State of Women’s Collegiate Sailing

Talking points for women’s collegiate sailing:

1. Can we explore the idea of giving women sailors the opportunity to earn a scholarship and receive aid based on athletic ability?
2. Petition the NCAA to add Women’s sailing as an emerging NCAA sport. The NCAA Emerging Sports for Women program was created in 1994 to provide a fast track for eligible women’s sports to become full-fledged NCAA championship events. An emerging sport has a decade to grow to 40 varsity programs in order to reach championship status. Since the inception of the emerging sport program, five women’s sports have reached NCAA championship status: ice hockey, water polo, bowling and beach volleyball. Three others- triathlon, rugby and equestrian remain in the process. Part of this process is having structure to create a championship. We clearly have this now. We have conferences, conference championships and have a National Championship. At this point the number of ICSA varsity women’s teams is very close to 40.
3. Since there presently is this structure, can women’s sailing become an NCAA Championship sport right away?
4. This would allow sailors to be counted both in an athletic department’s Title 9 participation numbers. It would assist each institution with their need to balance scholarship opportunities and finances within their NCAA gender equity plan.
5. Scholarship Allocations for various sports Tennis (8), Bowling (5), Sand Volleyball (6), Golf (6) Women’s Sailing (6) ???
6. How will this be governed? Each school already has an NCAA compliance staff so it would be an easy transition.

The policy/rules prohibiting aid based on sailing ability were set up in the 1970s to create equality. For sailing programs at public schools the ICSA rules that prohibit aid based on sailing ability are clearly now not helping to create a level playing field in collegiate sailing.

**Sailing Athletes work as hard as other aspiring athletes at becoming the best at their sport. Why are we as an organization, the ICSA, denying these sailing athletes the opportunity in a sport we all love, the opportunity that an aspiring bowler or golfer might have.**