

MPSRA Annual Meeting
January 22nd, 2017

I. Roll Call (Laura Rothman, MPSRA Secretary)

Present:

Arlington-Belmont Crew

Aaron Manes

Buzz Congram

Boston Latin

Beata Coloyan

Jasmine Howard

Bromfield Acton-Boxborough

Holly Hatton

Brian DeDominici

Pam Erdos

Brookline

Katy Ruderman

Andy McLaughlin

CRLS

Emma Conover

Duxbury

Michaela Streitfield

Haverhill

Connor Hayden

Matt Laraba

Lowell

Erinn McLaughlin

Malden

Sarah Jones

Medford

Ed McCormick

Chris Dello Russo

Methuen

Travis Gardner

Milton

Milos Nikolic

Mystic Valley

Alicen Shaw

Row Boston

Jovia Manzie

Shrewsbury

Steve Moriarty

Somerville-Everett

Stu Whitney

Kate Buckley

Wayland-Weston

Mike Baker

Worcester

Rich Stavros

Other/board

Mark Grinberg (MPSRA Vice President)

Laura Rothman (MPSRA Secretary)

Pat Scott (MPSRA Board Member & Regatta Director)

Absent

Hingham

North Quincy/Quincy High

Pioneer Valley Rowing Club

II. Treasurer's update (Jasmine Howard, MPSRA Treasurer)

- Overview of Expenses distributed – see Appendix 1
- 2016 regattas operated at a loss because we upgraded some facets of each regatta:
 - New trophies purchased due to last year's rule change to have separate trophies for 8+s vs. 4+s team points
 - Both championships are now USRowing registered regattas and we now have USRowing referees
 - HereNow timing now used for both regattas
- Entry fees to be increased in 2017 so that we will no longer operate at a loss

III. New Applications to join the league (Mark Grinberg, MPSRA Vice President)

- Haverhill High School is joining the league (by board vote at January board meeting)
 - Provisional until 2019

IV. New Proposals to Change Existing By-Laws (Mark Grinberg, MPSRA Vice President)

1. Proposal regarding Creating an Outreach Coordinator Board Position (Holly Hatton, Bromfield Acton-Boxborough & Mark Grinberg, Vice President) – see Appendix 2
 - The vote was as follows:
 - 17 for
 - 0 against
 - 0 abstain
 - Passes as written
2. Proposal regarding Allowing Coxswains to Race with Masters Programs (Julie Nocka, Brian DeDominici & Holly Hatton, Bromfield Acton-Boxborough) – see Appendix 3
 - Amended proposal to say that it's specifically allowing coxswains to compete for *non-junior* programs.
 - The vote was as follows:
 - 17 for
 - 0 against
 - 0 abstain
 - Passes as amended
3. Proposal regarding Posting Meeting Minutes Online (Travis Gardner, Methuen) – see Appendix 4
 - Amended proposal to say that it is effective as of today, January 22nd, 2017.
 - The vote was as follows:
 - 17 for
 - 0 against
 - 0 abstain
 - Passes as amended
4. Proposal regarding Eligibility and Middle School Events (Travis Gardner, Methuen) – see Appendix 5
 - The vote was as follows:
 - 9 for
 - 4 against
 - 3 abstain
 - A motion was made to re-vote, and that motion was accepted.
 - The re-vote was as follows:
 - 7 for
 - 4 against

- 6 abstain
 - Does not pass
- 5. Appendix 5 was broken into multiple proposals and then re-submitted for consideration (Travis Gardner, Methuen)
 - Proposal regarding Non-Affiliated MPSRA Sculling Programs – see Appendix 6
 - The vote was as follows:
 - 17 for
 - 0 against
 - 0 abstain
 - Passes as amended
 - Proposal regarding the Middle School 8+ – see Appendix 7
 - The vote was as follows:
 - 14 for
 - 0 against
 - 3 abstain
 - Passes as amended
 - Proposal regarding 6th Grade Athletes – see Appendix 8
 - The vote was as follows:
 - 9 for
 - 5 against
 - 3 abstain
 - Passes as amended
- 6. A new proposal regarding Athlete Gender was submitted for consideration (Ed McCormick, Medford) – see Appendix 9
 - The vote was as follows:
 - 17 for
 - 0 against
 - 0 abstain
 - Passes as submitted

V. Annual Board Member Elections (Laura Rothman, MPSRA Secretary)

- Mark Grinberg’s and Pat Scott’s terms are complete.
- Nick Wright resigned his position on the board.
- There are currently 8 people on the board. We can add up to 3. We must have 5-11 people on the board.
- The following individuals were nominated for seats on the board:
 - Beata Coloyan (Boston Latin)
 - Pat Scott
 - Mark Grinberg
- A motion was made to add all 3 individuals to the board.
- The vote was as follows:
 - 17 for
 - 0 against
 - 0 abstain
- All 3 individuals were added as board members.

VI. Seeding Committee update (Pat Scott, Regatta Director)

- Coaches are needed to serve on the seeding committee for the Spring regatta. Please consider whether you or a coach on your team would like to participate.
- Seeding requirements:
 - 1st varsity 8+s and 4+s: 3 separate races vs. 3 different teams
 - All other boats: 2 separate races vs. 2 different teams
 - Please do not include non-MPSRA teams
 - The transitive property does not apply (you must race other MPSRA teams directly; you can't race a NEIRA team and compare your results to another team that raced that same NEIRA team).
 - A form for submitting results will be created on the web site.
 - If a certain boat does not have the required seeding results, that boat will still be permitted to race, but it will be placed at the bottom of the seeding order.

VII. Miscellaneous business (All)

- If you have updated contact info for any coaches on your team, please send it to Laura Rothman.
- If you have a picture of your team that you would like to add to the MPSRA web site, please send it to Mark Grinberg.
- Lowell asked whether people would like a Lowell Novice Challenge this Spring – most people said yes – this will be Saturday May 6th and will be run by LHS (not LRRRA).
- Lowell is looking for coaches – please send any leads to Erinn.
- The following dates for upcoming races were shared with all coaches:
 - February 5th: Bromfield Ergzilla
 - May 20th: Bromfield small boat/novice/middle school regatta
 - May 21st: Moose on the Malden (Tufts race course)
- Trophies are needed for 1st novice 8+s for both fall and spring – there is an opportunity to sponsor a trophy if you have someone you'd like to recognize for their contributions to the rowing community.

MPSRA 2016-2017 Finances

Overview of Expenses

Fixed Expenses

Monthly Service Fee Bank
Referee Salaries
Regatta Director Salaries

Variable Expenses

HereNow System
Medals
Bibs/Bow #
Accountant Fees
US Rowing Fees (regatta, registration)
Miscellaneous (mailbox, stamps, envelopes etc.)
Regatta (police, EMS, trash, LRRRA)

Revenue Sources

Regatta Entry Fees
Parking Fees*
Merchandise Fees*

* split with host site (75/25)

Regatta Overviews

2016 Fall Regatta

Expenses^	\$20,325.88
Revenue	\$10,396.56

2016 Spring Regatta

Expenses	\$25,565.72
Revenue	\$20,484

Current Balance (Approx.)

redacted

Note:

^2016 Fall waiting on final bills from LRRRA

Massachusetts Public School Rowing Association

PROPOSALS TO CHANGE BY-LAWS



Appendix 2: Creating an Outreach Coordinator Board Position

Holly Hatton (Bromfield Acton-Boxborough) & Mark Grinberg (Vice President)

Reasoning: The board would like to have an outreach coordinator to get in touch with future and current programs to figure out how to best support all participant programs.

Current By-Law Reads: Numbers and Qualifications. The Officers of the corporation shall be a President, Clerk, Treasurer, Secretary and such other Officers, if any, as the Directors may determine. An Officer may but need not be a Director. The Clerk shall be a resident of Massachusetts unless the corporation has a resident agent duly appointed for the purpose of service of process. A person may hold more than one office at the same time. (5.1)

Shall be changed to: Numbers and Qualifications. The Officers of the corporation shall be a President, Clerk, Treasurer, Secretary, **and Outreach Coordinator** and such other Officers, if any, as the Directors may determine. **The Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for connecting and communicating with participant and prospective programs to provide support and information regarding regulations within the MPSRA.** An Officer may but need not be a Director. The Clerk shall be a resident of Massachusetts unless the corporation has a resident agent duly appointed for the purpose of service of process. A person may hold more than one office at the same time. (5.1)

Appendix 3: Allowing Coxswains to Race with Masters Programs

Julie Nocka, Brian DeDominici & Holly Hatton (Bromfield Acton-Boxborough)

Reasoning: Coxswains do not have a conflict of interest with their MPSRA team if the opportunity to cox masters crews arises. Adding the words “high school or junior” to the wording of by law 9.2.1.c makes this distinction. Coxswains should be allowed to provide their services to masters crews, similar to swimmers who lifeguard and coach or teach lessons during their high school seasons.

Current By-Law Reads: Compete only for his/her designated MPSRA Participant Program team during the season of the Championship race and for no other teams or clubs whether affiliated or unaffiliated with said MPSRA team. (9.2.1.c)

Shall be changed to: Compete only for his/her designated MPSRA Participant Program team during the season of the Championship race and for no other **high school or junior** teams or clubs whether affiliated or unaffiliated with said MPSRA team. Coxswains may compete for *non-junior* programs during this time. (9.2.1.c)

Appendix 4: Posting Meeting Minutes Online

Travis Gardner (Methuen)

Reasoning: This will create transparency by which the Participant Programs may follow and understand the decisions and decision making processes of the Directors. If approved, revisions should be effective immediately with a two-week allowance period for the addition of records dating back to the election of the current Clerk, and a two-month period for the addition of all remaining historical records.

Current By-Law Reads: The Clerk shall record and maintain records of all proceedings of the Directors in a book or series of books kept for that purpose, which book or books shall be kept within the Commonwealth at the principal office of the corporation or at the office of its clerk or of its resident agent and shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of any director. Such shall also contain records of all meetings of incorporators and the original, or attested copies, of the Articles of Organization and By-laws and names of all Directors and the address of each. If the Clerk is absent from any meeting of Directors, a temporary clerk chosen at the meeting shall exercise the duties of the Clerk at the meeting. (5.6)

Shall be changed to: The Clerk shall **maintain an electronic record** of all proceedings of the Directors and of the Annual Meeting **in an online archive kept for that purpose, which shall be made accessible to the public through the corporation's web site.** Such shall also contain records of all meetings of incorporators and the original, or attested copies, of the Articles of Organization and By-laws and names of all Directors and the email address of each. If the Clerk is absent from any meeting of Directors, a temporary clerk chosen at the meeting shall exercise the duties of the Clerk at the meeting. **Records described herein will be made available within one week of their recording.** This shall take effect as of January 22, 2017. (5.6)

Appendix 5: Regarding Eligibility and Middle School Events

Travis Gardner (Methuen)

Reasoning: The proposed changes intend to provide a more functional and practical inclusion of athletes in grades 6-8 in the MPSRA Championship events. Noted changes include: Athletes from middle schools that feed directly into a particular public high school may be included on that team's roster. Revision of "Novice" definition to align with that of USRowing. Creation of "Freshman" definition to include athletes in grades 9 and below. Removal of the middle school 8+ from the championship(s).

Pursuant to the above, I suggest that the current "Novice" events be re-designated as "Freshman/Novice" events, allowing participation of athletes that fit either definition.

Also, within Article 9 but unrelated to middle school inclusion is 9.2.3. Proposed change would allow athletes not affiliated with an established MPSRA program to scull in the championship under the name of their school rather than as "unaffiliated."

Current By-Law Reads:

9.2. Eligibility of Participant Athletes.

9.2.1. Every athlete participating in any Championship event, as defined in Section 9.5, and organized by MPSRA:

- a. Shall be eligible under the criteria set by her/his respective public high school.
 - i. Public high school shall hereinafter be defined as a senior public high school representing grades nine (9) through twelve (12), or
 - ii. Whereas a member high school includes middle school grades seven (7) and eight (8), and whereas the student athletes are under the direct "jurisdiction" and "supervision" of the high school principal, a middle school student is eligible to represent a public high school.
 1. Jurisdiction shall be defined as the principal must have the authority to discipline or suspend that student from class.
 2. Supervision shall be defined as having control and knowledge of the student's daily attendance and achievement.
- b. Be a "Junior" as defined by "a competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or who is and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school (grades 9-12) as a full-time student seeking a diploma. A competitor thus ceases to be a Junior after December 31 of the year of his or her 18th birthday, or of the year in which he or she completes the 12th grade of secondary school, having been a full time student, whichever is later."
- c. Compete only for his/her designated MPSRA Participant Program team during the season of the Championship race and for no other teams or clubs whether affiliated or unaffiliated with said MPSRA team.

9.2.2. Novice rowers and coxswains are athletes up through freshmen year (regardless of experience), or in their first year of rowing. Coxswains may switch to rowers and race for one year as a novice rower and vice-versa. Novice status ends after one calendar year or a consecutive period of one Fall and one Spring season of high school rowing (either Fall-Spring or Spring-Fall).

9.2.3. Sculling events may be entered by crews not affiliated with a Participant Program, subject to the following conditions:

- a. All participants within the entry meet the stipulations of 9.2.1.a and 9.2.1.b.
- b. All participants are members of the same school system.
- c. No current MPSRA team serves said school system during the season in question.
- d. All participant crews abide by Participant Program rules stated in 9.3 including submission of signed roster and any organizational memberships required by the regatta's insurance. Such membership requirements will be provided by the deadlines set by the Regatta Director.
- e. Any sculler/sculling boat not affiliated with an MPSRA school must enter as unaffiliated, also listing their school. Such boat will be eligible for medals, but be ineligible for team points.

9.2.4. The Fall and Spring regattas will include two separate events for the purpose of allowing middle school athletes the chance to compete at the Fall and Spring Championships. The middle school eight (8+) and middle school coxed quad (4x+) categories will be available to athletes for as long as they remain a student in a middle school (grades 6-8).

Shall be changed to:

9.2. Eligibility of Participant Athletes.

9.2.1. Every athlete participating in any Championship event, as defined in Section 9.5, and organized by MPSRA:

- a. Shall be eligible under the criteria set by her/his respective public high school.
 - i. Public high school shall hereinafter be defined as a senior public high school representing grades nine (9) through twelve (12), or
 - ii. Whereas a member high school includes middle school grades seven (7) and eight (8), and whereas the student athletes are under the direct "jurisdiction" and "supervision" of the high school principal, a middle school student is eligible to represent a public high school.
 - 1. Jurisdiction shall be defined as the principal must have the authority to discipline or suspend that student from class.
 - 2. Supervision shall be defined as having control and knowledge of the student's daily attendance and achievement.
 - iii. **Public middle school shall hereinafter be defined as a public middle or grammar school representing any or all of grades (6) through (8), and which serves the same population as the corresponding public high school**
- b. Be a "Junior" as defined by "a competitor who in the current calendar year does not attain the age of 19, or who is and has been continuously enrolled in secondary school (grades 9-12) as a full-time student seeking a diploma. A competitor thus ceases to be a Junior after December 31 of the year of his or her 18th birthday, or of the year in which he or she completes the 12th grade of secondary school, having been a full time student, whichever is later."
- c. Compete only for his/her designated MPSRA Participant Program team during the season of the Championship race and for no other teams or clubs whether affiliated or unaffiliated with said MPSRA team.

9.2.2. **"Novice" shall mean a Rower or Coxswain whose initial competition within that same discipline has been in the previous 12 months of the date of the Regatta. "Freshman" shall mean a Rower or Coxswain whose initial enrollment in the 9th grade falls within the current or a subsequent calendar year.**

9.2.3. Sculling events may be entered by crews not affiliated with a Participant Program, subject to the following conditions:

- a. All participants within the entry meet the stipulations of 9.2.1.a and 9.2.1.b.
- b. All participants are members of the same school system.
- c. No current MPSRA team serves said school system during the season in question.
- d. All participant crews abide by Participant Program rules stated in 9.3 including submission of signed roster and any organizational memberships required by the regatta's insurance. Such membership requirements will be provided by the deadlines set by the Regatta Director.
- e. **Any sculler/sculling boat not affiliated with an MPSRA school must enter under the name of their school.** Such boat will be eligible for medals, but be ineligible for team points.

9.2.4. The Fall and Spring regattas will include two separate events for the purpose of allowing middle school athletes the chance to compete at the Fall and Spring Championships. **The boys and girls middle school coxed quad (4x+) categories will be available to athletes for as long as they remain a student in a middle school (grades 6-8).**

Appendix 6: Regarding Non-Affiliated MPSRA Sculling Programs

Travis Gardner (Methuen)

Reasoning: Proposed change would allow athletes not affiliated with an established MPSRA program to scull in the championship under the name of their school rather than as “unaffiliated.”

Current By-Law Reads:

9.2.3. Sculling events may be entered by crews not affiliated with a Participant Program, subject to the following conditions:

- a. All participants within the entry meet the stipulations of 9.2.1.a and 9.2.1.b.
- b. All participants are members of the same school system.
- c. No current MPSRA team serves said school system during the season in question.
- d. All participant crews abide by Participant Program rules stated in 9.3 including submission of signed roster and any organizational memberships required by the regatta’s insurance. Such membership requirements will be provided by the deadlines set by the Regatta Director.
- e. Any sculler/sculling boat not affiliated with an MPSRA school must enter as unaffiliated, also listing their school. Such boats will be eligible for medals, but be ineligible for team points.

Shall be changed to:

9.2.3. Sculling events may be entered by crews not affiliated with a Participant Program, subject to the following conditions:

- a. All participants within the entry meet the stipulations of 9.2.1.a and 9.2.1.b.
- b. All participants are members of the same school system.
- c. No current MPSRA team serves said school system during the season in question.
- d. All participant crews abide by Participant Program rules stated in 9.3 including submission of signed roster and any organizational memberships required by the regatta’s insurance. Such membership requirements will be provided by the deadlines set by the Regatta Director.
- e. **Any sculler/sculling boat not affiliated with an MPSRA school must enter under the name of their school.** Such boats will be eligible for medals, but be ineligible for team points.

Appendix 7: Regarding the Middle School 8+

Travis Gardner (Methuen)

Reasoning: The proposed change intends to remove the middle school 8+ from the championship(s).

Current By-Law Reads:

9.2.4. The Fall and Spring regattas will include two separate events for the purpose of allowing middle school athletes the chance to compete at the Fall and Spring Championships. The middle school eight (8+) and middle school coxed quad (4x+) categories will be available to athletes for as long as they remain a student in a middle school (grades 6-8).

Shall be changed to:

9.2.4. The Fall and Spring regattas will include two separate events for the purpose of allowing middle school athletes the chance to compete at the Fall and Spring Championships. **The boys and girls middle school coxed quad (4x+) categories will be available to athletes for as long as they remain a student in a middle school (grades 6-8).**

Appendix 8: Regarding 6th Grade Athletes

Travis Gardner (Methuen)

Reasoning: The proposed changes intend to remove 6th grade athletes from the Novice category so that they will only be permitted to race in the middle school 4x+ event (and will not be entered in any sweep events).

Current By-Law Reads:

9.2.2. Novice rowers and coxswains are athletes up through freshmen year (regardless of experience), or in their first year of rowing. Coxswains may switch to rowers and race for one year as a novice rower and vice-versa. Novice status ends after one calendar year or a consecutive period of one Fall and one Spring season of high school rowing (either Fall-Spring or Spring-Fall).

Shall be changed to:

9.2.2. Novice rowers and coxswains are athletes **from 7th grade** up through freshmen year (regardless of experience), or in their first year of rowing. Coxswains may switch to rowers and race for one year as a novice rower and vice-versa. Novice status ends after one calendar year or a consecutive period of one Fall and one Spring season of high school rowing (either Fall-Spring or Spring-Fall).

Appendix 9: Regarding Athlete Gender

Ed McCormick (Medford)

Reasoning: As with other sports, all athletes will be permitted to race as their chosen gender.

New By-Law will read:

9.2.1.d. Athletes are permitted to race as their chosen gender.