

## MAISA Conference Report to the ICSA Semi-Annual Meeting

We are happy to report that MAISA is doing well. We are grateful for Old Dominion University for running a fantastic spring nationals in May.

We are financially healthy and continue to grow.

American University was upgraded from Associate to Provisional membership and Rutgers was upgraded from Provisional to Regular membership in MAISA.

MAISA is continually striving to foster the best competition possible while attempting to minimize travel distances to help reduce travel costs and difficulties. To that end we completely revamped our fall schedule with the goal of creating new and better competition for all levels of MAISA teams. Our conference implemented a new qualifying system for fall coed championship. The new system divides MAISA into three geographic regions and provides 12 prequalified spots at the fall conference championship for our conference's top teams. Each region had four series regattas from which the top team in each region qualified for the conference championship. The final three spots at the championship were determined at the Luce regatta. The goal of the system was to provide strong competition for our conference's lower level teams and to provide a clear and direct path to the championships for developing teams with the skill level to compete at that level while enabling our top teams to compete in the events they want to without the hindrance of going through a qualifying series with severe skill mismatches. The system was not perfect, and changes were made for this coming year and modifications will continue to be made as different ideas emerge and the needs of the conference change. For next season, MAISA will be broken into four regions, and the series events will be used to qualify for the Luce regatta. The Luce regatta will be used to determine all non prequalified berths at the War Memorial. This change was made to compensate for different levels of competition from one region to another that could enable a team to qualify for the conference championship ahead of a more skilled team. At the top level of competition MAISA is experimenting with new and different regatta formats such as combining coed and women's regattas at the same time and venue. We are also experimenting with later start times while still maximizing the time spent racing.

A push has been made to increase involvement from club team leaders, so their thoughts can be incorporated into conference decisions. Communication continues to be an issue as many club team leaders are not on conference email lists and do not receive vital information. To help combat this information gap, club teams are being encouraged to ensure as new leaders rise that they are brought up to speed and made aware of all relevant information prior to the departure of prior student leaders. Additionally, MAISA has increased the number of undergraduate representatives to increase the number of individuals that student leaders can reach out to with

questions and concerns which provides the additional benefit of increasing student involvement in the leadership of the conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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