

ICSA INTER-COLLEGIATE SAILING ASSOCIATION

ICSA Competition Committee Report for Annual Meeting 2025

The ICSA Competition Committee met bi-weekly for the duration of 2025 thus far. We have worked hard with the Spring Championship hosts and ICSA President Greg Wilkinson to approve officials, set fields of play, and create/edit race documents. The CC also ran team race and fleet race selection with the incredible help of Hannah Lynn. Isaac Clark was parliamentarian for the Women's Committee and Claire Dennis for Open.

Competition Committee Members:

Isaac Clark (Chair)
Scott Corder
Claire Dennis
Jon Faudree
Charles Higgins
Scott Ikle
Allison Jolly
Mike Kalin
Chris Klevan
John Mollicone
Craig Mueller

Match Race Format Change

Working with the US Sailing Match Race Committee, the CC proposes a change to our current ICSA Match Race National Championship Format. The CC has worked with the Janel Martin, Pearson Potts, and Bruce Cook since November to design the appropriate college sailing match race championship that resembles the national and international match race formats. The US Sailing MRC also recommended the average weight limit match on boats that are Crew 3 or 4 and 4 or 5 (165 lbs).

1. MATCH RACE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1.1. Each team shall consist of a maximum number of participants ("crew") defined by the Notice of Race with the following weight limits: Crew of 3 or 4 - 660 lbs. maximum; Crew of 4 or 5 - 825 lbs. maximum.
- 1.2. Each team shall include members of at least two different gender-identifying individuals unless all members are female-identifying.
- 1.3. Format:
 - 1.3.1. Stage 1: Round Robin of 10 Teams.
 - 1.3.2. Stage 2: Quarter Finals Top 8 Teams. Knockout first to 2 pts. 1v8, 2v7, 3v6, 4v5.

- 1.3.3. Stage 3: Semi Finals Top 4 Teams. Knockout First to 3 pts. Highest Seed Picks Opponents.
- 1.3.4. Finals: Semi Final's winners race for 1st and 2nd, first to 3 pts. Petit Finals: Semi-Final's losers race for 3rd and 4th first to 2 pts.

Because of the reduction of races, the CC recommends the Championship be reduced from 3 days to 2 days total maximum. This would change ICSA Championship Conditions 1.5.

Race Count by Round Proposed:

Stage 1: 10-Team RR: 45
Stage 2: Quarter Finals: 12 max
Stage 3: Semi Finals: 10 max
Stage 4: Finals/Petit Finals: 8 max
Total: 75 Races

Race Count by Round Current:

Stage 1: 10-Team RR: 45
Stage 2: 6-Team RR, 4-Team RR: 21
Stage 3: Quarter Finals: 12 max
Stage 4: Semi Finals: 6 max
Stage 5: Finals/Petit Finals: 8 max
Total: 92 Races

Open and Women's Fleet Race Selection Change:

6.7.2. Selectors may add teams to the Ranking Group with an 80% majority vote.

The CC proposes changing 6.7.2 to 60% instead of 80% to allow for teams not already in the field due to the CSR to be more easily added to the Ranking Group. This change would also match the adding % in team racing.

Open and Women's Team Race Entry Fee Change:

The CC proposes an increase to the Women's and Open Team Race Entry fees to help pay for race coverage. Usually, the coverage is more expensive than the entirety of the entry fees, which does not leave any money for assist with all other expenses.

Open and Women's Fleet Race Entry Fee Change:

The CC proposes increasing Women's and Open Fleet Race Championship Entry Fees by \$100 or another amount acceptable to the board. This increase would allow hosts to pay for a charter fleet from sponsor Zim Sailing in the event they only had one fleet of 18 boats.

Open and Women's Team Race Format Change

Purpose: To expand women's team race to 16 teams while keeping the racing to 2 days, while also reducing the Open Championship to 2 days.

16 Teams, 2 Days

Stage 1: 1RR of 2x Evenly Seeding Brackets of 8 teams

Stage 2: Top 12-Team Completion RR (race against the teams you haven't sailed against yet)

Stage 3: 8-Team RR

Stage 4: 6 Team RR

Notes:

- 6-Team RR instead of 4 because the regatta is often decided before the 4 or one race into the 4
- Easily compactable format to 10-Team Completion, Top 6, Final 4 etc.

Race Counts

Proposed Format Both:

12-team Completion RR = 92

8-Team RR = 28

6-team RR = 15

Total - 135 races

Current Open Format: 16RR,8RR,4RR

16-team RR = 120

8-team RR = 28

4-team RR = 6

Total - 154 races

Current Women's Format: 12RR,6RR,4RR

12-team RR = 66

6-team RR = 15

4-team RR = 6

Total - 87 races

The ICSA Competition Committee cannot recommend the format shortening and expansion to the Open and Women's Team Race National Championship without a comprehensive national change to the Open and Women's Team Race schedules.

After completing 4 years of the new ICSA Team Race National Selection process there have been a number of repeated items of feedback and difficulties noted by the selectors. The most common item of feedback given is that TR selection is made difficult by the lack of available head-to-head data across conferences. This feedback has been received and delivered every year after selection and I will elaborate further below. Selectors have even gone so far as proposing national level scheduling changes to help solve this issue.

It's important to note that the mechanisms and procedures of selecting teams are not in question and have proven extremely strong, if not air-tight to the original vision of a national level selection process. The selectors themselves also prove to be continually diligent, thoughtful, and completely dedicated to the task of creating the most competitive national championships possible.

The selection process is inherently a national level assessment of teams' relative strengths based on regatta/race performance relative to competition in all regattas, without a particular emphasis on any one regatta. The selectors are being hamstrung by data limitations caused by legacy interconference scheduling processes run by each individual conference. In short, we have a national level selection process, but conference level team race schedules. The competition committee strongly feels that the ICSA needs to design a national level team race schedule to create a strong data set for a national level selection process. This would create more equitable access to major team race regattas across conferences and facilitate important head-to-head play. The selectors could be limited to just these ICSA majors, which is the case anyways, to reduce noise in the data set.

We can break down the data limitations into a few specific categories.

1. Limited or often complete absence of cross-conference head-to-head data.
 - a. Results in selectors having to judge the relative strength of conferences instead of teams when comparing 2 teams that have never met head-to-head. For example, "what teams are these teams losing to?"
2. High noise in the data relating to having 2nd teams at Top-Tier regattas or 1st teams at 2nd tier regattas or missing starters due to conflicting Women's/Open events.
 - a. Results in selectors disregarding certain data on teams that have a "known" starting line-up.
 - b. Results in selectors disregarding or downgrading certain events based on participant attendance
 - c. Results in selector weighing long-standing historical events more heavily than newer events

The solutions the competition committee are asking to explore is to create a nationalized cooperative team race schedule that increases cross conference head to heads and expands access and participation across all the ICSA conferences to major team racing events. Selection would be limited to these ICSA team race majors reducing the data limitations and noise in the current data.

Old Business:

Match Race Format Change from Winter Meeting 2024 for Championship Conditions

- Stage 1 - Round robin of all teams.
- Stage 2 - Round robin of teams 1-6 from Stage 1. A skipper's score at the end of Stage 2 shall be their Stage 2 score plus their score from Stage 1 in matches only against other skippers in Stage 2.
- Stage 3 - Round robin of the remaining teams from Stage 1. A skipper's score at the end of Stage 3 shall be their Stage 3 score plus their score from Stage 1 in matches only against other skippers in Stage 3.
- Stage 4 - Quarterfinal knockout with teams seeded 1-6 based on their score at the end of Stage 2 and 7-8 based on their score at the end of Stage 3. 1v8, 2v7, 3v6, 4v5. Winner is first to 2 points. Losers get placed 5th - 8th based on their Stage 2 or Stage 3 scores.
- Stage 5 - Semifinal knockout with winners from Stage 4. Highest remaining seed against lowest remaining seed. Winner is first to 3 points.
- Stage 6 - Petit finals knockout with losers from Stage 5. Winner is first to 2 points and awarded 3rd place. Loser is awarded 4th place.
- Stage 7 - Finals knockout with winners from Stage 5. Winner is first to 3 points and awarded 1st place. Loser is awarded 2nd place.

ICSA Nationals Schedule and Rotation:

Dates	Date	Dates	Event	Bids Due	Host Rotation	Bid	Bid
<i>May 20-27</i>	<i>Spring 2024</i>		<i>TR & FR</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>H/MIT</i>		
<i>Nov. 9-10</i>	<i>Fall 2024</i>		<i>Singles</i>	<i>Jan 1 2024</i>	<i>St. Pete YC</i>		
<i>Nov. 15-17</i>	<i>Fall 2024</i>		<i>MR</i>	<i>Jan 1 2024</i>	<i>SCYC</i>		
<i>April 24-28</i>	<i>Spring 2025</i>		<i>TR</i>	<i>Jan 1 2024</i>	<i>Brown</i>		
<i>May 20-23, 27-30</i>	<i>Spring 2025</i>		<i>FR</i>	<i>Jan 1 2024</i>	<i>SMC</i>		
<i>Nov. 8-9</i>	<i>Fall 2025</i>		<i>Singles</i>	<i>May 1 2024</i>	<i>Bid</i>	<i>ODU</i>	<i>AYC</i>

Nov. 15-17	Fall 2025		MR	May 1 2024	Bid	USF	
	Spring 2026		TR	Spring Meeting 2024	SAISA	NEED	
May 15-22	Spring 2026		FR	Spring Meeting 2024	SAISA	USF	
	Fall 2026		Singles	Winter Meeting 2025	Bid	AYC	
	Fall 2026		MR	Winter Meeting 2025	Bid	Balboa	
	Spring 2027		TR	Spring Meeting 2025	MAISA	NAVY	
	Spring 2027		FR	Spring Meeting 2025	MAISA	NAVY	
	Fall 2027		Singles	Winter Meeting 2026	Bid		
	Fall 2027		MR	Winter Meeting 2026	Bid		
	Spring 2028		TR	Spring Meeting 2026	NEISA		
	Spring 2028		FR	Spring Meeting 2026	NEISA		
	Fall 2028		Singles	Winter Meeting 2027	Bid		
	Fall 2028		MR	Winter Meeting 2027	Bid		
	Spring 2029		TR	Spring Meeting 2027	Bid		
	Spring 2029		FR	Spring Meeting 2027	Bid		

ICSA Nationals Bids:

Bids are due 2 years ahead of Championship (Fleet and Team at Annual Meeting), (Singles and Match at Winter Meeting)

(OVERDUE) Team Race Spring 2026:

NOTHING

Fleet Race Spring 2027 (MAISA):

Team Race Spring 2027 (MAISA):

Event(s) you are bidding for	- Open Fleet Race - Women's Fleet Race - Open Team Race - Women's Team Race
Season	Spring 2027
Host School	US Naval Academy
Host Conference	MAISA
Name Submitting Bid	Ian Burman
Email	burman@usna.edu
Phone	(410) 693-8188

Venue Photo Upload



[200311-N-UG979-0028.JPG](#)

Google Map Link to Venue

https://www.google.com/maps/@38.9834372,-76.4784191,563m/data=!3m1!1e3?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDQyOC4wIKXMDSOASAFQAw%3D%3D

NATIONALS SCHEDULING & VENUE

- *Fall events (Match Race & Singles) are typically Fall Weekends #8-10.
- *Spring Nationals Hosting Window is May 15 to Friday after Memorial Day
- *Team Race Nationals can also be held on Spring Weekend #13.

1. Name of Event Open and Women Team Race Nationals

1. Dates Proposed to Host April 29 - May 3

2. Name of Event (Required if bidding on more than one) Women's Fleet Race Nationals

championshi
p)

**2. Dates
Proposed to
Host** May 18-21

**3. Name of
Event** Open Fleet Race Nationals

**3. Dates
Proposed to
Host** June 1-4

Racing Venue Location & Description

Racing will be held in the Severn River with rotations taking place in Santee Basin. Spectators will be on the seawall and in Robert Crown Center.

**Venue Photo
Upload**



[210721-N-BD231-0429.jpg](#)

**Will there be
a designated
Spectator
Area?** Yes

**Will there be
VIP Boats for
School AD
and Sponsor
VIPs?** Yes

Rotation Area Description

Rotations from Floating Docks in Santee Basin. We could block off Reina Mercedes Pier and the floating docks as field of play.

Sailing Area Conditions

You can get a bit of everything in Annapolis in the spring, but the conditions should be better on weekdays than on weekends

COACHING PLAN

Will coaches be on the water or on land? Will this change depending on race course or championship?

Coaches will be on shore for sure for Team Racing and Fleet Race Semis. Coaches and alternates may go afloat for fleet race finals.

TRAVEL INFO

Please include Airports and time to venue, Hotels and potential hotel deals, areas of restaurants and any other helpful information.

BWI is about 30 minutes away. DCA is about 45.

BOATS

**Fleet 1
Type/#
Boats/Manuf
acter** Zim FJs

Fleet 1 Year 2024

Fleet 1 Owner Navy

**Will Fleet 1
be replaced
before
Nationals?** No

**Fleet 2
Type/#
Boats/Manuf
acter** Simmons 420s

Fleet 2 Year 2023

Fleet 2 Owner Navy

Will Fleet 2 be replaced before Nationals? No

BUDGET

ICSA sets and collects all entry fees. ICSA allocates a set amount to the hosts of each event. ICSA covers Trophy & ICSA Rep travel expenses and a daily PRO stipend. Detailed budget information is available upon request (execdirector@collegesailing.org)

Do you understand and accept ICSA's budget policies related to hosting National Championships? Yes

PRO & CHIEF JUDGE

Please note that all PRO's and Judges need to be approved by ICSA.

Names of Proposed PRO & Chief Judge/Umpire

TBD

MEDIA LIAISON

Host will need to provide a media liaison that can work with sponsor and ICSA media and social media outlets, can you as the host provide this?

Provide Media Liaison Yes

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Anything else we should know about your venue or bid that might help the board choose your venue?