

**NESSA Annual Meeting
Sunday 4 November 2007
Tabor Academy - Lyndon South Auditorium
66 Spring St. Marion, MA 02738
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

Attendance: 35 schools; 42 people

Regular Members (23)

Branford HS – A. Cleveland
East Lyme HS – Neil Surnl
Greenwich Academy – Chris Conley
Greenwich High School – Evan Olmstead
The Hotchkiss School – Roger Rawlings
The Sound School – J. Buell
The Williams School – Clemmie Everett
Xavier HS – L. Charpentier
Barnstable HS – Al
Belmont Hill School – CHL
BB&N – Jeffrey Hodges
Boston College HS – Mary Farrell
Brookline HS – Brendan Lrabee
Dartmouth HS – Warren Hathaway
Duxbury HS – Kit Sommer
Hingham HS – Dana Crosby
Lincoln-Sudbury RHS – Marty Stephen
Saint John's Prep – Charlie Newhall
Tabor Academy – Rob Hurd; Mk Moniz; C.
Mather
East Greenwich HS – illegible

Moses Brown School – Chris Crane
North Kingstown HS – Kyle Wilson
St. George's School – Roy Williams

New Members (12)

Bishop Stang HS – Bill
Chatham HS – Greg Kilko
Falmouth HS – H Goodwin
Nauset HS – Warren Silver
Sandwich HS – Jo Sykes, Dave Martt
Sharon HS – Gary Wexden; Bob Gaffney
Salisbury School – Pascale Delfosse
Bishop Hendricksen – RAL
Providence CDS – illegible
St. Mary's Bay View – Caroline Bradshaw;
Ned Murtino
Prout HS – Paul Zonfrillo

Others in Attendance (2)

NESSA VP – Doug Heil
Mass Bay League Rep – Carl Zimba

2. Reports:

a. Secretary/Treasurer's report - Evan Olmstead

Secretary's Report

- a. Minutes from the November 2006 NESSA Annual Meeting were posted on the NESSA website in December 2006. Are there any questions, comments, or corrections at this time? Move that we waive the reading of the minutes and that the minutes from November 2006 be accepted:

MINUTES FROM 2006 ARE ACCEPTED

- b. Based upon by-laws (amended in November 2004), any regular member who has paid 2007-2008 dues and is in attendance has voting privilege for this meeting. That number stands at 49 as of November 4th, 2007.

A New Member School may request a change of status from New to Regular Member if they meet the requirements as listed in Section I; Article C: Membership of the By-Laws. I am not aware of any school that has requested such a change, and has met the requirements necessary for that change.

- c. Attendance was taken when you registered. Please make sure you signed-in so that you are on the official list.
- d. As of November 4th, 2007 NESSA has 49 member schools. There were 85 paid members for the 2006-2007 season. I expect our final membership numbers for 2006-2007 to be comparable. Per NESSA by-laws Section I, Article C, sub-section 3, schools that do not pay their dues by the annual meeting “may not appear in the annual official NESSA active Membership List and may not be eligible for all NESSA sponsored regattas.” Schools that cannot abide by the organizations rules and regulation cannot expect to share in the benefits. Therefore, all members from 2006-2007 must have checks postmarked by December 20, 2007 or they will be declared ineligible for the NESSA championship regattas. The Secretary/Treasurer is offering this 6-week extension for those who have not paid their dues yet.

Members are being notified of this policy now. There will also be an email to the membership reminding all member schools that this is NESSA’s policy.

- e. Probations:
 - 1. The following schools have violated Article L of the By-Laws and are presently on probation.
 - a. St Mary’s Academy (until 04-21-2008) – O’Day qualifier late cancellation.
 - b. George Stevens Academy (until 04-21-2008) – O’Day qualifier late cancellation
 - c. There was a school that was a no-show at the 2007 O’Day qualifier, but the secretary/treasurer did not have this information. The President mandated that the VP make this information known to the Secretary/Treasure ASAP.
 - 2. No schools have been removed from probation having served two years without further incident.
 - 3. There are no schools with a second violation of Article L while on probation.
- f. The NESSA e-mail list will continue to be our main source of information. Every school must have a contact on the list. Be sure to alert your school’s IT people about the list as some people have experienced problems with their spam filters/junk mail blockers
To send a message to the list: NESSA@topica.com
To subscribe, send a blank email to: NESSA-subscribe@topica.com
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to: NESSA-unsubscribe@topica.com
NESSA will no longer conduct any mailings.

- g. The Website (www.NESSA-Sailing.org) is working well. Please use it. Ensure that your team roster and information on the NESSA site is accurate.

SECRETARY'S REPORT PASSED

Treasurer's Report

- a. Balance in the account as of 1 July 2007 = \$7,316.53
- b. Last Year – income exceeded expenses by - \$1,204.15
- c. In December of 2005 NESSA opened a new bank account with Bank of America. Many bills are being paid online. Due to the abundance of Bank of Americas in New England, this will ease the transfer of treasurer duties to new officers.
- d. The Treasurer recommends continuing the policy of charging a small regatta fee (\$10 per school to be collected at the Qualifying sites for the O'Day; non-refundable fee of \$15 for consideration for the NESSA Team-Racing championship; \$5 per sailor at the HEALY trophy) to cover website expenses, host-site expenses, trophies, and other expenses.
- e. The treasurer also recommends reimbursing schools that host NESSA regattas for breakdowns and other associated regatta expenses. If NESSA adopts this policy, then regatta hosts should submit expense receipts to the NESSA treasurer with complete information on where to mail reimbursements.
- f. FY2007 Budget is projected as balanced. Those wanting copies may e-mail the Secretary/Treasurer.

QUESTIONS:

- WE ARE NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF MAKING MONEY.
- SHOULD WE CONTINUE DUES AS THEY ARE?
- DISCUSSION CONCURRED THAT DUES ARE APPROPRIATE. IT IS EARLY TO SAY THAT WE SHOULD REDUCE DUES.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT PASSED**

b. Vice-President's report – Doug Heil

A. 2007 Review

1. NESSA Fleet Racing Championship (O'Day Trophy)

April 21-22, 2007

5 Qualifying Sites and Chairs:

1. New Bedford YC (MA) Dartmouth HS/*Warren Hathaway* 9 races/div, SW 5-15kts
2. Sail Maine (ME) Cheverus HS/*Sarah Helming* 6 races/div, NE 0-6kts
3. Courageous Sailing Center BBN/*Tom Moscarillo* 8 races/div, SW 5-12kts
4. Niantic Bay YC (CT) East Lyme/Williams /*Ted Sherman* 8 races/div, SW 5-15kts
5. The Hotchkiss School (CT) Hotchkiss School/ *Roger Rawlings* 8 races/div, NW 0-8kts

Qualifying Round, April 21, 2007

5 sites with 8-11 teams per site, a total of 49 teams sailed a qualifying round across New England in varied conditions with winds from 0-15knots. 3 schools from each site advanced to the Championship with the exception of 2 sites. Per the NOR and Sailing Instructions, the NESSA VP allocated an additional berth to the Dartmouth and BBN qualifying sites (4 berths instead of 3) to balance the percentage of qualifying berths to the schools attending each site. Thank you to each of our hosts for running quality races to qualify 17 schools in 1 day, allowing the finals to be run the following day at Tabor Academy.

Advanced to Championship:

Sail Maine Qualifier: Barnstable HS (MA), Cheverus HS (ME), Cape Elizabeth HS (ME). **BB&N Qualifier;** Portsmouth Abbey School (RI), Naval Academy Prep School (RI), Duxbury HS (MA), Lincoln Sudbury RHS (MA). **Dartmouth Qualifier;** Tabor Academy (MA), Milton Academy (MA), St. Georges School (RI), Martha's Vineyard RHS (MA) **East Lyme/ Williams Qualifier;** East Lyme HS (CT), North Kingston HS (RI), Bishop Hendricken HS (RI). **Hotchkiss Qualifier;** Marblehead HS (MA), The Hotchkiss School (CT), Dennis Yarmouth HS (MA).

Championship Regatta, April 22, 2007

Tabor Academy (MA) Tabor Academy/Rob Hurd

17 schools sailed 7 races per division during a beautiful day of racing with SSW winds 5-10 at Tabor Academy. Chris Conley and the Tabor sailing team provided fine race management running Modified Triangles and Gold Cup courses. 4 protests were heard resulting in 3 DSQ's, handled by Chief Judge Ron Hopkins, and Judges Carol Barrow, Dick Gumpert, and Mary Pierce.

Congrats to Dennis Yarmouth RHS and Lincoln Sudbury RHS for qualifying to the finals for the first time.

Milton Academy was the NESSA Champion, winning the O'Day Trophy, and qualified for the Mallory. Also to represent NESSA at Nationals were St. Georges School (2nd), Duxbury HS (3rd), Tabor Academy (4th), and the Naval Academy Prep School (5th).

2. NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy)

May 19, 2007

Duxbury Bay Maritime School, Duxbury, MA Duxbury HS/Jon Faudree

33 schools were ranked first thru last using the format (50% computer rankings, and 50% executive committee) set forth by the NESSA officers. The top 8 schools were determined by awarding automatic bids to schools ranked 1-4 (1-Milton, 2-St. Georges, 3-Tabor, and 4-Hotchkiss). Schools ranked 5-8, who had not qualified for the Mallory (5-North Kingston, 6-Dartmouth, 7-Portsmouth Abbey, 8-BC High) sailed 1 of 2 “Wild Card” regional regattas on May 12, 2007, against schools ranked 9-13 (9-Duxbury, 10-Bishop Stang, 11-Greenwich HS, 12-Barnstable, 13-Williams School) for the remaining 4 berths.

Wild Card Regional Regattas – May 12, 2007

Since Duxbury HS (9th seed) qualified for the Mallory, but was not ranked in slots 5-8, the selection committee decided that Duxbury HS, forced to field a small, less experienced team (top sailors at the Mallory), earned the opportunity to participate in Wild Card Weekend and that the Williams School (13th seed) earned the opportunity to compete on the same level as the Duxbury “B” squad.

North Kingston and BC High (host school) beat out Duxbury, Barnstable and The Williams School to win the Region A Wild Card berths and advanced to the NESSA Teams. Portsmouth Abbey (host) and Dartmouth won the Region B Wild Card berths against Bishop Stang and Greenwich HS to advance to the Mark Trophy.

Jon Faudree (Event Chair) and the Duxbury HS team hosted the Mark Trophy at the Duxbury Bay Maritime School, sailed this year with on the water umpiring. A float for sailors and coaches next to the race course allowed everyone to be on the water for quick rotations. Jon Pratt, Chief Umpire, lead a team of on the water umpires that kept the races clean and efficient. NESSA VP, Doug Heil, as PRO, with Rob Knecht (DBMS) and DBMS volunteers provided race management to crown a champion in one day before the tide went out.

Qualifying Round: On a cold and rainy day with 3-7knot NW winds, 28 races were sailed in the qualifying round using a Digital N course to complete a full round robin before 2pm. Tabor Academy led (6-1), Milton just behind (5-2), then St. Georges (4-3), and North Kingston (4-3), all advanced to the Championship Round.

Championship Round: Racing resumed shortly after the completion of the Qualifying Round allowing the RC to complete 12 races for a double round robin on day 1. Tabor Academy was crowned NE Team Racing Champs winning the 2007 Mark Trophy with a total of 11 wins and 2 losses (4-1 in the championship round). Milton finished 2nd (3-2, Champ Round, 8-4, overall) and St. Georges in 3rd (2-3, 6-6), followed by North Kingston (1-4, 5-7). Tabor and Milton earned the right to represent NESSA at the Baker the next weekend.

3. NESSA Women's Invite (Herreshoff Trophy)

May 12, 2007

Nantucket Community Sailing

Nantucket HS/Nick Judson

12 Schools traveled to Nantucket for the 2007 Herreshoff Trophy. 30-35 knots NE winds kept the fleet ashore in the morning, but after a 3 hour postponement, the breeze settled down to NE 18-25, allowing the RC to run a modified triangle course for 5 races in each division.

This years racing was close as four teams had a shot at winning the regatta going into the last "A" and "B" division races. At the end of racing, there was a tie for first, protest pending. Two protests were heard by chief judge, Doug Heil, giving Manchester Essex a DSQ.

St. George's finished second in both divisions to win the 2007 Herreshoff Trophy. Tabor was 5 points behind in second, Manchester Essex, 2 points behind Tabor, was third, and Providence Country Day finished fourth.

In addition, Harwich HS, was awarded the Sportsmanship and Perseverance Award (donated by Vanguard), whose B Division crew went above the call of duty to help other sailors during the regatta.

Rebecca Herreshoff would have been proud of the impressive skill shown by our New England sailors in such difficult conditions that included high winds and unusually large seas for Nantucket Harbor. Thank you to Nick Judson, Nantucket Community Sailing, Nantucket YC, Nantucket boat Basin, Mark Trap Course Marks, and all of the volunteers for running a quality regatta in difficult conditions.

FALL 2007

4. 2008 NESSA Single-handed Championship (Healy Trophy)

September 23, 2007

Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center (VT)

Kate Neubauer

Burlington HS, South Burlington HS, Champlain Valley Union HS/

24 Radial and 10 full sailors sailed on Lake Champlain with bright sunshine and a stiff 18-20 WNW breeze to start the day, then calming down in the afternoon and switching to the ENE. Making the boat go fast and switching gears with the varying conditions was the key to success in the 2008 Healy Trophy. Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center provided excellent race management, sailing both divisions at the same time on separate courses to hold seven races in both the Full and Radial Division.

Winning the Radial Division and the Healy Trophy was William Hutchings (Milton Academy-MA), followed by Eliza Richarz (St. Georges School), James Simmons (Dartmouth HS), and Kati Gullick (Cheverus). All qualified to represent NESSA and their school in the Cressy Trophy.

Qualifying for the Cressy Trophy in the Full Division were Cam Cullman (Hotchkiss School), who also won the Healy Trophy, Gordon Lamphere (Tabor Academy), Brendan Faria (Providence Country Day School) and Matthew Gowell (East Greenwich -RI).

5. Polar Bear Open

(Great Oakes Regatta Qualifier-1)

September 9, 2007

Bowdoin College

Bowdoin Sailing/Brunswick, ME

The Fall 2007 HS Sailing season opened at the Polar Bear Open with a solid day of racing in Brunswick, ME. 14 schools sailed 4 races in each division within points of each other. Duxbury (1st place) and Cheverus (2nd) battled it out at the top with 4 bullets each securing a healthy lead over the 3rd place team, Marblehead. North Yarmouth (4th) finished 13 points behind and just beat out Northern Vermont (5th) by 2 points.

Marblehead HS (MA) was the top Great Oakes Regatta Eligible team and received NESSA's first berth to the 2007 Great Oakes Regatta. .

6. Casco Bay Fall Open

(Great Oakes Qualifier-2)

September 15, 2007

Sail Maine

Portland Maine

Great Oakes Qualifier-2

Sail Maine hosted its annual Casco Bay Fall Open in mid September with 13 schools on the starting line.

After 4 races in each division Cheverus HS (ME) ran away with 1st place keeping North Yarmouth 12 points behind in 2nd. East Lyme (CT), 2 points behind took 3rd with Saint John's Prep (MA) in 4th.

North Yarmouth Academy (ME) was the top Great Oakes Regatta eligible school to take NESSA's 2nd berth.

7. Arnold Brown Regatta

(Great Oakes Qualifier -3)

September 30, 2007

Vineyard Haven YC

Martha's Vineyard RHS

10 teams came to Martha's Vineyard in the spirit of Arnold Brown to race in the 7th Annual Arnold Brown Regatta. A strong 18-20 knot NW breeze with 3' rollers greeted the sailors in Vineyard Haven Harbor, then switched to the NE and moderated to 6-8 knots in the afternoon.

7 races were completed in each division with Duxbury HS clearly ahead to take home the Arnold Brown Trophy, presented at the awards by Edie Brown, Arnold's wife and widow. Providence Country Day School (RI) placed second and was the top finisher of the schools that are eligible for this year's Great Oakes Regatta, earning NESSA's 3rd berth. East Lyme followed in 3rd with North Kingston (4th).

8. NESSA Fall Funfest (Gleekman Trophy) (Great Oakes Qualifier – 4)

October 7, 2007

Community Boating Inc.

Mass Bay League/Carl Zimba

Columbus Day weekend means the Fall Fun Fest on the Charles River, hosted by the Mass Bay League at Community Boating, Boston, in the spirit of Wally Gleekman. Serving as the fourth and final Great Oakes Qualifier, 21 schools, from each corner of NESSA, sailed the Fun Fest for 7 races in each division with a nice 12-15 knot NE breeze with rain before it diminished by 3pm. Carl Zimba, Bob Gaffney, Toby Baker and Barbara Gleekman were present to add words of remembrance for Wally during the awards.

At this year's Fun Fest, the top 4 teams were separated by only a few points. North Yarmouth took the gold with Duxbury HS just behind in 2nd, followed by Duxbury Bay Maritime School 1 point behind. Hingham HS (MA) was 4th and the top finisher among Great Oakes eligible teams to receive the final berth.

B. 2008 Season

2008 Fleet Racing Championship (O'Day Trophy)

April 26-27, 2008

Qualifying Regatta's - Saturday, April 26, 2008

Venues with 10+ boats needed. Sites to be confirmed.

NOR's out in January, 2008

1. Tabor Academy
2. Sail Maine, Portland, ME
3. Dartmouth HS, Padanaram, MA
4. Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT
5. East Lyme/ Williams
6. Portsmouth Abbey
7. Community Boating Inc, Boston

Championship Regatta – Sunday, April 27, 2008

Site Needed for 15(+) teams. Since the 2008 Mallory is in FJs and 420's, we are looking for a site with FJs.

Possible Site: The Hotchkiss School, Roger Williams University, USCGA

2008 Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy)

Saturday and Sunday – May 17-18, 2008

Site needed for 8 teams. 18 boats

2008 Women's Invite (Herreshoff Trophy)

Sunday – May 11, 2008

Sail Maine, Portland, ME

Regatta Chair – Sarah Helming

2009 Single-handed Championship (Healy Trophy)

Sunday – September 21, 2008 (tentative)

Need a site that can accommodate 50+ Lasers

2008 Polar Bear Open (tentative)

Sunday September 7, 2008

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

2008 Casco Bay Fall Open (tentative)

Sunday September 14, 2008

Sail Maine – Portland ME

2008 Arnold Brown Regatta (tentative)

Sunday September 28, 2008

Vineyard Haven YC, Martha's Vineyard

2007 Fall Funfest (Gleekman Trophy)

Sunday – October 12, 2008

Community Boating, Boston

Regatta Chair- Carl Zimba

QUESTIONS:

- FALL FUNFEST – 4TH QUALIFIER? IT WAS DETERMINED TO BE HINGHAM HS AND CORRECTED IN THE VP REPORT
- WHICH SCHOOL WITHDREW FROM O'DAY AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN PENALIZED? WITH PENALTY – THE PRESIDENT INSTRUCTED THE VP TO DETERMINE THIS SCHOOL AND INFORM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER. AND PLACE THAT SCHOOL ON PROBATION

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT PASSED

c. **President's report - Rob Hurd**

The New England district continues to be strong both in numbers and participation. There were again 85 schools in the region this spring. The big area of interest is our northern region - Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Many school boards and athletic departments see the benefits of a school sailing team. It continues to be our job to help them walk through the process of joining NESSA and ISSA.

On the water, we had a very active spring season. Fifty-two schools eventually participated in the O'Day trophy. There were five qualifying regattas scattered across New England on Saturday, with the top teams from each site advancing to the finals which was held at Tabor Academy on Sunday. The weather was nice – not always the case this spring – and the sailing was tight, but Milton Academy lead by coach Brent Jansen and Captain Ben Whitman '07 were the dominate squad. They finished strongly on Saturday and never looked back on their way to capturing the schools third O'Day trophy since 1991.

The NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy) was held at Duxbury Bay Maritime School under cold, dizzily conditions that tested both the sailors and the race committee. Jon Faudree (head coach of Duxbury HS) and his staff did a great job running a full 8-team qualifying round robin followed by a championship double round robin for the top four schools. To qualify for the New England Championship, NESSA selected 12 schools from the

32 resumes that were submitted based upon seasonal records. Once again, the on-line result posting and a computer scoring program, combined with a coaches poll kept the action transparent and allowed everyone to know roughly where they stood all season. While the top four schools received automatic berths to the Championship, eight others battled it out during “wild card weekend” for the final slots. This format was new in 2006 and in November, the membership voted to keep it for another year. The top seeds held serve with North Kingstown HS (RI), Dartmouth HS (MA), Portsmouth Abbey (RI), and BC High (MA) joining top seeds Milton Academy (MA), St. George’s (RI), Tabor Academy (MA), and the Hotchkiss School (CT) at the finals. Tabor emerged from the tight pack during the qualifying round and held on to win the school’s 22nd NE Championship.

The NESSA Women’s invite for the Rebecca Herreshoff trophy was sailed at Nantucket HS. Nick Judson and the staff put on a great show battling high winds and ferry traffic to make the event spectator friendly and competitive. They also treated everyone to a big BBQ afterwards before sending the fleet home on the ferry tired and satisfied. In the end, St. George’s nipped Tabor Academy and Manchester-Essex RHS to win this event.

There were several other regattas this spring in the district. Complete results from these or any of the NESSA events can be found on the NESSA website (<http://www.nessa-sailing.org/race.htm>)

Over the summer the officers will solidify the informal fall season. Notices of Race will be posted on the NESSA website by September 1. (<http://www.nessa-sailing.org/race.htm>). There will also be a full slate of items to discuss at the NESSA annual meeting, which will be the first Sunday in November at Tabor Academy. I have enjoyed my year as NESSA president, but am looking forward to the end of my term and a chance for new blood to move the district in positive direction.

3. By-Law Changes

Proposal #1. Submitted by Rob Hurd

Change Article D: Officers, section 2 to read “The President(s) may appoint an executive committee to advise and assist. It shall include the officers, the past president, and ~~shall number no more than six~~ anyone else the president appoints.

VOTE: Passed by Membership

Proposal #2. Submitted by Marc Jacobi

Change Article K: NESSA Regattas, section 2 (c) to read, “

- i. Schools, which are NESSA members, are eligible. If more schools register than the number of available slots, qualifying regatta(s) may be sailed. Schools must sail at least three scheduled meets or regattas prior to the championship between two or more schools in the season that the championship is being held (fall or spring). Results from those meets must be presented at the championship. A meet is a team race with three or more boats per school. For the purpose of qualification, the following meets count: A second meet with the same school provided it is a regular second meet planned for a different date than the first. Any regular scheduled NESSA event.
- ii. *Should a school, after failing to sail the required three qualifying events through what they believe to be no fault of their own, still desire to participate in their scheduled qualifier, said school shall provide evidence and request of NESSA officers, no less than five (5) days before the qualifier, special consideration for participation. NESSA officers shall review the request and notify the Team three (3) days prior to the qualifier of its decision, which shall be binding.*

DISCUSSION

- WARREN – IF SAILORS COMPETED YEAR PRIOR, BUT HAVE NOT THIS YEAR, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO.
- MARY – DISAGREE. SCHOOL NEEDS TO COMMIT TO MEET CHALLENGES OF THE CONDITIONS.
- ROB – UNDUE BURDEN ON THE PRESIDENT TO DETERMINE A SCHOOL’S ABILITY.
- COMMENT – NOT TOO DIFFICULT TO MEET THAT REQUIREMENT WITH TRI-MEETS
- VOTE – REJECTS THE CHANGE TO THE BYLAWS.

Proposal #3. Submitted by Rob Hurd

Change Article K: NESSA Regattas, section 2(d) to read, “By resume, which is due to the NESSA Vice-President by a date established by the NESSA officers and published in the NOR. Such a date shall be no later than 10 days prior to the regatta. Decisions will be made by the NESSA officers. Schools must sail at least ~~seven~~ ten scheduled meets (added language) BETWEEN NESSA SCHOOLS or regattas prior to the championship ~~between two or more schools~~ in the season that the

championship is being held (fall or spring). Results from those meets must be presented ~~at the championship~~ *by the date indicated in the NOR*. A meet is a *best of three (3) or best of five(5)* team race with three or more boats per school. For the purposes of qualification, ~~the following meets count:~~ a second meet with the same school provided it is a regular scheduled meet planned for a different date than the first. ~~Any regular scheduled NESSA event.~~

DISCUSSION

- PERHAPS TEN MEETS IS TOO MANY. SOME BAD WEATHER COULD IMPACT THAT.
- MASS. BAY LEAGUE NOTES THAT MANY MEETS ARE BETWEEN NONE-NESSA TEAMS. IS THIS UNDUE PENALTY FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT NESSA MEMBERS / SCHOOLS THAT ARE MEMBERS THAT SAIL THOSE TEAMS.
- BEST OF 3 / BEST OF 5 IS TOO LIMITING. WHAT IF A SCHOOL SAILS A BEST OF 7? THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO COUNT IT.
- AMENDMENT HAS BEEN TABLED. IT WILL BE RESUBMITTED NEXT YEAR FOR PROPOSAL.

Proposal #4. Submitted by Warren Silver

Add Section 2. Qualification f. Red flags are required for all high school races. RRS 61.1(a) (2) is deleted.

DISCUSSION

- NESSA REQUIRES ISSA RULES – MUST USE PROTEST FLAGS.
- IF COACHES AGREE ON NOT USING FLAGS, THEN THEY ARE THE ONE ENFORCING THE RULES, SO THAT’S HOW IT IS. IF COACHES DISAGREE, THEN MUST USE PROTEST FLAGS.
- ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL
- ROGER RAWLINGS – NEW PROPOSAL FOR ARTICLE K SECTION II C, ARTICLE K SECTION II D.TO READ – “A MEET IS AT LEAST A BEST OF THREE TEAM RACE WITH THREE OR MORE BOATS PER SCHOOL.”\
- SINCE ALL PROPOSAL MUST HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY NOVEMEBER1, THIS PROPOSAL WAS TABLED, BUT THE SETIMENT OF THE GROUP WAS THAT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA AND COULD BE PLACED IN THE NOR FOR THE NESSA TEAMS

4. **Old Business**

- a. Report from the ISSA Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL Sept 29, 2007. Roger Rawlings
ISSA DUES ARE BARELY BALANCING THE ISSA BUDGET; BY-LAWS ARE BEING REVAMPED
- b. Report from the 2007 Hinman – Rob Hurd
TABOR – AUTOMATIC BID; AWESOME EVENT; ENCOURAGE OTHER PROGRAMS TO SEND TEAMS TO THE HINMAN
- c. Nantucket HS situation – Rob Hurd & Nic Judson
SORI/CORI CHECKS ON VOLUNTEER COACHES NESSESSARY; HAVE TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION WITH ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

5. **NESSA Team racing Championship (Mark Trophy)**

a. Explanation of new computer ranking program (Plan K)- Carl Zimba

NESSA Coaches,

At the upcoming NESSA meeting, I will be proposing that we make a slight alteration in the computer ranking system that we have been using. This note is to provide an detailed explanation of the alteration.

Shortly after the NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy), Warren Silver, the coach at Nauset RHS, expressed a concern that the Mark Ranking was not doing a very good job of ranking teams at the lower end, even though it appeared to be doing a good job ranking teams in the upper half. More specifically, he was concerned about the relative rankings of Nauset, Dennis-Yarmouth, and Falmouth.

Here is a table with the computer ranking quantities for these three teams, as well as Nantucket:

	Mark	WP	SOS (Raw)	Top 20 WP	RPI
Falmouth	754	143	611 (578)	0	469
Nantucket	711	111	600 (575)	0	459
Nauset	667	667	0 (416)	0	479
Den-Yarm	645	444	200 (469)	0	463

WP = winning percentage

RPI = $0.25 \times \text{Overall Winning Percentage}$ plus $0.50 \times \text{Cumulative Winning Percentage of all Opponents of the Team}$ plus $0.25 \times \text{Cumulative Winning Percentage of all Opponents of the Opponents of a Team}$

Raw SOS = $0.33 \times \text{Cumulative Winning Percentage of all Opponents of the Team}$ plus $0.67 \times \text{Cumulative Winning Percentage of all Opponents of the Opponents of a Team}$

SOS = Raw SOS normalized so that the lowest SOS is 0 and the highest SOS is 1000.

Raw SOS Range 416 to 681 thus becomes 0 to 1000.

Top 20 WP = Winning Percentage against Top 20 teams as determined by RPI.

As you can see from the numbers, Falmouth and Nantucket were ranked higher than Nauset, despite having significantly lower winning percentages. The RPI would suggest that Nauset was slightly better than the other 3, but not by much, and that the other 3 schools are tightly clustered. The overall spread in the RPI is quite narrow, 20 points, suggesting that these 4 teams are difficult to distinguish from each other. The range for the RPI for all teams was 457 to 703, a spread of 246 points. Where a big difference appears is in the normalized SOS. The raw SOS of the 4 teams has a 162 point spread, compared to a 265 point spread for all the teams. As you can see, Nauset had the misfortune of having the SOS normalized to zero since Nauset had the lowest SOS of all the 64 teams for which an SOS was calculated. This caused Nauset to lose hundreds of points, relative to the other 3 teams, significantly reducing Nauset's overall Mark computer rating.

Moreover, the results within the Cape and Islands League suggest that Nauset should be

ranked higher than the other 3 schools:

School	Record	WP	Rank
Bishop Stang HS	8 - 1	889	1
Dartmouth HS	6 - 1	857	2
Barnstable HS	6 - 2	750	3
Sandwich HS	7 - 3	700	4
Nauset RHS	6 - 3	667	5
Marthas Vineyard RHS	4 - 3	571	6
Dennis-Yarmouth RHS	4 - 5	444	7
Falmouth HS	2 - 7	222	8
Nantucket HS	1 - 6	143	9
Chatham HS	0 - 8	0	10
Harwich HS	0 - 5	0	10

When I put together the computer ranking, adding in the SOS was a bit pesky. In the former system, the SOS was calculated from the winning percentage against teams that had qualified for the Baker in the past few years. As such, this quantity could range from 0 to 1000, so it made sense that the new SOS should have the same range. Moreover, the SOS had an equal weight to the overall winning percentage and winning percentage against other Mark Candidate teams in the old system. To preserve the equal weighting of the 3 factors, I chose to normalize the raw SOS so that the highest was 1000 and the lowest was 0. One effect of this is that teams with a low SOS do not fare well. By normalizing the SOS in this way, we have been using a "carrot and stick approach" - teams with strong schedules are rewarded with an inflated SOS and teams with weaker schedules are penalized with a deflated SOS. At the time, this made a lot of sense since we wanted to encourage and reward teams to develop stronger schedules.

As an aside, why do we need to normalize the SOS at all? To not normalize the SOS in some way results in the SOS not having much weight in the overall ranking. The range of the raw SOS is much smaller (~25%), in comparison to the range of the other 2 factors, winning percentage and Top 20 winning percentage. If we did not normalize the SOS, the relative influence of the SOS would drop by 75% and become much less significant factor. To keep the SOS at roughly the same level of influence in the overall ranking, it is necessary to normalize it in some manner.

Looking at the detailed schedule of Nauset, they had wins against Chatham HS (2x), Falmouth HS, Harwich HS (2x), and Nantucket HS, and losses against Bishop Stang HS, Dartmouth HS, and Sandwich HS. Of note, Dartmouth HS, Bishop Stang HS, and Sandwich HS were ranked 6th, 10th, 21st in our final ranking. This strongly suggests that the SOS for Nauset was not so weak after all and that the "stick" in normalizing the SOS may have been too strong an influence. Why penalize a team that actually did schedule some reasonably competitive teams?

In the interest of further improvement in our computer rating system, I have explored a few other methods to normalize the SOS. I think that the most promising method is to normalize the SOS so that the lowest raw SOS remains the same numerical value while

the highest raw SOS is scaled to 1000. In this approach, we are retaining the "carrot" while eliminating the "stick" - teams with stronger schedules will be rewarded while teams with weaker schedules will not suffer any additional penalty. This approach seems reasonable since so many teams have improved the quality of their schedule since we started using the computer ranking system. As teams have improved the quality of their schedules, we can no longer penalize them for not doing so. For teams, such as Nauset that have raced against some quality opponents, they should have a modest SOS, not a low or zero SOS. If any team were to have a truly weak schedule, they would still suffer the consequences since they would have a low SOS. This change also seems to provide a better ranking of the teams as indicated in an MS Excel file which you can download at http://www.MassBayLeague.org/docs/New_SOS.xls.

In this file, all the data is the same as that used to generate the final ranking this past spring (2007), as well as the 2006 and 2005 seasons. The data in the columns with yellow headings is exactly the same data as in the final Mark rankings. The data in the columns with the turquoise headings is derived using the "stick-less" normalization of the raw SOS. The Prelim Ratings and Rankings include all teams with meet scores reported, while the Final Ratings and Rankings include only those teams that applied for the Mark and competed in at least 7 TR meets. Included in the turquoise columns is the change in ranking between the "carrot and stick" and the "stick-less" SOS normalizations. For many teams, there is either no change or a movement of one place up or down in their ranking relative to the other teams. For the other teams with more considerable movement, the changes seem to make sense given the final human poll, the championship results, and the standings within the individual Leagues of NESSA.

For the most part, the proposed improvement in the normalized SOS has a modest effect on the rank order of the teams. This is true for all three years: 2007, 2006, and 2005. Most teams remain in the same ranking order, even though the numerical value of the normalized SOS has changed. A handful of teams change position by moving up one or down one. For the few teams that move by more than one position, it seems to make sense given their records, particularly head-to-head, and the human polling.

For the 4 teams that stimulated this revision, the new values for the SOS and Mark Rating are given below, in what would seem to be a more appropriate ranking order:

	Mark	WP	SOS (Raw)	Top 20 WP	RPI
Nauset	1083	667	416 (416)	0	479
Den-Yarm	1020	444	576 (469)	0	463
Falmouth	979	143	836 (578)	0	469
Nantucket	941	111	830 (575)	0	459

Also notable is that Greenwich Academy dropped 5 places in the final computer ranking, putting it in much better agreement with the human polling. Looking at the prelim team rankings, there are quite a few teams with large changes but those changes seem to be reasonable and appropriate (at least to me for the ones that I have personal knowledge).

Moreover, the numerical ratings seem to better reflect the relative strength in some cases.

At the very top of the rankings, the new SOS normalization puts Tabor and St Georges in a virtual tie (separated by 0.63 points) with Milton just 8 points above them. This close cluster seems to be in much better agreement with actual results than the 250 point spread using the previous SOS normalization.

While no computer rating system is perfect, I think that we can improve the Plan J scheme by altering the normalization of the SOS. I will be proposing that we adopt this change in the computer ranking at the annual meeting of NESSA in November. I am providing this update to you now so that you can review it prior to the meeting and we can keep the discussion at the meeting well-focused. If you have any questions about this proposed change in the computer ranking scheme prior to the meeting, please contact me directly.

Thanks.

Carl

- b. Vote on 2008 NESSA Team Racing Championship format
- If none of the proposals are approved, the format for the NESSA teams reverts back to the 8-school format used in 2005.

Proposal #1: NESSA adopt the “Knockout” format used for the NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy).

<i>NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy) – Knockout Format</i>
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Selection: Schools, that register for this championship before the deadline as indicated in the Notice of Race (NOR) and meet the criteria for consideration as outlined by the NESSA procedural rules, will be ranked first to last using the criteria listed below.

Format:

- A. The top 16 schools will be seeded into a bracket with the first seed sailing the 16th seed, the second seed sailing the 15th, etc. Each match will be the best of 5 races. The winner will move on; the losers are done.
- B. In the event that the format does not reach it’s completion (lack of wind, too much wind, darkness on the final day, etc), the highest seed(s) remaining when the championship is stopped will earn the NESSA berths to the ISSA Team Racing Nationals (Baker Trophy).

Computer rankings:

- 50% of a school’s overall ranking will be tabulated by a computer program, plan K, tabulating points based upon three criteria.
- One-third of the points are based upon winning percentage against NESSA schools
- One-third of the points are based upon winning percentage against “top 20” NESSA schools in 2007
- One-third of the points are based upon a “strength of schedule” formula that takes into account your opponent’s record and your opponent’s opponent’s record.

- 50% of a school's overall ranking will be tabulated by the combined rankings of the selection committee as appointed by the NESSA president. The selection committee will rank all the schools that register properly from first to last. If there is a tie in rankings, then the selection committee ranking will break the tie.

Proposal #2 - Split Bracket Round Robin

Split field into multiple groups by seed, sail round robin with each group, best teams advance to Championship Round

Situation A: 12 teams, split into two groups of 6, 15 races for each group, 30 overall (if a single race is used for each pairing)

Situation B: 16 teams, split into two groups of 8, 28 races for each group, 56 overall (if a single race is used for each pairing)

Situation C: 15 teams, split into three groups of 5, 10 races for each group, 30 overall (if a single race is used for each pairing)

Championship Round would depend upon which situation above was used and how many teams advance from each group.

Situation A and B: 2 teams advance from 2 groups, double round robin with 4 teams: 12 races

Situation C: 2 teams advance from 3 groups, double round robin with 6 teams: 30 races

Total # of Races: Situation A: 42

Situation B: 68

Situation C: 60

Proposal #3 - Modified Swiss League

Similar to Swiss League, except that teams are divided into smaller groups for each round and a round robin is sailed within each group.

Groups can be formed by random draw or by seedings.

Used for the US Team Racing National Championship (Hinman Trophy) and the Charles River Open

Round #1 might have 4 groups of 4 teams, sailing a round robin within each group. 3 groups of 5 teams could be used for a 15-team field. 3 groups of 4 teams could be used for a 12-team field.

Each round robin is 6 pairings, with 24 pairings for the Round #1

24 individual race are needed if each pairing is a single race. Each team has 3 races.

Round #2 is similar to Round #1. Teams are resorted by record into new groups by cumulative record.

48 total races at this point

Round #3 is similar to Round #1 and #2. Teams are resorted by record into new groups by cumulative record.

72 total races at this point

Round #4 can be similar to Round #1, #2, and #3. Teams are resorted by record into new groups by cumulative record.

96 total races at this point

Alternatively, Round #3 can drop the bottom half of teams, eliminating 12 races in that round and reducing the total number of races at that point to 60.

Round #4 would then involve 12 races, making the total number of races 72.

If Round #4 was just 4 teams, another 6 races would be eliminated in that round robin, reducing the total number of at that point to 66.

Proposal #4 – Wild Card Weekend

Reaffirm the format used in 2006 & 2007.

- c. Coaches as umpires in 2008.
- d. Group ticket purchases for the Baker will continue in 2008.

DISCUSSION

- ROY – MUST BE FULLY UMPIRED
- CARL – COMMON GROUND – ENLARGE THE POOL OF TEAMS COMPETING
- ROB – KEEP THE SEASON LONG; HAVE THE EVENT THAT FINAL WEEKEND BEFORE THE BAKER.
- COMMENT – TWO TIERED EVENT (#1-8; 9-16)
- ROGER – IS IT BETTER TO HAVE NO UMPIRES THEN PARTIALLY UMPIRED?
- CLEMMIE – SHOULD WE DRIVE AN HOUR TO SAIL THREE RACES?
- ANDREW – WILDCARD WEEKEND WAS EFFECTIVE IN THAT THE KIDS HAD THAT LAST OPPORTUNITY TO QUALIFY; EXCITING EVENT
- ROB – IS THE WILDCARD WEEKEND BETTER THAN A KNOCKOUT?
- WILDCARD BETTER BECAUSE EVERYONE SAILS THE FULL DAY AND GET TO RACE MULTIPLE TEAMS. WILDCARD FORMAT WAS FUN.
- WILDCARD GAVE US DRIVE; WENT TO THE HERRESHOFF PARTLY BECAUSE OF THAT DRIVE INSPIRED BY WILDCARD WEEKEND; WILDCARD ALLOWS TEAMS TO SAIL OTHER TEAMS THAT THEY WOULDN'T OTHERWISE SCHEDULE AGAINST
- ROGER – PROPOSAL 2 – ARE SEEDS DETERMINED THE SAME WAY AS THEY ARE CURRENTLY DONE WITH THE COMPUTER?
- CARL – YES
- ROGER – THE ADVANTAGE OF THE KNOCKOUT IS SIMILAR TO REGULAR SEASON RACING (BEST OF...); DISADVANTAGE OF THE KNOCKOUT IS THAT IT IS DIS-SIMILAR FROM THE NATIONAL ROUNDROBIN FORMAT
- ROY – KNOCKOUT FORMAT WILL GRIND TO A HALT WITH ANY PROTESTS
- ROB – COACHES FROM WILDCARD FORMAT WHO DO NOT ADVANCE MUST COME TO COACH AT THE MARK TROPHY (AS WAS ASKED LAST YEAR)
- ROGER / CARL – 1ST ROUND OF SWISS LEAGUE WOULD BE DETERMINED BY RANKINGS; WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO 90+ RACES IN A WEEKEND
- ROB – KNOCKOUT FORMAT HAS A CUT-OFF POINT BUILT IN FROM THE BEGINNING; PARTIAL EVENT'S RESULTS WOULD STILL COUNT.
- ROB – ROUND ROBIN WORKS ONLY IF IT IS COMPLETED
- ST GEORGE'S – DO SCORES CARRY OVER FROM PREVIOUS DAY'S ROUND ROBIN?
- CHRIS – AT THE BEGINNING OF DISCUSSION COACHES TALKED ABOUT WHAT THEY LIKED ABOUT PAST FORMAT; NO-ONE HAS DISCUSSED THAT LAST YEAR'S PROGRAM IS "BROKEN." HOW SHOULD WE VOTE?
- ROB – VOTE FOR ALL FOUR. LOOK AT EACH EQUALLY.

- WARREN HATHAWAY – LITTLE CRITICISM OF THE WILD-CARD SYSTEM IN ALL DISCUSSION
- VOTING FOR THE TOP 2: SWISS LEAGUE & WILDCARD WEEKEND WON AND CONSIDERED FURTHER.
- CLEMMIE – WILDCARD WEEKEND WAS FUN; BUT CRAZY TO
- VOTING – 18 VOTING MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF WILD CARD WEEKEND; THIS MAJORITY DETERMINES THAT THIS IS NOW THE DEFAULT FORMAT UNTIL FUTURE CHANGES ARE PROPOSED

ROB HURD – COACHES WHO ARE INVOLVED IN WILDCARD WEEKEND, BUT DO NOT QUALIFY FOR MARK, MUST COME TO UMPIRE THE MARK.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT PASSED

6. New Business

A. ROB HURD – NESSA WILL PURCHASE GROUP TICKETS TO THE BAKER, WHICH IS IN MINNESOTA.

B. SHOULD WE/NESSA CONSIDER A BRING YOUR OWN BOAT FLEET RACE REGATTAS (SAME SAILS PUT ON ALL BOATS) DURING THE WINTER. THIS WILL IMPROVE NESSA COMPETITIVENESS NATIONALLY. GOOD DISCUSSION ISSUE FOR THE E-MAIL LIST.

7. Nominating Committee Report – Roger Rawlings

NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – DOUG HEIL

VICE PRES – ANDREW NUGNES

SEC / TREAS – EVAN OLMSTEAD

- END OF PRES. BUSINESS FOR ROB HURD – COMMITTEE WILL BE FORMED FOR UPCOMING HOST EVENTS.
- CLOSING COMMENTS – THANK YOU TO ALL IN THE ROOM. I’VE ENJOYED MY OFFICE AS AN OFFICE FOR 10 YEARS. I LOOK FORWARD TO MOVING ON AS A PAST PRESIDENT, JOINING ROGER ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. FURTHER QUESTIONS. COMMENTS CONCERNS.

8. Adjourn

MOTION TO ADJURN- 1226