

Proposal: The Dissolution of NWICSA

December 13, 2021

Background:

For the past two years NWICSA has been weighing its future in light of sweeping changes made by the ICSA. As the smallest conference, NWICSA has struggled to remain relevant within the ICSA and attractive to prospective college sailors. These challenges are nothing new, but the recent ICSA changes have created an urgency to act. It's not an easy choice to make, but we believe this motion is necessary and in the best interest of NWICSA member schools, sailors, and the ICSA.

The loss of berths to ICSA championships, as well as the desire to sail more frequently against other schools, spurred three of our seven active NWICSA teams to apply for membership with the PCCSC earlier this year. At this time, two of the three schools (UW & UO) have been accepted to PCCSC and one (WWU) is pending. COVID has kept two other Canadian schools (UVic/UBC) from participating, leaving NWICSA with just three active teams (PSU, OSU, and WWU) this fall.

Rationale:

NWICSA cannot continue to function in this manner. Remaining in limbo, as we presently are, even for just another year, will lead to further fragmentation and loss of teams/sailors. For college sailing to be viable in the Pacific Northwest, teams need access to competitive events, meaningful championships, and the support network offered by a larger conference. If this motion passes, we believe that all current NWICSA member teams will remain affiliated with the ICSA as members of the PCCSC. PCCSC is already taking steps to accommodate an expanded conference, including updating its geographical representation in the PCCSC bylaws.

Motion:

If passed, this motion shall dissolve the Northwest Intercollegiate Sailing Association (NWICSA) effective August 1, 2022. Thereafter, NWICSA shall cease to be a conference of the ICSA. Current NWICSA member teams wishing to remain affiliated with the ICSA shall seek membership, at their present ICSA membership level, with another conference. After settling any outstanding debts with the ICSA, NWICSA's remaining assets shall be transferred to the Pacific Coast College Sailing Conference. NWICSA representation on the ICSA board and ICSA committees will also cease effective August 1, 2022.

Support:

As mentioned, this has been discussed at length by our conference since the "2021 and Beyond" proposal was unveiled. A vote was taken at the 2020 NWICSA Annual Meeting (Feb. 2020) in support of pursuing a merger with PCCSC. Support was unanimous, but did not lead to any formal agreement with PCCSC. That was followed by an [Open Letter to PCCSC](#) co-authored by the NWICSA Undergraduate President and Conference Commissioner in March 2021. This was signed by all NWICSA team captains and officers in support of joining the PCCSC. Again, no formal action resulted from PCCSC following this letter. However, three NWICSA teams took initiative to independently apply for PCCSC membership in June of 2021.

Finally, at the NWICSA Annual meeting (Dec. 13, 2021), this motion was put forward and unanimously approved by all NWICSA member schools and officers in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Nelson (Conference Commissioner)
Anna Morrow (NWICSA President)