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Central District Health Update Spring 2018

Below, please find the Central District Health Report on all of the schools in the Central District of NEISA. Data was collected by calling each school individually. In general, the Central District developing teams seem stable and extremely motivated to continue growing. I aimed to speak to all of teams in the Central District, not just the developing teams, in order to gain a broader perspective on the conference; in the process, I received many valuable suggestions. Some developing teams are battling critical issues that I hope NEISA can attempt to ameliorate. Overall, each team was extremely happy with NEISA thus far and feels the conference has helped them grow in recent years.

Emmanuel College

- Status: Growing
- Women's Team for 2018: Yes, team has no men
- Coach: No coach, but looking
- Practice Location: Community Boating but need someone with US Sailing Certification in order to practice. Only one team member has a US Sailing Cert., so the team had to wait until April for Community Boating to open and supervise
- Team Size: 16-17
- Experience on Team: Not much, but there are a few that have sailed before college
- Sailors at Average Practice: Around 10-13 students on Friday, weekday practices are 4 or less
- Goals: Being able to practice earlier in the future/hire a coach
- Biggest Hurdles: Inability to practice often due to class scheduling. Practice restriction stated above
- Anything NEISA can do better: Would like if they could set up a training weekend/clinic one weekend in Spring/Fall for developing teams

Critical Issues: Emmanuel did not practice the majority of the Spring 2018 season.

Amherst College

- Status: Growing, fourth semester as a team
- Women's Team for 2018: Not this year, but hopefully in the future
- Coach: Not yet, Luke Haggerty (student) has been running practices. Nervous for next year because Luke is graduating in 2018. Looking for a coach, have one prospect
- Practice Location: Lake Arcadia, 15 minutes away from Campus. Not ideal because it is small and not the best wind, but team still manages
- Team Size: 15-20 consistent members
- Experience on Team: Pretty low. Few members from sailing backgrounds. Young team, majority are just learning
- Sailors at Average Practice: 12 people, 3 practices a week

- Goals: Remain competitive after Luke graduates. Luke is currently trying to step back from running the team as to prep them for Fall 2018. Named 2 new captains that are beginning to take over
- Biggest Hurdles: Sailing conditions for practicing. Teaching inexperienced people how to sail. Keeping team membership/recruitment high in the future
- Anything NEISA can do better: NEISA has been great and extremely helpful. Have had great experiences at all NEISA regattas

Critical Issues: Uncertainty for the future once the primary student running the team (Luke Haggerty) graduates.

UMass Amherst

- Status: Growing
- Women's Team for 2018: Not officially, but signed up for the Reed, might have to drop
- Coach: Not yet, but looking
- Practice Location: Arcadia Lake
- Team Size: 52 last semester, 27 right now
- Experience on Team: A range. Around 25% have sailed before college, and 75% are learning
- Sailors at Average Practice: 6
- Goals: Currently share boats with Amherst College, but trying to find and pay for own boats. Team does not have a lot of funding, so they rely heavily on fundraising events. Most recent fundraising event was extremely profitable and they are doing as much as they can trying to collect donations
- Biggest Hurdles: Lack of financial resources, but funding is slowly improving. Sailing venue is not ideal (same as Amherst College). Consistency on team is difficult to maintain because their practice schedule is reliant on Amherst College's. Schedule has changed every season, making it difficult for students to schedule classes around practice times
- Anything NEISA can do better: If anyone knows about boats for sale, please contact Chad Klinefelter. Thought the club team symposium was extremely helpful

Critical Issues: Push for own boats.

UMass Dartmouth

- Status: Growing
- Women's Team for 2018: Yes, been having issues with athletic director in terms of a coed team
- Coach: Yes
- Practice Location: Clark's Cove in New Bedford, Community Boating
- Team Size: 5-7
- Experience on Team: Only one person started sailing before college, everyone else is learning
- Sailors at Average Practice: 2, practicing Monday and Wednesday. Have higher attendance on Friday

- Goals: Do their best, have fun
- Biggest Hurdles: Having difficulty allowing men on the team because of school restrictions. Athletic director says if they were to become coed, they would have to bump down from varsity to club, which would cut their funding. Missing out on men at the school that want to sail, but can't because of restriction. Attempted loophole so that men can be considered club sailing and varsity can be women's sailing, but were unsuccessful. Have an older and very small team, so beginning to worry about existence in the future
- Anything NEISA can do better: NEISA has been extremely helpful. Thought the Developing Teams Handbook was a useful tool

Critical Issues: No men allowed on team.

UMass Boston

- Status: Growing
- Women's Team for 2018: No, only have one female sailor
- Coach: No, student-run by 2 experienced sailors
- Practice Location: Foxpoint Pavilion, every Thursday
- Team Size: 6. Losing 2 seniors this year and will be down to 4 this upcoming Fall. Hoping training effort is a success and increases membership
- Experience on Team: Range, some sailed before college
- Sailors at Average Practice: Have not practiced yet
- Goals: This summer, will be working with Courageous Sailing Center. The Sailing Center is providing free lessons for UMB from May 1 – October 31. This is intended to make sailors more competitive, and hopefully increase membership. The team also hopes to successfully participate in both regattas they are signed up for this Spring and have fun
- Biggest Hurdles: Limited people working at marine operations, which leads to a restricted schedule on when they can get on the water
- Anything NEISA can do better: NEISA has been extremely helpful throughout the entirety of their process. Found the Developing Teams Handbook useful

Critical Issues: Graduating seniors and inability to practice.

Brandeis University

- Status: Growing
- Women's Team for 2018: Not officially, but trying to bring an all-female squad to a few regattas to qualify as a women's team. Brought all women to the McGill Regatta. If not this Spring, then going to have one in the Fall
- Coach: Yes
- Practice Location: MIT Pavilion, 3 times a week, people come as it fits their schedule
- Team Size: 6-10 consistent members, trying to grow
- Experience on Team: Handful of people are very experienced and a lot of beginners
- Sailors at Average Practice: 4-6
- Goals: Trying to increase recruitment. Trying to transition the people with more experience from crew to skipper

- Biggest Hurdles: Trouble with awareness on campus, difficult to get members. Class scheduling can also be difficult at times. A lot of graduating seniors, so have been trying to increase recruitment. They are going to work on starting an Instagram page
- Anything NEISA can do better: Would like an increase in smaller regattas for developing teams. Found that sometimes it can be intimidating for them to compete against larger, more experienced teams

Bentley University

- Status: Growing
- Women's Team for 2018: Trying, but most likely will have to wait until Fall, still not enough women on team
- Coach: Yes! Just got a coach, he started on 4/9. His name is Joe Belsito, he used to coach at Plymouth Yacht Club and was the Program Director at Scituate Yacht Club
- Practice Location: BU Sailing Pavilion
- Team Size: Around 20
- Experience on Team: A range, most people have sailed before, but not raced. Slowly improving
- Sailors at Average Practice: Around 6, practicing Monday and Wednesday
- Goals: To grow team size, and increase the race experience on the team
- Biggest Hurdles: Consistency, and previously trying to operate without a coach. Now that there is a coach, hopefully will get better. It was difficult in the Fall and most of the Spring season because those racing each weekend were not practicing since they had to spend time running practice
- Anything NEISA can do better: Everything is great

Mass Maritime Academy

- Status: Developed
- Women's Team for 2018: Yes, Reed Trophy
- Coach: Yes, Matt Wordell is the new Head Dinghy coach. Twice Tougas is the program director, and coaches offshore team
- Practice Location: Herring Pond
- Team Size: 22 students
- Sailors at Average Practice: Between 12 and 16, practicing T-F, depending on travel schedule sometimes M-F
- Goals: Qualify for Championships at the Alumni Bowl (they did)
- Biggest Hurdles: Class scheduling, students go on sea semester, leaving right after New Year's and returning in early March
- Anything NEISA can do better: Pretty happy with how things are going

Northeastern University

- Status: Developed
- Women's Team for 2018: Yes
- Practice Location: MIT Sailing Pavilion
- Team Size: 35 in Fall, 25-30 in Spring
- Sailors at Average Practice: Fall around 20, Spring around 15

- Goals: Ranking more consistently, get the women's team to place around 11th or 12th at the Reed this year. Developing younger sailors and crews
- Anything NEISA can do better: Consider lower level team racing regattas. Even lower lever fleet races/2 v. 2 team racing could be helpful

Boston University

- Status: Developed
- Women's Team for 2018: Yes
- Practice Location: BU Sailing Pavilion
- Team Size: 42
- Sailors at Average Practice: 30
- Team Goals: Qualify and do well at Nationals

Tufts University

- Status: Developed
- Women's Team for 2018: Yes
- Practice Location: Mystic Lakes
- Team Size: 48-54
- Sailors at Average Practice: 15-18 boats
- Anything NEISA can do better: Maybe a push for a collaborative practice once a week at a central location with the developing teams. Similar to World Sailing's Developing Nations

Boston College

- Status: Developed
- Women's Team for 2018: Yes
- Practice Location: Savin Hill Yacht Club
- Team Size: 26
- Sailors at Average Practice: 26, Monday, W-F
- Anything NEISA can do better: Keeping in check with developing teams that might need help or guidance