

International Model Power Boat Association

Executive Board Special Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 1, 2015

- Phone Conference •

Present:

President, Chris Rupley

Vice/ Past President, Kevin Sheren

Secretary, Lynne Rupley

District 1, Luc White

District 2, Tom Kelly

District 5, Paul Traufler

District 12, Don Ferrette

District 13, Doug Smock

District 14, Mike Schindler

National Nitro Director, Don Ferrette

National Gas Director, Chris Rupley

National Fast Electric Director, Chris Harris

Absent:

District 3, John Otto

District 4, Alan Archer

District 6, Larry Conrad –voted by proxy

District 7, Jim Nissen

Past President, Bill Zuber

CALL TO ORDER:

President Chris Rupley called the Special Executive Board Meeting to order at 8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT. The Secretary took roll call. The president suspended the regular order of business. The items on the agenda are: Code of Conduct Violation; Rule Book Clarifications of Sec-C, Bylaws; Sec-G, Contest and Racing Rules.

CODE OF CONDUCT ISSUE:

President Chris discussed an issue which occurred August 23rd at a S.Tier NY event. CD Pete Forcier submitted a formal complaint. A racer lost control of his boat causing another boat to become disabled. He was DQ'd, but did not bring his boat into the pits when requested. He additionally violated the Code of Conduct rule by behaving in a threatening manner and cursing at the referee. The referee responded in a negative manner escalating the incident. Other parties stepped in to avoid a physical confrontation. Pete stated that points were rescinded and the racer was disqualified from the event. There are no prior incidents for this member on record. The parties involved apologized to one another. The referee did not hold a CD designation.

The president recommends, in light of the extenuating CD circumstances, and the fact that no physical altercation occurred, that a formal letter of reprimand be sent and a personal call made to the member. He requested the Boards input. Discussion followed.

MOTION by D12 Don Ferrette to send a formal letter of reprimand explaining that and any further incidents could result in suspension. **SECOND** by D2 Tom Kelly. **Motion carried without dissent.**

ACTION: Chris Rupley will call and a formal warning letter will be sent by mail.

CD/REFERREE CLARIFICATION:

While reviewing the wording of the Officials and Duties section of the Contest and Racing Rules, it was discovered that it is not clearly stated that the person(s) serving as Referee (also commonly referred to as CD) must have the CD designation. Current wording goes back to 1974 and likely earlier. Proposed language is not a change to the section, but rather a clarification of the long standing practice that those serving as CD (responsible for entire event) AND anyone appointed REFERREE (in control of the course once the first boat leaves the pits) have the CD designation indicating they have passed the CD test and have the CD suffix on their member number.

It was noted that the *only* place it is stated that CDs must have passed a test is in another section of the rule book: Sec. E-Procedures, Chapter I Sanctioned Regattas, Section (3)(a)(2).

Board members noted that CD's need to be the calming force, not antagonistic. Additionally noted that persons which the referee appoints to assist such as corner judges do NOT need to be CDs. The Referrees and CD are ultimately responsible to impose penalties.

President Chris recommends the words “and ruling on infractions.” in current item (d) under the Pit Manager be struck as the person monitoring the pit lane is not in a position to call infractions.

Discussion followed as to if penalties. It was noted that clubs that apply for a sanction are agreeing to abide by the rules. The mechanism is already in place to withhold future sanctions since they could be putting insurance coverage at risk if they do not follow rules.

Chris Rupley spoke to Pete Forcier and the issue was discussed at length. He will have additional club members take the CD test and in future those calling heats will have the CD designation.

MOTION by D12 Don Ferrette to adopt the clarification to the Officials and Duties Chapter I of Section G-Contest and Racing Rules. **SECOND** by D1 Luc White. **Motion carried without dissent.**

Note: proposed amendment to use “CD and/or REFERREE” was later rescinded by the maker D5 Paul Traufler & agreed to by the seconder.

ACTION: Secretary to make clarification to Rule Book and post online.

MEMBERSHIP CLARIFICATION:

President Chris presented the issue of clubs allowing non-IMPBA members to run at their facilities. There is no specific language in the Rule Book which directly states that clubs only allow paid-up IMPBA members to run at their facilities although this has been a long-standing practice. The Rule Book addresses “sanctioned events on an IMPBA insured pond.” The General Liability protects everyone against third-party (spectator) suits during “supervised and sponsored events” and is a separate issue addressed by requiring clubs to check membership status of “contestants” during check-in.

When joining IMPBA, members agree to a waiver stating they understand the risk associated with running RC boats and agree not to file lawsuits over injuries to themselves when participating. This waiver is found on the paper and online Membership Application, and the Single-Event Fee form. Non-members have not signed any waiver thereby putting the organization at risk of suit should an incident occur. It was noted that a waiver does not stop someone from suing, but could help our organization prevail should that happen.

Chris stated that the proposed clarifications to Section C should address this issue. They affect the solvency of the organization and therefore are not subject to membership vote. Board members reviewed the proposed clarifications: adding “or club events” to Chapter I (A), and adding club language to Chapter II (I) & (J).

VP/PP Kevin Sheren suggested we also clarify Chapter II (A) to state “All memberships expire December 31 of each year.” The current language of “Dues are payable by January 1 of each year” has not applied for quite some time. Board members agreed.

The issue of usage of city park facilities was discussed. It was noted that clubs should make sure property owners understand only IMPBA members are covered by our insurance. If the pond owner allows others to run at other times, it is their own liability.

MOTION by D13 Doug Smock to adopt the clarifications to Section C. **SECOND** by D5 Paul Traufler. **Motion carried without dissent.**

ACTION: Secretary to make clarification to Rule Book and post online.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was requested.

MOTION by VP/PP Kevin Sheren to adjourn. **SECOND** by D1 Luc White.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 PM. ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Rupley,
Secretary