

## MINUTES

### IRA Board of Stewards

January 26, 2012  
Teleconference Meeting  
(2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST)

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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 2:00 pm Eastern.

1. Approval of Minutes from the January 17, 2012 Teleconference Meeting: John Morris 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. Blanket Relief from 14.2.3.2.1: Morris reminded the Stewards about the decision made during the January 17 conference call to grant a blanket waiver of Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 to student-athletes enrolling before August 1, 2012, whose institutions recruited and certified them as eligible under the 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Rule that applied prior to the adoption of Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1. Morris recommended that if an institution seeks to avail itself of the relief provided in the waiver, the institution should be required to submit to the Stewards (through Gary) a letter that gives the name of the student-athlete receiving the relief, explains why the relief is necessary, and provides the student-athlete's date of birth, date of initial full-time collegiate enrollment and a detailed explanation of the student-athlete's eligibility status under the 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Rule (including a competition history after turning 21, if applicable). A motion to add this requirement was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

The Stewards also agreed that Gary Caldwell should notify the IRA membership of the blanket waiver and this new requirement via email. In addition to the circulating the actual meeting minutes, Caldwell should explain the waiver in the cover email. The Stewards also agreed that Caldwell's email should emphasize to the IRA membership that the blanket waiver does not apply after 8/1/12 and that the IRA membership will have to certify student-athletes for 2012-13 under Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 unless action is taken to exclude Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 from applying to men's rowing.

3. Official Interp – General Applicability of NCAA Rules to Men's Crew: Morris presented a draft of an official interpretation related to the application of NCAA rules to men's crew. The interpretation indicates that the NCAA rules and interpretations to be applied to men's rowing shall be those applicable to women's rowing (e.g., Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1). If a particular NCAA rule applies exclusively to a sport (or sports) other than women's rowing, that rule shall not apply to the sport of men's rowing. This interpretation applies to existing and newly adopted NCAA legislation. Wendy Taylor requested that draft be modified slightly to clarify that the NCAA rules to be followed are division-specific (i.e., Division III IRA member institutions follow the NCAA rules applicable to Division III women's rowing; Division II IRA member institutions follow the NCAA rules applicable to Division II women's rowing). A motion to approve the draft official interpretation as modified was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0). The Stewards agreed that Caldwell should circulate the official interpretation to the membership via email after being modified as discussed.
4. Official Interp – NLI dead periods: Morris presented a draft of an official interpretation related to recruiting dead periods surrounding the National Letter of Intent (NLI). There was general consensus among the Stewards that the NLI dead periods should not apply to men's crew since the NLI is not used in men's crew. However, Morris raised the question of how Bylaw 13.9.2 applies to men's crew (under Bylaw 13.9.2, which has not be excluded from applying to men's rowing, institutional athletics aid agreements cannot be signed prior to the early NLI signing period or during the intervening period between the early and late NLI signing periods). However, even for the IRA members that do issue athletics aid agreements, it is believed that Bylaw 13.9.2 is not followed since there is no NLI in men's crew. The Stewards agreed that issuance of the official interpretation related to dead periods should be delayed until the next teleconference. Caldwell and Morris agreed to do some research prior the next call to find out how Bylaw 13.9.2 is being applied (if at all) in the Pac-12 and at other institutions that issue athletics aid agreements. The group agreed that the official interpretation should be issued as soon as possible to resolve the dead period issue prior to the NLI signing period in April.
5. Review of 2011-2012 Legislative Proposals: Caldwell reported that he was contacted by the lightweight coaches seeking advice on the best way to propose an amendment-to-amendment to Proposal 2012-4. Since they wish to preserve the current freshman rule for lightweight rowing, they are seeking to exempt lightweight rowing from the application of Proposal 2012-4 (in the event that Proposal 2012-4 passes). The Stewards determined the lightweight coaches should write a new proposal that uses Proposal 2012-4 as a base but adds a new section to reinsert the current freshman rule language specifically for lightweight rowing. The Stewards

agreed that Caldwell could provide drafting assistance to the lightweight coaches, but indicated that an administrator at an IRA member institution would have to sponsor and submit the proposal.

6. Request from Lightweight Men's Coaches for Change in IRA Qualification Procedures: Caldwell reminded the group that the lightweight men's coaches have requested a change in the IRA qualification rules. The lightweight coaches voted in their meeting (8-1-1) that they would like the Stewards to allow eight EARC varsity lightweight crews to qualify for the IRA Championship (rather than the current limit of seven EARC crews no access to at-large bids). Caldwell provided some of the history behind the current limit of seven EARC schools. After discussion, the Stewards concluded they needed more information regarding the history of current rule . Therefore, the issue was tabled until the next conference call.
7. Report on Live Broadcast Plans: Caldwell and Greg Hughes provided an update on the live broadcast plans for the IRA Championships. John Bertucz, the lead on production team used at the 2011 regatta, is preparing a financial analysis and bid for services for the Men's Sprints, ECAC National Invitational and the IRA for this year. He is considering some new technology and broadcast aids that could enhance the broadcast and make it more cost-effective. It is hoped that Bertucz's bid will be received by the next Stewards teleconference so the Stewards can have an idea of the cost to produce three days of live feed for fans watching on-site and remotely. Bertucz will also provide a cost estimate for an on-site big-screen telecast.

Caldwell also reported that he has been in conversation with a group called Herenow.com. Discussions originally centered around providing finish line link services for the Women's Sprints and the Big East Championships, but Herenow.com has indicated they have the capability to provide GPS capabilities that could be used as an enhancement to the live webcast coverage of the IRA Championships (e.g., graphics depicting live boat positioning at 500 meter splits, stroke rates, etc.). The Stewards were favorably impressed with the mock video produced by Herenow.com that Caldwell circulated before the call. Caldwell will continue conversations with Herenow.com, and the Stewards will continue to discuss whether the enhancements provided by Herenow.com should be incorporated into the webcasting to be provided by Bertucz's group.

8. Marketing Committee Update: The Stewards noted that there is still no funding for the live broadcast of the IRA Championship or the on-site big-screen telecast. Tom Sullivan reported that he is scheduled to meet with the head of Hanover Insurance about a potential sponsorship. Although no sponsorship source has been identified for this year, Hughes reported that alumni may be willing to help finance the cost this year. Hughes noted that sponsorship seems promising for the 2013 regatta in Sacramento. The Stewards had a brief conversation about whether the regatta could be broadcast on a pay-per-view basis. There was some comfort with that idea, but only if an appropriate price could be agreed upon and if there were some way to ensure that the pay-per-view system would work. The Stewards indicated that any pay-per-view broadcast system should be tested on another event before the IRA Championships.

9. Heavyweight Selection Committee Report: Morris noted that the minutes of the heavyweight men's selection committee have been circulated. No changes to IRA heavyweight selection will be made for the 2012 regatta. The group will continue to meet and may have some recommendations to propose later in 2012 after the 2011-12 legislative process has concluded.
10. The meeting adjourned: 3:30 p.m. Eastern time.