

Compiled notes on 11/18/06 Meeting

(agenda for meeting from Angela Ruel; pre-meeting)

Fall States Wrap-Up

Concerns over safety and cancellation of events. Questions regarding reimbursement for canceled events. Communication through out the event. Various other points.

Spring States

Proposed dates and locations. What medals? Do we want to set up a long term plan in regards to this so that we keep the same date year to year? Rotate locations? There are pros's and con's. This may help to organize the event better and definitely would enable us obtain referees for the event well in advance.

What about hosting it like NY? Is that too big of an event?

Event categories

Currently states is similar to regionals minus the lightweight events. What if we change the structure and make it similar to NEIRA? No novices, just boat from top down?

Regionals

Without taking the spring state championship into account:

How many MPSRA teams would/ will go to regionals if it's held in NJ?

What if it's held in Worcester?

If the date does conflict and programs need to decide between the regionals and MA states championship, how many will go to regionals if it is held in NJ? What if it's held in Worcester?

If it is held in Worcester, how many programs would want to race back to back days?

Sculling

Encouraging the growth of the sculling and the small boats. Making these events equal with the others somehow. Will this enable and encourage schools to get new programs started?

Multi-school teams

Do we attempt to have programs separate into single schools for the states? This would not disclude programs that pull from multiple schools but would put it on the same basis as other programs that can only pull from one school. This potentially means that they will have to enter fours rather than eights so we would need to find a way to make it fair within the trophy's and team points structure.

Inclusion of public programs that include private students who do not have the opportunity to participate otherwise.

Long term goals and mission

Where do we want to be in 5 years? How about 10? Idea's of how to get there.
What about establishing a New England Championship? When do we think we could achieve that and how?

Structure of the group

How can we accomplish what we set out to achieve and how do we adapt to accommodate the larger programs?

(email to league from Angela Ruel; post-meeting)

The meeting on 11/18/06 went very well but due to some technical difficulties this email has been delayed. There are 2 major questions that have come out of the meeting that need to be decided prior to our annual meeting in January. Only 1 vote will be accepted per program and I am asking for the head coach to email me by 12/1/06 with the response for their team.

There were proposals made and much discussion over them. I am going to give a brief overview of the discussion and the pro's and con's. A formal email with the meeting minutes and specific detail will be sent out later once I have had a chance to review the 4 hours worth of tape.

Ballot Question 1: Would you be willing to move the MA Public Spring State Championship so that it does not conflict with Northeast Regionals and possibly enable that regatta to come to Massachusetts?

Ballot Question 2: If we are to move it, which date would you prefer – the Saturday of the weekend before or the Sunday of the weekend after?

We went around and each program present at the meeting had a chance to voice their thoughts regarding which weekend. Both positive and negative points were presented.

If we move the event to the Saturday before Northeast Regionals (this is the 2nd weekend of May) then we are cutting short the season for many of the developing teams and this could discourage some of the rowers involved. It also means that some of the programs would end up having 3 major championship weekends in a row which would be hard to train for.

If we move the event to the Sunday after the Northeast Regionals (this is the 4th weekend in May) then we are creating a situation where some programs will be competing on back to back days as NEIRA's are held on that Saturday. There was some concern voiced about the possibility of that cheapening or clouding the overall results for the states on Sunday. Also thoughts that the credibility of the MA Public Championship may lessen a

bit if bundled in with NEIRA's. There was some response back that this would be a coaches choice to attend both events and we are all responsible for encouraging sportsman-like conduct of our teams.

Thank you all for your time and continued support to encourage the growth of rowing.

(email to league from Gillian Curran)

Hello All,

In hopes of taking some of the pressure off Angela to transcribe 4 full hours (!) of tape, I thought it might be helpful to embellish her list a little for those who weren't at the meeting. So I'm sending along the notes I made as we went around the table (with each program offering its own set of pros & cons for the two dates.) I think/hope it includes every programs comments regarding championship date. Actually, it turned out to be more of a cons list with some pro-notes...

So here it is, hopefully impartial:

2ND WEEKEND (Saturday):

Cons -

- Not a culmination of effort (in order to have a full season, most teams would continue to compete afterwards); as such could be seen to detract from legitimacy of Mass States

 - NOTE When NE Regionals is in Mass, it will provide another opportunity for big racing the following weekend as well

 - NOTE 2: Progression of States -> Regionals -> Nationals makes some sense

- Not enough preparation time for novice athletes/newer teams who may not get on the water until April

- Gives larger advantage to teams with a winter training program in place

4TH WEEKEND (Sunday):

Cons -

- Conflicts with NEIRA's (~ 5 crews racing in both)

 - NOTE: the NEIRA schools themselves did not find this issue to be a deal-breaker for this date

- Some crews find Sunday racing to be more difficult logistically

- Could be busy on the water (Memorial Day weekend)

 - NOTE: Lowell reports the boaters are not a huge problem at that venue over MDW

-Too many excuses could de-legitimize the champion (i.e. NEIRA schools racing twice in one weekend)

NOTE: Consensus among NEIRA schools was that training for two championships on one weekend can make crews stronger than trying to peak for 3 weekends in a row.

->Resulting discussion on coaches consciously taking on the responsibility of keeping their own crews from making excuses for performance - consensus saw this as a teaching opportunity.