

MPHSRA Meeting 12/09/04

Location: Donahue Rowing Center – Shrewsbury , MA

Meeting start: 7:35 pm End: 9:00 pm

In attendance: *Belmont High School* , Boston Latin, Brookline High School , Bromfield Crew, Cambridge Rindge and Latin Schools , G-Row, *Mystic Valley Rowing*, Northampton High School , Shrewsbury High School , Wayland-Weston, Worcester Public High Schools

Fall Regatta Wrap-Up

1.) Need actual officials as in US Rowing certified rather than leaving it as the responsibility of the coaches.

* Reba is looking into having US Rowing Officials at the championship.

2.) Concern over the new course as it was a little too difficult to steer for novice coxswains.

3.) Frustration with delays due to teams not on the starting line in time for their event. Suggestion was made that if a crew is not at the start 5 minutes prior to event then they should be penalized. (This will be addressed further later.)

4.) Suggestion to have all registration information online and online entry.

* Reba and Joel are researching this option. Need info on what programs are available (ex: PowerHouse, Boston Power Training), how they function and what the cost related to it is. This information will be presented at the annual meeting.

5.) Setting up a web page that is accessible to everyone where details on regattas can be found; dates, entries and due dates, results, etc. Also would like to have information on all of the programs in the association, and if available links to their own website.

*Brian will gather info and pricing for this option and we will discuss at annual meeting. All coaches need to bring a bio of their program to the meeting.

6) Motion to form a Spring Committee to organize the spring championship. All programs were in agreement with this. This committee will be made up of volunteer coaches.

Committee Members are: Brian (Bromfield), Dale (CRLS), Reba (Northampton) and Rich (Worcester).

Responsibilities:

- 1.) Set-up a system of rules for the regatta and also penalties for infractions. This needs to be consistent with other events.
- 2.) Responsible for notifying all participants of these regulations.
- 3.) Making sure that all regulations are enforced at the regatta.
- 4.) Committee will bring the list of regulations and penalties to the annual meeting for coaches to review and vote on.

Incorporation Discussion

Ultimately everything is ready to submit we just need to approve a name. There was a suggestion to change name from Massachusetts Public High School Rowing Association to Massachusetts Public Schools Rowing Association. There was discussion over this for both sides of the matter.

- There are programs currently involved in the association who encompass both high school and junior high school students therefore a broader name will incorporate them fully. In the future of the association there is the hope that the primary focus will increase from the high school level to possibly include other levels of rowing, ex: junior, college, etc.
- It was also presented that we have been working under the current name throughout the whole process of incorporation and within all of the previous regattas. To change the name now means we would need to make changes for all future events; this includes the engraved plaques and trophies that have been given out since the start of the organization 4 years ago. The suggestion was to incorporate under the existing name and then to amend it in the future if it was agreed upon.

After discussions, a motion was made to change the name from Massachusetts Public High School Rowing Association to Massachusetts Public High School . 8 programs were in favor, 2 programs did not care as to what the decision was and 1 program chose

to abstain from the vote. Therefore by majority vote the name will now be Massachusetts Public Schools Rowing Association. Eric will be responsible for having the name changed in the document prior to submitting for incorporation if possible.

Currently we are submitting without a detailed membership structure. The understanding is that if there are defined members in the organization we run into the issue that for a school sport to be considered a member they would actually need to be authorized by not only the team, but the school administration and potentially all the way back to the school board too. Not all of the programs in attendance were comfortable with this structure. It was suggested that the NEIRA incorporation and membership structure be reviewed. There has been difficulty in obtaining the NEIRA by-laws. Brookline is a member of NEIRA and Joel will try to obtain the bylaws and pass them on. There is also concern to make sure we do not emulate the MIAA. If we are subject to MIAA regulations that will affect all of our programs and how we currently compete with each other and at this point does not look positive for us. It was decided to form a by-law committee that can draw up/recommend the by-laws for the association in regards to membership and whatnot and then bring them to the annual meeting where they will be reviewed and voted on. The by-law committee consists of Joel, Angela and Eric.

Anticipated Spring Championship Date: 05/22/05

Rich is confirming this date and will update if there are any changes.

Annual Meeting: Saturday, January 29 - 11:00 am at the Cambridge Boat Club.

** It was discussed to have the date be February 5 but the CBC is already reserved, due to this the meeting has been moved back a week to the weekend before. **