



Nova Scotia Rowing Association NS-RCA Umpire Report 2007

Regattas.

This past rowing season can only be seen as a success with respect to the number and quality of regattas held this year. The season started with the *Atlantic Indoor Rowing Championships* (AIRC) followed by the *Icebreaker*

Regatta which unfortunately was cancelled mid-morning on account of bad weather, the *Nova Scotia Sprints-Bud Myra Memorial Regatta*, and the *Really Chili & the 1st Atlantic University Championships!* All of these regattas were hosted by the Nova Scotia Rowing Association, and hosted rowers from Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Quebec in addition to our own athletes.

NS-RCA umpires also participated at two NSRA-RCA sanctioned club-sponsored regattas - the *Around the Lakes Regatta* hosted by MicMac RC and the *Northwest Arm Regatta* hosted by the Halifax RC.

@Athletes
(#)

<i>Atlantic Indoor Rowing Championships</i>	February	NSRA	35
<i>Icebreaker Regatta</i>	May	NSRA	100
<i>Nova Scotia Sprints-Bud Myra Memorial Regatta</i>	July	NSRA	215
<i>Around the Lakes Regatta</i>	August	MMRC	70
<i>Northwest Arm Regatta</i>	September	HRC	100
<i>Really Chili and Atlantic University Championship</i>	October	NSRA	115

In addition, three NS RCA umpires travelled to Saint John, NB to assist in NBRA's 1st High School regatta that was held in June, at the Kennebecasis Rowing Club. Over 170 high school rowers competed, representing 7 regional high schools. Many thanks to J. Davies, M. Penfound and T. Schell.

T. Schell also represented the Atlantic region as a member of the Jury at this year's 125th RC Henley.



Safety.

There has been a continued focus on safety at all regattas and insuring fairness to racers with respect to course layout. NSRA -RCA umpires are involved with a few

out-reach activities.

- Sanctioning review
- Rules of Racing seminars for athletes, and parents

This year at the behest of NSRA, we initiated an Umpires' Regatta Sanctioning review committee, a subcommittee of our umpires who review the regatta sanctioning documents on behalf of NSRA as a 'second check'. It also serves to bring umpires and regatta organizers together before the regatta to discuss issues, and provide a forum for discussion. Hopefully, potential problems are identified earlier in the regatta building process and can be accommodated. And the early input by umpires prior to the regatta was appreciated by the organizers; the regattas ran much smoother and became standardized.

As at the request of NSRA, we provided a short information session to upcoming Canada Games athletes on the RCA rules of racing, for the rowers, parents and coaches. It was prepared by T. Schell and given by M. Connor.

Clinics.

A review-refresher clinic was held in May for all new 1st year licensed umpires, and associates.

- We have one associate umpire who is waiting to write his exams when we receive the new, updated RCA exams that reflect the new rules changes.

We are planning on holding training clinics in the Spring of 2008, to introduce some new associate umpires.

In general,

All regattas ran very smoothly with only minor incidents. Umpires were rotated at each regatta to ensure they continued to get experience at each location on the course. It was helpful to be placed in these different roles to gain more experience.

We need to have consistency in how we run things but we also need to know that any umpire can be placed in any role and that job will be performed well.



Although we have a very reliable group of umpires there is always a need for more. Currently, there are enough licensed umpires to run our regattas, but with umpires also racing at times - scheduling can be a challenge. If there were to be a regatta where several umpires could not attend then it would be difficult to meet our commitments. Therefore, we need to recruit more umpires every year. Currently there are twelve licensed umpires and one (soon to be licensed) associate. & A Very Big *'Thank you!' to each of you-* Marilyn, Roger, David, Jon, Yetta, Matt, Bob, Jane, Mark and Moe - for all of the volunteer time you have

lent to umpiring at the regattas.

Kudos!

In addition we all wear many hats – besides the blue RCA umpires one... Y. Withrow is NSRA president and Regatta Chair of most NSRA regattas, R. O'Neill is a member of the NSRA-Canada Games Committee, M. Connor and L. Lee are both coaches at HRC while B. Sawler coaches at NSRC; T. Schell sits on the RCA Umpires Committees and is the Atlantic regional trainer; and M. Penfound is an international Canoe-Kayak Umpire. It also bears mentioning that ten of the thirteen umpires are also competitive Masters rowers.

It should be noted that we also have had several umpires from New Brunswick help at various regattas this year. A note of *'Thanks!'* also goes out to C. Thornton, R. Tremblay and D. Bliss (associate). We have also had much help from our faithful volunteers who time the races and drive the safety and umpire boats. Without these people, running regattas would be very hard if not impossible.

Thanks to T. Schell for preparing the Atlantic Region's RCA umpires newsletter, *"Quick Start!"*, which is very helpful keeping us informed of all the umpire news.



I would like to have an umpire's end of season meeting soon to review the past rowing year and to look for feedback as to what we can do better for next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lee,
T.M.S.

& Keep your flags at the Ready!



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