year’s Youth Multihull Championship to be held Aug. 25-28, 2005 at St. Andrew Bay Yacht Club in Panama City, Fl., was made, seconded and carried.

Louise Gleason, chair of the Sailor Athlete Council presented changes in the US SAILING definition of Athlete which are to be incorporated into Sailor Athlete Council Bylaws.

**Action Items:**

A motion to approve the changes in US SAILING’s definition of “Athlete” was made seconded and carried. The changes will be incorporated into the SAC Bylaws and posted on the SAC web pages.

A motion to approve the recommendation of the Site Selection Committee to hold the 2006 Mid-Year meeting of US SAILING at the Renaissance Hotel in Chicago, IL., and to hold the 2006 AGM in Newport, R.I., was made, seconded and carried.

President Baxter reviewed plans for the August 16 special telephone conference meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board will receive the Audit Committee Report at that meeting.

Vice President Tom Hubbell reported that a legal opinion of the proposed Bylaws has been received and that Clay Mock is incorporating suggested wording changes. The USOC has not as yet formally responded to the new Bylaws. Any wording changes necessary will be presented to the BOD at the Aug. 16 Conference call meeting.

A proposal to ISAF that it create a Sailor Athlete Committee was received from Cory Sertl, US SAILING delegate. In support of the proposal,

**Action Item:**

A motion was made asking Fred Hagedorn and Louise Gleason to reword the proposal, put it into the required submission format, and submit it to ISAF.  
Seconded and Carried.

The Committee met in Executive Session.

Adjourned 10:15 p.m. EDT.

Dick Hanneman, Secretary