

**Inboard Racing Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**National Meeting – Los Angeles, CA**  
**January 25-27, 2017**

**Call to Order:** Meeting of the Inboard Racing Commission was called to order at 10:48 am PST.

**Roll Call:** Attending: Jim Sechler-Chairman, Sandy Cody-Inboard Administrator. IRC Members: Bert Henderson(via Skype), Katelyn Shaw, Jim Aid, Don Melillo, Sean Bowsher, Aaron Stephens, Bob Schellhase, Julian Rucki, Scott Schatz, Dutch Squires, Jeff Bernard, Thom Heins, Dave Rankin, Kim Liddycoat, Brian Hajny, Tim Collins, Mark Weber. IRC Deputy Commissioners: Ann Fitzgerald, Al Thompson, Bob Wilson.

Not Present: Mark Wheeler, Ed Thompson, Charlie Wiggins. IRC Deputy Commissioners: Gene DeFalco, Rich Falcinelli.

**Moment of Silence**

**Chairman's Address:** Chairman stated that there will be two race committee presentations from Evansville, IN and the Arizona Copper Cup. Rule proposals should be for the best of APBA not individuals. Inboard Chairman and IRC do their best and thanked the Commission for their time and commitment. All need to work together for the sport to succeed. Thanked Ann Fitzgerald and Kim Liddycoat for all their hard work on the Inboard Banquet and awards.

**Old Business:** No old business to discuss.

**Referee Report:** Chas Dodge gave report. Need more referees; all regions were represented in 2016. It takes 4 hours to complete the referee test to be certified. Katelyn Shaw suggested have test taken every two years instead of yearly.

**Inspector Report:** Brian Hajny gave report. Brian took over as Chief Referee in 2016. Inspections are a problem at title races. Inspections need a team if there is an issue with a part that needs to be confiscated. Need more inspectors.

**Inboard Driving Schools:** Jeff Bernard gave report. West coast driving schools had no issues. West Coast driving school boat needs new battery. Driving schools need new helmets, would need 4 to 5 new helmets and one air system as old helmets are fogging up on students. 13 students from driving schools are racing or involved in APBA since driving school started.

**Technical Committee:** Jim Sechler gave report. Greg Issac took over as Chairman. Committee was given the technical proposed rule changes for 2017. Went over the committee's recommendations on several technical rule change proposals. On several rule proposals the committee suggested that the IRC not approve rule change because no test data was submitted with the proposed rule change.

**Rookie of the Year:** Dutch Squires gave report. This year ran smooth. JP Squires would like to down size the committee.

**Technology Committee:** Sean Bowsher gave report. Not much is happening with Technology. Still looking into the possibility of using drones at future inboard races. New clocks are available for about \$2,000, Aaron Stephens has used and are very easy to use. It was suggested to present to the Historical Society for funds.

**Website Committee:** Sean Bowsher gave report. Boatracingusa.com no one has been updating website, it is a full time job. Sean will get a proposal together for what will be needed to get website up and going.

**Safety Committee:** Jeff Bernard gave report. The committee asked that the 2009 Inboard Cockpit information be removed from the APBA website. Jim Aid asked the committee to look into changing the 2.5 Litre Modified capsule requirements to 3000 newtons, committee recommended not to change the requirement. APBA is discussing a standard on replacing safety belts that have expired. Some changes to the committee since 2016.

**Spec Boat:** Jim Sechler gave report. Spec Boat motor is at Paul Price's garage. May need to repurposed the boat to a Driving school boat. Ed Thompson will take over and pattern Driving school like the West Coast for younger drivers. George Kennedy working on 1.91 Ford Motor engine built for SCCA, hopes to have ready for Dayton testing.

**Inboard Equipment Inventory:** Inboard Office is keeping track with a spreadsheet of Inboard Equipment. Sandy will send spreadsheet to IRC for review and updates.

**J Stock Hydro Report:** Report given by Mark Weber. Seems to be working, would like to see the equipment used more often.

**Inboard Poster:** Ann Fitzgerald gave report. This year's poster income was \$4,600.00 with expenses of \$2,200.00 to \$2,300.00 for printing and layout and \$800 to \$1,000 for shipping. Posters have been shipped to Regions and Race Sites. Inboard posters were available at the Los Angeles National Meeting. If you need or want posters please contact the Inboard Office.

**Hall of Champions:** Dave Shaw gave report.

**Bruce Broussard Award:** Dave Shaw gave report.

**Championship Bids:** Table Championship Bids till next IRC conference call. Motioned by Don Melillo, seconded by Thom Heins. Passed – Yes 15, No 0.

Hampton, VA – the race committee has released the 2017 Eastern Divisionals from their event. The inboard office will accept bids for the 2017 Eastern Divisionals.

Pateros, WA – the race committee has requested a date change to August 12-13, 2017. Motioned by Aaron Stephens, seconded by Don Melillo. Passed - Yes 15, No 0.

Lake Hopatcong, NJ – Summer Nationals for T Class and Jersey Speed Skiffs to take place on September 9-10, 2017. Motioned by Don Melillo, seconded by Julian Rucki. Passed – Yes 14, No 0, Abstain 1.

**2017 Committee List:** Motion by Mark Weber, seconded by Julian Rucki. Motion passed 15-0. The 2017 Committee List will be posted on the APBA website.

**Rule Changes: Proposed Rule Changes #1 thru #31 are posted on the APBA website under Resources, Category Inboard, Resource Type By Laws and Rules. Below is the vote of #1 thru #31 rule changes. Also posted on the APBA website under Resources is the voting record of each Inboard Commissioner.**

Rule 2017-001 – No motion made

Rule 2017-002 – No motion made

Rule 2017-003 – No motion made

Rule 2017-004 – No motion made

Rule 2017-005 – Failed - Yes 4, No 13 - Motion by Katelyn Shaw, Seconded by Aaron Stephens

Rule 2017-006 – No motion made

Rule 2017-007 – Failed – Yes 7, No 10 – Motion by Bob Schellhase, Seconded by Don Melillo

Rule 2017-008 – No motion made

Rule 2017-009 – No motion made

Rule 2017-010 – No motion made

Rule 2017-011 – No motion made

Rule 2017-012 – No motion made

Rule 2017-013 – No motion made

Rule 2017-014 – Proposal withdrawn at Kim Liddycoat’s request

Rule 2017-015 – Proposal withdrawn at Kim Liddycoat’s request

Rule 2017-016 – Passed – Yes 10, No 5 – Motion by Katelyn Shaw, Seconded by Don Melillo

Rule 2017-017 – Tabled till next IRC conference call

Rule 2017-018 – Failed – Yes 1, No 14 – Motion by Sean Bowsher, Seconded by Jeff Bernard

Rule 2017-019 – Failed – Yes 4, No 12, 1 Abstain – Motion by Katelyn Shaw, Seconded by Scott Schatz

Rule 2017-020 – Passed - Yes 9, No 8 – Motion by Jim Aid, Seconded by Dutch Squires

\*\*Amended to remove 350 chevy engine but to keep the 305 engine

Rule 2017-021 – Failed - Yes 3, No 13 – Motion by Katelyn Shaw, Seconded by Don Melillo

Rule 2017-022 – Form Committee chaired by Bert Henderson

Rule 2017-023 – Passed – Yes 11, No 6 – Motion by Tim Collins, Seconded by Katelyn Shaw

\*\*Amended before #3 when 3 spots available

Rule 2017-204 Rule 46.3 – Passed – Yes 16, No 0 – Motion by Don Melillo, Seconded by Jeff Bernard

Rule 2017-024 Rule 11 – Passed – Yes 15, No 1 – Motion by Mark Weber, Seconded by Jeff Bernard

Rule 2017-024 Rule 13.10 – Passed – Yes 16, No 0 – Motion by Mark Weber, Seconded by Don Melillo

Rule 2017-024 Rule 13.5 – Passed - Yes 14, No 1, Abstain 1 – Motion by Katelyn Shaw, Seconded by Don Melillo. \*\*Amended to remove 4 positions, adding last finishing position

Rule 2017-024 Rule 19.6 – Passed - Yes 16, No 0 – Motion by Mark Weber, Seconded by Kim Liddycoat

Rule 2017-024 Rule 23.1 – Passed - Yes 16, No 0 – Motion by Aaron Stephens, Seconded by Don Melillo

Rule 2017-024 Rule 23.8.4 – Passed – Yes 16, No 0 – Motion by Jeff Bernard, Seconded by Don Melillo

\*\*Amended to remove zero points for a day’s racing

Rule 2017-024 Rule 23.8.5 – Passed – Yes 10, No 6 – Motion by Don Melillo, Seconded by Katelyn Shaw

Rule 2017-024 Rule 23.16 – Passed – Yes 16, No 0 – Motion by Julian Rucki, Seconded by Kim Liddycoat

Rule 2017-024 Rule 25.14 – Passes – Yes 16, No 0 – Motioned by Kim Liddycoat, Seconded by Jeff Bernard  
Rule 2017-024 Rule 29 – Passed – Yes 14 – No 3 – Motion by Jeff Bernard, Seconded by Aaron Stephens  
\*\*Amended remove National Modified from 29.2.2  
\*\*Amended remove 15 year old driver (last sentence) from 29.2.1  
Rule 2017-024 Rule 40.11 – Passed – Yes 16, No 0 – Motion by Julian Rucki, Seconded by Kim Liddycoat  
Rule 2017-024 Rule 43.7 – Passed - Yes 17 – No 0 – Motion by Julian Rucki, Seconded by Kim Liddycoat  
Rule 2017-024 Rule 44 – Passed – Yes 16, No 1 – Motion by Julian Rucki, Seconded by Mark Weber  
Rule 2017-024 Rule 46.2 – Passed Yes 12, No 5 – Motion by Jeff Bernard, Seconded by Julian Rucki  
\*\*Amended to delete rule  
Rule 2017-024 Rule 54 – Passed – Yes 17, No 0 – Motion by Julian Rucki, Seconded by Don Melillo  
Rule 2017-024 Rule 55 – Passed – Yes 17, No 0 – Motion by Sean Bowsher, Seconded by Aaron Stephens  
Rule 2017-025 – Motion by Bob Schellhase, Seconded by Mark Weber  
\*\*Amend – send to Tech Committee for review  
Rule 2017-026 – Passed – Yes 17, No 0 – Motion by Bob Schellhase, Seconded by Aaron Stephens  
Rule 2017-027 – No motion made  
Rule 2017-028 – No motion made  
Rule 2017-029 – Failed – Yes 1, No 14, Abstain 2 – Motion by Don Melillo, Seconded by Katelyn Shaw  
Rule 2017-030 – Passed – Yes 16, No 0 – Motion by Bob Schellhase, Seconded by Aaron Stephens  
\*\*Amend – sending to Committee, Bert Henderson to Chair  
Rule 2017-031 – Failed – Yes 5, No 7, Abstain 2 – Motion by Don Melillo, Seconded by Jim Aid

**AZ Copper Cup:** Greg Cook gave presentation to the IRC on the AZ Copper Cup on Lake Pleasant. It's a community festival with community support. Classes run will be Grand Prix, 1 Litre and SST45, their goal is to have 10 boats per class. Race teams will receive free RV parking, 5 passes with VIP upgrades.

***Class Rep Reports:***

***1 Litre –***

Tim Collins gave report – had good turnout at inboard races. Class will be losing three of the top five boats this year.

***2.5 Stock –***

Dutch Squires gave report – Has talked with Esslinger and heads should ship in about 2 weeks. Esslinger has 6 on the shelf ready to go.

***SE –***

Katelyn Shaw gave report – Class looks good on paper, but the East Coast struggled with boat count.

***Grand Prix -***

Bob Schellhase gave report – Class has changed name from Grand Prix West to Grand Prix World. Sam Cole has come on board to promote GP racing.

***Evansville, IN Race:*** Randy Lentz gave presentation to the IRC. The race will be held Labor Day Weekend, September 1-3, 2017. It will be the North American Championship, all inboard classes are invited. There will be a Friday night team reception.

**EPIC Series:** Ann Fitzgerald gave report. In 2016 had 146 boats in 12 classes at 5 events, events not embracing series. The series gave race sites a promotional tool for event, it did not work. The EPIC committee had a conference call and decided to terminate the series.

**New Business:**

**New Super Comp Flatbottom Class:** Jim Sechler and Scott Schatz spoke with the APBA Board of Directors regarding a new Super Comp Flat Bottom class with a maximum speed of 105mph. The class will have hull and engine restrictions per the parameters that the Board set for non-restrained drivers in 2016, the new class was well received by the Board. Class would race for titles and records with maximum speed of 105 mph. Discussion followed. Passed - Yes 12, No 2, 1 Abstain. Motion by Mark Weber, Seconded by Sean Bowsher.

**Rule 11.4.1:** Amend rule to remove require driver's signature. Passed – Yes 16, No 0. Motion by Katelyn Shaw, seconded by Don Melillo.

**SE Class:** Where are and where we need to be in adhering to the 85 mph speed limit and how are we monitoring the speed. Kip Brown will have Region 10 boats run with a GPS devise and take data, will give IRC feedback.

**Summer Nationals:** Katelyn Shaw stated that Mays Landing, NJ and Russell Point, OH race sites will be racing the weekend of the Summer Nationals. No points will be awarded on the day the Summer Nationals are run.

**Proposed Rule Changes:** Jim Sechler stated we all want what is best for our sport. Can revisit and work together to help racers and race sites.

**2.5 Litre Modified Capsule rating:** Lower the 2.5 litre modified capsule rating from 5,000 newtons to 4,000 newtons. Passed – Yes 16, No 0. Motion by Jeff Bernard, seconded by Scott Schatz.

**Rule 39.1:** 2.5 Litre Stock can use S or F and 5 Litre can use E or H as class designation. Passed – Yes 14, No 2, Abstain 1. Motion by Jeff Bernard, seconded by Kim Liddycoat.

**Inboard Budget:** Inboard Division to reimburse IRC members Convention Registration and Inboard Banquet fees need to turn an expense report to the Inboard office. Insurance premium reimbursement of \$400.00 to Race Sites after the event is completed. Need 4 to 5 new helmets and one air system for Inboard driving schools. Discussion followed. Motion by Julian Rucki, seconded by Kim Liddycoat. Passed Yes 16 No 0.

The meeting was adjourned on January 27, 2017 at 11:45 am PST. Motion by Julian Rucki, seconded by Aaron Stephens.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Cody  
Inboard Administrator