

Undergraduate President - Abe Dearden - UCLA

The PCCSC is functioning smoothly as we enter our busy season. We are happy to see some of our club teams traveling out of conference, as UCLA follows in Cal's footsteps to go to USF Women's this winter, as well as seeing some more representation both in, and by, the Northwest. Our goal remains to support our top teams as they compete in the east, as well as act as a resource to smaller teams in our rapidly advancing conference.

PCCSC Commissioner - Blaine Pedlow, Cal '02

2018 was a strong year for the PCCSC, with several highlights for our conference on the racecourse and in organization.

Highlights Included:

- Cal Poly's first qualification for a National Championship, the culmination of four years of hard work by their team leadership!
- Continued strong performance non-coached (or very part-time coached) club teams in Berkeley, UCLA, Cal Poly and UCSD
- Continued strong performance by our coached and/or varsity teams
 - Stanford, which qualified for all ICSA nationals this spring and fall;
 - UCSB, qualifying for each of the spring nationals in 2018, which continues their strong performance as a model for the coached club team;
 - University of Hawai'i, USC and CMA, which continue to be strong in many disciplines and will push towards multiple nationals this spring/fall.
- A broad group of student leaders who are actively participating in the management of our conference and our teams. This is the pride of our conference and still remains

As with many ICSA conferences, we are still facing a number of larger challenges that affect both our club teams and coached/varsity programs:

Challenges includes:

- Continued difficulty to build continuity with our student-led teams.
While we have many exceptional student leaders, our teams are in some ways at the mercy of the next generation of college sailors. Will they be keen? Will they be willing to do the yeoman's work of administering a team? Will HS or Junior Sailing have prepared them for doing this one their own?
- Relevance of our varsity and coached programs to top-tier high school and junior sailors.
Winning recruiting battles is difficult for all teams no matter of conference. The challenge that our conference (and others) face is the perception that the quality of competition will not be adequate for their development or for their ability to showcase their skills nationally. This can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

- Institutional barriers to forming and maintaining teams.
Average annual school support to most of our club teams remains on average less than \$2000/year. California boasts a number of the finest public universities in the world, but public schools are inherently less likely to support club sports than their private counterparts. Funding to jumpstart a team (or provide just a consistent foundation) remains elusive. A more recent challenge includes questions about liability insurance and the ability to use campus vehicles. So, while some high-level club teams have the ability to address these challenges, it's not hard to imagine these headwinds being a significant barrier for newer or less established teams.

So, what are we doing about it?

- Improved outreach with PCISA and regional racing orgs to make Pacific Coast junior sailors aware of the ability to quickly create a club team, join a team that may be lower profile or be an immediate player on a PCCSC team.
- Exploring using undergraduate leadership to help mentor other teams.
- Creating a 'best practices' handbook (with a nod to NEISA here) that may help alleviate some university's liability concerns and help teams be able to share common language and experiences.