



Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association of North America, Inc.

2020 Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 29, 2020

CONFERENCE REPORTS

MCSA:

The MCSA didn't have a chance to get on the water this spring as the season was cancelled prior to our first regatta being held. The teams are looking forward to returning to the water in the fall when classes hopefully resume. In the meantime, many teams have been doing digital chalk talks and connecting virtually to plan for the fall. The board has also been hard at work to restructure how out of conference events are distributed in the conference.

MAISA:

MAISA is doing well

Despite the fact that our season was cut short do to the Covid 19 Pandemic MAISA is in a good shape financially and competitively.

We have over 50 active teams.

We have transitioned to Bottom Line Bookkeeping in Barnstable, MA as a replacement for Sherri Campbell who retired in the Fall.

Highlights of competition within the conference was Leo Boucher of St. Mary's College winning the 2019-2020 ICSA Men's Singlehanded Championship and Georgetown finishing 2nd at the 2019-2020 ICSA Match Racing National Championship.

We had contingencies in place for scheduling and rankings which help us cope with the lack of spring 2020 conference championships. We hope to be sailing again this fall.

Respectfully submitted

Michael J. Callahan
MAISA Conference Commissioner

NEISA:

NEISA had a changing of the guard this year. After 5 years of devoted service to the conference, Justin Assad stepped down as commissioner of NEISA. All of college sailing thanks Justin for his tireless energy and service to all student athletes from every conference. Mike Kalin (MIT) will assume the commissioner role, while Fran Pizzo will assume the resurrected role of Graduate Secretary for the conference. Around the conference: we have 56 members -- 2 new regular members and 1 new provisional member. Women's team racing continues to be very popular with many schools in New England. Many coaches report more team unity and enjoyment amongst all team members in the more inclusive team practice formats. The conference looks forward to supporting the hosting effort of Jacksonville University for the singlehanded nationals next November.

NWICSA:

Like everyone else, COVID 19 cut our spring season short so there's not much to report regarding competition and participation. Student leadership is doing its best to keep sailors engaged virtually during this time. Despite the fact that we hadn't had a regatta in 6 weeks, our NWICSA Spring Meeting in April was well attended. While Zoom is great, we're missing the face to face interaction and informal meetings that happen on the docks each season. We have our fall schedule drafted, but realize that we may need to make significant modifications depending on the virus. The entire West Coast is taking a very measured approach to reopening and there is a good chance that remote learning will continue through fall term. If a certain percentage of campuses/club sports are closed, then we may need to cancel our fall season. Hopefully we'll have a better idea by late July or early August of where things stand.

The big news from our conference concerns realignment. Myself and our undergrad leadership has been working with our counterparts in PCCSC to explore merging. At our winter and spring NWICSA meetings, this was the main topic (besides COVID). I would say that there is a pretty unanimous desire among NWICSA teams to merge conferences. No one wants to be a conference that's left a drift with nothing to contend for. Merging will hopefully create more opportunities for peer schools to play each other and more exposure to higher caliber competition, while also preserving a pathway to qualify for nationals through the PCCSC conference.

We still have a lot of details to work, but we have a rough draft and a good understanding of how many of the core components will come together (leaderships, bylaws, finances, schedule etc.). It's our intention to make this merger final at the ICSA Annual Meeting in 2021. While this is a bittersweet chapter for NWICSA, my hope is that the teams in our region stronger and ultimately makes them an attractive option for local prospective high school sailors.

PCCSC:

No report submitted.

SAISA:

The 2019-2020 college sailing season saw outstanding competition in the South Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association conference with 23 active regular member teams including the Gill Coed College Sailing National fleet race champion College of Charleston, and new growth with nine associate and provisional programs gaining momentum. SAISA welcomed the return of an active program at Embry-Riddle, Florida Tech, and Savannah College of Art + Design (SCAD), while debut teams in the conference included East Carolina, Georgia Southern, Palm Beach Atlantic, Univ. of Central Florida and more. The fall season offered the opportunity for SAISA to defend their Kennedy Cup Collegiate Offshore National Championship. The offshore Cougars, a force even beyond college racing, proved up to the task bringing the hardware back to SAISA for another year. In dinghy racing, SAISA teams showed well in interconference competition with notable wins at the Cary Price at Michigan, and the All State Sugar Bowl at Tulane.

The fall season was the second season in which SAISA recognized weekly top performers with the SAISA Sailors of the Week feature and each week's outstanding performances showed great competitive parity across the conference with a strong mix of both varsity and club-based student-athletes earning recognition. In the spring season, SAISA introduced all-conference awards for coed and women's skippers, crew, coach of the year, and undergraduate leader of the year. Together with a strong effort to identify and recognize talent and accomplishments in the conference, a dedication to learning was yet another hallmark for the conference with several teams hosting clinics and focused coaching sessions with great participation from other teams in the conference. Women's sailing also saw an improvement in level of competition and overall participation with a very competitive fall women's conference championship event, and more teams fielding women's squads

including a debut in women's racing for East Carolina University, Wake Forest University, and a return to the water for the Lady Tarheels from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Although cut short due to the impact of the pandemic, the Spring 2020 season kicked off with great competition and excitement building to nationals in New Orleans. Learning and development would also continue to be a focus for college sailing's fastest growing conference as several teams hosted developmental regattas combined with coaching and learning for all teams. The conference-wide commitment to improving overall competitive skills is shared by both club and varsity programs. With the focus on team racing in the spring, Georgia Tech hosted their second-annual team race clinic which was well-attended and brought in outstanding coaches for the participating teams. SAISA teams also made strong statements early in the team race season with a Cougar win at the Nelson Roltsch and the home event Bob Bavier. Women's fleet racing was also fast out of the gate for SAISA teams with USF winning their home women's intersectional, and Charleston taking home top place at the Navy Spring Women's. Coed fleet racing highlights for the spring included an outstanding event at Charleston Spring with fierce competition from all over the US, while SAISA teams both club and varsity made a statement taking three out of the top five spots at the event.

SAISA looks forward to returning to competition in the fall if we are able and we send our best wishes for support and goodwill to each of our competitors and colleagues in college sailing.

SAISA is excited to host ICSA Singlehanded Nationals in our conference in partnership with NEISA and the Florida Yacht Club in Jacksonville. We were also looking forward to hosting coed Spring Nationals in St. Petersburg, but will defer to New Orleans in the current circumstances and will continue to look forward to 2021 to host college sailing's best at home.

SEISA:

Notable Regattas SEISA began the Spring 2020 sailing semester with The University of Texas at Austin hosting its first SEISA team racing clinic to increase the skill levels for SEISA sailors in that discipline. Following that, Texas A&M University Galveston hosted its Harris Kempner interconference fleet racing regatta, with several teams from around the country attending. One week later, Tulane University hosted its own annual inter-conference event, the Nelson Roltsch team racing regatta, resulting in a day of strong competition from across ICSA. All three of these events were a great success.

COVID-19 Response Although saddened to have the sailing season cut short, SEISA immediately ceased all sailing activity following the directive from the ICSA Executive Committee in mid-March. Following the shutdown, monthly SEISA board meetings were held via online video conference to discuss the future semesters, officer positions, and adjusting to the changes COVID-19 has brought to the sailing and general community