

MINUTES

IRA Board of Stewards

January 17, 2012
Teleconference Meeting
(12 noon – 1:08 p.m. EST)

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Mary DiStanislao, Pennsylvania	Steward	X	
Terry Gawlik, Wisconsin	Steward	X	
Pat Henry, Harvard	Steward	X	
Erin McDermott, Princeton	Steward	X	
John Morris, Washington	Steward	X	
Rose Shea, Holy Cross	Steward	X	
Wendy Taylor, UCSD	Steward	X	
Gary Caldwell	IRA Staff (ex officio)	X	
Clayton Chapman	IRA Staff (ex officio)		X
Greg Hughes, Princeton	President of IRA Coaches Association (ex officio)	X	
Tom Sullivan	IRA Staff (ex officio)		X

John Morris convened the meeting at 1 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes from the November 30, 2011 Teleconference Meeting: Gary Caldwell presented the minutes as distributed in advance of the meeting and asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions. There were none. A motion to approve the minutes was seconded. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).
2. 2011-12 Legislative Proposals: Morris and Caldwell provided a brief update regarding the status of the pending legislative proposals being considered in the 2011-12 legislative cycle. Caldwell reported that there have been no comments or messages posted on the IRA legislative message board, but speculated that there is a significant amount of discussion taking place among coaches. Caldwell noted that the submission deadline for any “amendments-to-amendments” is January 27, 2012, and that none have been received to date. However, Caldwell also noted that several possible amendments-to-amendments have been discussed, including two possible amendments to the Proposal 2012-4 related to the freshman eligibility. One such amendment may be submitted by the EARC lightweight coaches seeking to exempt lightweight men’s rowing from the application of Proposal 2012-4.

3. Application of Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 to Men's Rowing: After introduction of the topic by Erin McDermott, the Stewards engaged in a lengthy conversation about the applicability of Division I Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 in the sport of men's rowing. The conversation centered around three primary issues:
- a. With the adoption of the IRA Constitution and Bylaws in June 2011, do the delayed enrollment provisions and penalties in Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 apply to men's rowing student-athletes during the 2011-12 academic year? And more generally, if an NCAA rule is adopted that applies specifically to some but not all NCAA sports, is men's crew governed by that new rule – or does men's crew continue to be governed by the “majority rule” that existed before the new rule was adopted?
 - b. If Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 applies to men's crew during the 2011-12 academic year, should relief be provided during 2011-12 to student-athletes who were recruited and admitted with the understanding that their institutions were certifying their eligibility under the 21st Birthday rule that existed prior to the adoption of 2011-12?
 - c. Should the IRA membership consider legislation amending the IRA Bylaws to specifically exclude Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 from applying to men's crew, and should the IRA membership consider replacing that bylaw with an alternate eligibility rule (e.g., the 20th Birthday Rule similar to the rule that applies to men's tennis)?

After lengthy discussion and healthy debate, Wendy Taylor moved that the Board of Stewards:

- (i) Issue an interpretation clarifying that Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 applies to men's crew (unless and until the IRA membership affirmatively votes to exclude it) and that when a new NCAA rule is adopted that applies to specific sports, men's crew will continue to be governed the older “majority rule” (unless and until the IRA membership affirmatively votes to adopt the new rule); and
- (ii) Grant blanket relief from Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 to student-athletes enrolling before August 1, 2012, whose institutions recruited and certified them as eligible under the 21st Birthday Rule that applied prior to the adoption of Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1.

The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Note: The Stewards agreed to discuss in further detail during their next meeting whether emergency legislation should be introduced in the 2011-12 legislative cycle to exclude Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 from the IRA Bylaws and replace it with an alternate eligibility rule. As a general policy, the Stewards also agreed that every new piece of legislation adopted by the NCAA should be reviewed annually by the Stewards to determine which (if any) should be considered by the IRA membership for exclusion from the IRA Bylaws.'

4. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:08 p.m. EST.