

MINUTES

Northwest Rowing Council
Junior Sub-Committee
January 28, 2017
Rainier Community Center
Seattle, WA

Paidraic spoke and mentioned that 12/28 programs were represented at the meeting today. Hopefully we are all lookout out for the good of the programs but also the good of the sport. The decisions made with this group have led us to become one of the largest regionals in the country.

Varsity/JV Rule

- Dennis made a proposal to change the structure of how V4+ and V8+ are boated.
 - V1 can only go into other V1 events, V2 into V2 etc..
 - The proposal would be to allow athletes to race up, allow rowers from the JV8+ to row in the V4+.
 - Dennis could not find a year when the NW sent all 6 boats from the V8 and V4 events to nationals.
 - After talking to people, it appears that the rule was put into place to keep 2 clubs from blocking out all of the 4 and 8 qualifying slots to nationals.
 - A separate rule is in place that only allows 1 boat per club per invent in these YNC events.
- Nick clarified that a JV athlete can race in a V1 event. Is it likely that boat will make it to nationals and beat the top boats?
- Dennis answered that it probably isn't likely but it may be possible.
- Nick clarified that is they go, they will likely get smoked at nationals, is it good to send boats like that?
- Dennis answered that their V8 do not get a second race due to the size of their club and they focus on the 8's.
- Nick agreed with unused entries, maybe it would be possible to get a role down rule.
- James mentioned that a role down rule would allow 1 less petition.
- Coby mentioned that it appears this rule would only benefit clubs already qualified in the 8's. It would be nice to allow more clubs to qualify for nationals.
- Dennis agreed and said that putting JV guys into the 4 gives other teams more of a chance to win.
- Coby mentioned maybe having 2 races. One for the regional championship and one for YNC.
- If the philosophy is to send as many boats as you can to nationals, then 1 entry/club/event. If it's the fastest, then allow unlimited entries/club/event.
- Dennis mentioned that this proposal doesn't change the 1 boat/club rule.
- James said that other regionals go top down, doesn't matter who is in what. But there are nuances in some regionals but most part its top down.

- Nick said that if we change things we have to be crystal clear. The region is to competitive to not have very clear rules in place.
- Pádraic closed this discussion saying we will email a formal proposal and everybody can vote electronically. Dennis will send the proposal out.

Limit Entries into LWT 2x Rule

- Nadia made a proposal to limit the number of entries in the LWT 2x event.
 - The 2- and lwt2x have unlimited entries.
 - The problem is some clubs get shut out in those events.
 - One club had 5 entries in the LWT 2x recently. Everyone else has just one boat. That club did not use all the spots they qualified for nationals with.
 - The proposal is to limit to 1 boat/club since the LWT 1x is not a YNC event.
- It was asked if it was just the LWT 2x and 2- or just the LWT 2x.
 - Nadia answered the 2- does not seem to have this problem
- Why don't we make any YNC event 1 boat/club?
 - Multiple coaches responded that if we make it across the YNC events, we would need 2V races in those events.
- Nadia will send a formal proposal to be voted on electronically.

Age Group Rule

- Pádraic started by mentioning that the age group has 2 proposals for the 2018 regionals. Only 3 or 4 clubs responded to the survey, he was hoping to get a better sense of what the club thinking and needing.
- Nick tied to approach this issue separate from the regions inertia. (what will we do with the trophies is inertia not a sound argument either way)
 - He is having a difficult time coming up with data to show things will change how coaches will boat crews, how much impact it will have on regionals vs. nationals, and how it will impact development vs. results.
 - He does not feel there is compelling evidence to switch.
 - May be open to trying a couple of events and seeing how they do.
- It was asked, what is the problem this proposal is trying to solve.
 - Pádraic responded that its not a specific problem but trying to improve the region before it evolves by necessity. It also could help with athlete retention and tighter more exciting races.
- If we look at Brentwood, they still have novices, 3V and age groups. Maybe we look at a mix.
- The proposal appears to have a large impact on novices. A U17 Novice would be racing an athlete that has rowed for 5 or 6 years. They would get smoked and what does that do to that athletes development and retention?
- Data may exist in other countries like Canada, New Zealand and the UK since they have done this and are competitive on the world stage.
- Is this discussion occurring in other regions and at YNC?
 - James responded some other regions have added U17 events.
 - YNC is looking at their schedule and all possibilities to shorten it.

- One coach brought up that the UK has all these events but with A, B and C as well to allow the V3 athletes to compete against similar athletes and not the V1 athletes.
- Pádraic will send out the proposal and we will vote electronically.

The junior meeting switched into the Masters breakout for a few minutes before a general meeting discussion on USRowing that affects junior regionals.

Minutes respectfully submitted.
Patrick Harbison