

MINUTES

Board of Surf Sports Meeting

Thursday June 17th, 2010 at 6.00pm – SLSSNB Branch Office

1. Attendance

Michael King in the Chair

2. Apologies

Richard Crayford, Trish McDermott

3. General Business

- 6.1 One change is yet to be decided on the surf sports calendar with a strong possibility of moving the Bilgola boat carnival to the 6th November making it the second boat carnival after Newport still to be held on the 30th October
- 6.2 Branch Boat Championships will most likely be held in line with the Lifesaving Championships on the 13th of February but this is yet to be confirmed
- 6.3 Early reports show that the best of the best will be held at Wanda on the 5th March TBC
- 6.4 Problems with parking fines at Long Reef should not happen again. It will be dealt with more closely with Warringah Council and the reason for the fines was due to a late change of date which was not relayed to council and rangers.
- 6.5 A motion was put in place by Steven Reilly and seconded by Matt Collins where the Branch Team nominations for each crew will be decided upon with the best two out of three results from the first three rounds of the SNB Boat Premiership. The Motion was passed after some discussion.
- 6.6 Steve Reilly asked that it be considered that the Juniors and Opens be aligned but the floor believed that the way in which events were run last season worked very well.
- 6.7 Competition format should stay the same as last season in that it should be round robin and then finals unless there are more than 14 crews in which case there would be a need for semi-finals.
- 6.8 Brendan Reddy asked that competition format for the Branch Championships be clarified, the floor believed that it should be elimination since it is a championship event
- 6.9 A question was raised on "double dipping" and was followed by some discussion. Some believed that if they are able to take part in two events then they should have the ability to do so. Matt Collins whilst having double dipped in the past saw some problems with the theory where crews could put themselves into dangerous situations i.e. U23 girls crews entering the open women's division after their event was cancelled – this could result in a dangerous situation where a crew may not be able to handle that situation.
- 6.10 Rick Millar put a motion forward to recommend to state that "they allow crews to be able to compete in any boat event that they qualify for at the state championships without restriction" this was seconded by Elton McKay. The Motion was passed after further discussion including time wasting.
- 6.11 In addition to this it was believed by many from the floor that at Branch carnivals, should a team choose to enter two events and either pull out or row dead they should be removed from both events and there was even a call to pull the entire club from that carnival.
- 6.12 Some sweeps have been vocal about not allowing some events to be cancelled at a carnival, that if the juniors and U23 girls can't row then the whole carnival should be cancelled. Matt Collins believes that if this is allowed to occur then surf boat rowing is in real danger of dying as a sport. Surf life savers are as good as they are because of competition, they are put into all sorts of conditions and by facing this it allows them to be better surf life savers. By cancelling events in adverse conditions it does not allow surf lifesavers to test themselves and be able to deal with all sorts of conditions which may result in them not been able to save a life.
- 6.13 The major point for this argument was that the sport cant be pushed for the lowest common denominator. The sport needs to be pushed for it to become better. SNB have a commitment to appraise the conditions and set the competition accordingly, we have the largest boat contingent in Australia and a great number of officials, we should be leading the future of the sport.
- 6.14 There were only two submissions into the Kurrawa inquiry from the floor, with a few more looking to submit in the coming days. Matt Collins had put forward a submission where sweeps should be put through a level two sweeps accreditation which was solely focused on surf skills in testing conditions. It doesn't seem right that a new sweep can have the same level of accreditation as someone with 20 yrs experience.
- 6.15 Such an accreditation would allow organisers of events to only allow those sweeps with a level 2 to be able to compete at events where the conditions are dangerous.

- 6.16 Mark from Palm Beach had some concern on the cost of competing at carnivals and the difference in prices for different carnivals ranging from Aussies to local carnivals. Michael King mentioned that clubs would not hold a carnival if it was not worthwhile, thus the need to charge a certain amount.
- 6.17 Block Racing was mentioned and perhaps the possibility of doing two categories at one time rather than three as it may result in faster turn around times. Timing has always been an issue in particular when it comes to start times.
- 6.18 Steve Reilly put a motion forward to start all Boat Carnival at 7.30pm this was amended by Mark Highfield to be an 8am start for all carnivals and seconded by Rick Millar. The Motion was passed. All boat carnivals will now start at 8am, any crews not on the line will miss out on that race.
- 6.19 Ross Tester mentioned that the Ocean Series will now include boats in some of their events with more detail to be made available soon.

The meeting closed at 8.18pm