

MINUTES

Northwest Rowing Council
Junior Meeting
November 8, 2009
Conibear Boathouse
Seattle, WA

Transfer Rule

Tom Fuller (not present) is facilitator for the Transfer Committee. The committee will consist of 5 -10 people to review each case with a majority vote. Tom is not a voting member. The members of the committee will have no direct affiliation with Juniors. Half the group will be affiliated with rowing, half from general population.

The committee could start reviewing transfers as soon as it is set up and stop January 31. It will start again after junior nationals.

Some re-wording was requested so that anyone who has a “dog in the fight” would be out of the decision process.

How are the committee members protected? (from parents, etc...) James responded that it might have to go through the US Rowing grievance department.

Some concern as to when we voted on this issue, Jason responded that the minutes noting the vote are located on the website. He would find them and let the group know.

Jason noted that the rule was in place mainly for moving.

James asked if there was a provision where someone could switch clubs for special reasons and someone could be released. There are no provisions for that currently. It needs to be worded better and could cause a grievance.

Patrick moved to approve establishment of committee in the adopted rule. 11 for/2 opposed.

Schedule

Do we schedule similar events back-to back (Brentwood style) or split (old school style)? Back-to-back has more load on equipment, less athlete conflicts. Old school has less load on equipment but more athlete conflicts.

Ed noted that if qualifiers are run early, heats are run mid-day. Sunday finals could be run Friday.

Issues: last years original schedule had 2 hours of racing on Friday, long Saturday and medium Sunday. Races needed to be shuffled after entries were submitted.

Conal noted that we need to decide goal of regionals. Participation or national qualifier? Once that's done, we can proceed to decide the schedule. Priority 1 – What is it?

James asked if with the 2 race rule, are we losing? In 2008 we had 19% of entries as 8's, 47% as 4's. In 2009 we had 18% as 8's, 40% as 4's. Is there a way to decrease events and have a 3 race maximum?

Ed agreed, instead of asking days, we need to ask hours.

James suggested multiple entries?

The Southwest region has only JV8 and JV4 allowing multiple entries.

Jason noted that we went away from that because so no team took the top two spots.

Ed suggested a small number of events on a different weekend.

It was noted that as a region we need to have a list of priorities.

The back-to back issues arise mainly when you get to 4V and 5V.

Ed asked if we are coming up with a new schedule if we don't switch to back-to-back?

Nick noted that there were no breaks as originally expected. That came up in a big hurry and needs adjustment.

Ed volunteered to tweak the regionals schedule to bring to the next meeting. No vote was taken on switching to back-to-back so schedule will be "old-style".

Bob Cummins asked if we are going to start early again on Friday. As long as we have volunteers we are fine. He also noted that we need more turn-around time, and would like to try longer centers.

Bob asked if we need to be better at checking line-ups at control commission? A motion was made to self-govern the region. Unanimous.

Bob noted that everyone needs to take a photo of their uniform and attach it to the entry packet. Rule says "Torso must match uniformly". Coxswains need to be in their uniform at the weigh-in and check-in. In the water, it doesn't matter.

Event Limit

Three options were proposed. 1) No Change 2) Exempt Specific Events 3) Grant waivers for each program to use as they see fit.

Ed noted that if we don't allow more than 2/athlete, there are a lot athletes standing around.

Concerns were raised that if we give 3 races/athlete, will the regatta be manageable?

It was suggested to have a 1 event/athlete limit. Some support was shown but not enough to support it being an option at this time.

Will exempting the 8 increase subscription? Nick asked if everyone could have one exemption, would every just exempt the 8 anyway? What about the sculling programs and the smaller clubs?

How would exemptions work? Who is included?

It was suggested that each club has 2 seats/athlete and the club gets to divide those up however it chooses.

Patrick motioned for one waiver for women, one waiver for men. A straw pole showed 12 for, 2 against.

James suggested we wait until the January meeting so we don't rush a vote. Patrick withdrew the motion.

Lightweights

Jason commented that at nationals, anyone over a certain weight will be in-eligible to weigh in again. The rule will not change for regionals.

Minutes respectfully submitted.

Patrick Harbison