Championship/Competition Committee Report

Over the course of the last three months, the ICSA Championship/Competition Committee has worked on the following issues: replacing the Berth Formula for each of the ICSA National Championships; creating Descriptions of ICSA Member Categories; renaming the Showcase Series; and shortening the Spring Nationals hosting window.

Here is our report

At the ICSA Winter meeting, the Board directed the competition committee to develop a replacement for the nationals championship berth formula. The guidance we were given was to develop new systems of qualification based on competitive strength not participation and maintaining at least one berth per conference for each event.

The timeline we have developed for creation, presentation and adoption of new systems is as follows
1. Spring 2020 ICSA Meeting - progress report from committee
2. Winter 2021 ICSA Meeting - presentation of complete new qualification systems. Qualification systems will be released to Conferences no later than November 15, 2020.
3. Spring 2021 ICSA Meeting - adoption of new systems to be used starting with Fall 2021 ICSA National Championships

1.Qualification Systems to replace Berth Formula
Below is what we feel are the best systems to replace the berth formula for each ICSA National Championship

Conference Championship
In every one of our systems of qualification the conference champion receives a berth to the national championship.

At-Large Component
In each of the qualification systems there is an at large selection component. The at large selection component ranges from 72% of the total berths being at large, to a very small percentage of the berths being at large. We have investigated how other sports perform at large selection and have adopted many of those principles into our at large selection procedure. **The committee feels it's vitally important to have strict _criteria_ for a selection committee to use for each discipline as well as a specific _procedure_ for the selection committee to follow for selection of at-large teams.**

The at-large selection for each discipline has two components. The first is the *criteria* used to select the at large teams for each ICSA National Championship. The second is the *procedure* that the selection committee will use to help determine who the at-large teams are.

The criteria for selection will be slightly different for each discipline and the committee is working on specific criteria to be used for each discipline. The *procedure* for at-large selection will be the same for each discipline.   At this time we have not yet agreed on the specific criteria nor whether there should be a hierarchy of criteria i.e should one criteria have more weight than another.

The at large selection committee procedure is shown in **attachment a**. This is the procedure that will be used to select at-large teams for each ICSA National Championship, regardless of how many berths are determined through at large selection.

Coed and Women's Fleet Racing
The Committee is focusing on two possible systems for coed and women's fleet race nationals.
  A.   Berths from sail-in regattas, plus conference championships plus at large (**attachment b**).
  B.   Berths from conference championships plus at large (**attachment c**)

At-large Selection Criteria - Among the criteria we are discussing for the Coed and Women's Fleet Race Championships are results from ICSA Cross Regional and Regional Regattas as well as Conference Championships from the current year only (fall and spring). We are still discussing whether to prioritize Cross Regional Competition and how that would work with the selection procedure. We are also discussing whether to provide the selection committee with data such as an RPI or strength of schedule.

We considered but chose to not move forward with two other qualification systems that would give nationals berths to conferences. One system would have had different qualifying regattas throughout the country where teams could earn berths for their conference while another used results from the previous years national championships to determine the number of berths a conference should get the next year.

The Committee has yet to work on how the teams are seeded for the East and West semifinals. The seeding is needed to make each regatta equal in competitiveness and to help select a field of 18 in case the semifinals aren't completed.

Team Racing
The Committee is focusing on two possible qualification systems for the coed and women's team race championships.
A. Berths from sail in regattas, plus conference champions plus at-large selections [similar to FR, not built out yet]
B. One Berth for each Conference Champion plus at-large selections **(attachment D)**

At-large Selection Criteria - Among the criteria we are discussing for the Coed and Women's Team Race Championships are results from ICSA Cross Regional and Regional Team Race Regattas from the current season only (fall and spring). We are still discussing whether to prioritize Cross Regional events and whether to use events that just have one conference attending- i.e the MAISA Team Race League. We are also discussing whether to provide the selection committee with data such as RPI or win/loss records between teams.

As with Coed and Women's Fleet Racing we considered but chose not to move forward with two other qualification systems that would give nationals berths to *conferences*. One system would have had different qualifying regattas throughout the country where teams could earn berths for their conference while another used results from the previous years national championships to determine the number of berths a conference would get the next year.

Match Race
The Committee is focusing on one qualification system for ICSA Match Racing National Championship
A.   One Berth from each conference champion plus at-large selections

At large stipulation - The committee supports a stipulation to at-large selection for Match Racing. The stipulation is that if the selection committee chooses to select a team for at-large they must also select every team that finishes above them at their conference championship.

At-large Selection Criteria - Among the criteria we are discussing are results from Conference Championships and ICSA Match Race Regattas. We also believe that ICSA doublehanded regatta results and previous season of ICSA Match Race competition should be used as well. We are still discussing if there should be a hierarchy of selection criteria.

The committee is divided on whether to use non ICSA match race results to help with selection. While it will give us a better idea of competitive ability we also feel it may give advantages to those who live close to match race centers and have access to match race events. We are also working on how to use records of match race crews as part of the at-large selection process

Women's and Men's Singlehanded Championship
The Committee is focusing on one qualification system for ICSA Women's and Men's Singlehanded National Championship
    A. One berth for each conference champion plus at-large selections.

At large stipulation - The committee supports a stipulation to at-large selection for Women's and Men's Singlehanded. The stipulation is that if the selection committee chooses to select an individual for an at-large berth they must also select every individual that finishes above them at their conference championship.

At-large Selection Criteria - Among the criteria we are discussing we are discussing are results from Conference Championships, ICSA singlehanded regattas, ICSA doublehanded regattas, ICSA Singlehanded regattas from previous years. We are still discussing if there should be a hierarchy of selection criteria.

The committee is divided on whether to use non ICSA singlehanded results to help with selection. There is some concern that it favors sailors with the means to travel to different events and there is also concern that non ICSA singlehanded events are sufficiently different from ICSA singlehanded regattas

2. ICSA Membership categories – Cross Regional/Regional/Fundamental
The committee has discussed what the criteria should be for deciding if a member school is classified as a Cross Regional, Regional or Fundamental Member. The committee believes each conference should submit their list of classifications to the Championship/Competition Committee no later than Nov. 15 of each year. The Championship/Competition Committee will then go over the memberships and will either approve the recommendations from each conference or ask for additional information about specific teams by December 1st.. If the Committee determines that a team is in the wrong membership category it will notify the conference commissioner.

Criteria to be considered a Cross Regional Member of ICSA

Operational Excellence:

-Proven ability to meet scheduling commitments at the regional level

-Proven ability to meet financial commitments (dues at the CR level & fees)

-Demonstrated consistency and continuity in leadership (coaching, etc)

-Ability to host successful regional events

-Completed Declaration of Adherence

Competitive Strength:

-Demonstrated ability to consistently beat other Cross Regional teams in any collegiate sailing discipline in the past 2 seasons

Criteria to be considered a Regional Member of ICSA

-Minimum of one year competing as a Fundamental member of ICSA

-Proven ability to meet scheduling commitments at the Fundamental level

-Proven ability to meet financial commitments (dues at the Regional level & fees)

- Completed Declaration of Adherence

Criteria to be considered a Fundamental Member of ICSA

Fundamental membership shall be the first step of affiliation for a member college within a Conference.

- A teams classification will be in effect for one year. Teams will not be allowed to change their membership category during that time.
- If a Conference believes that a team's membership category is incorrect they can Appeal to the ICSA Executive Committee for a review.

3.   Rename Showcase to Atlantic Coast Championship Series
The Committee proposes that the Coed and Women's Showcase Series be renamed the Atlantic Coast Championship Series. The first round regattas will be known as the Atlantic Coast Championship Series First Round. The finals will be known as the Atlantic Coast Championship (Teams 1-18) and the Atlantic Coast Tournament (Teams 19-36).

4.   Moving Spring Nationals Hosts back one year
The committee proposes that Spring Nationals hosting rotation be pushed back one year. We propose the following hosting sites for the spring nationals in 2021, 2022, 2023
a.   Tulane Host Spring 2021
b.   USF Host Spring 2022
C   Navy Host Spring 2023

5..   Nationals Window
The committee proposes the following change to the ICSA Spring National Championship
Current Language " This event shall be scheduled by the assigned Conference Association for the period between May 15 and June 10"
Proposed change "This event shall be scheduled by the assigned Conference Association for beginning no earlier than May 15 and ending no later than the Friday following memorial day".

Respectfully submitted.

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