

President's Report

July 15, 2024



Final Olympic Preparations

The athletes have all been at the Marseille base for a while, now. Shortly they will transfer themselves and equipment to the Athlete Village at the venue. Cecilia and I travel directly to Marseille on July 25, with ambitions to visit sponsors and donors who choose to attend the regatta.

Marcus, Sally, and the staff team have been doing great work supporting the athletes and helping guide spectators such as us to get the most out of our Marseille experience.

Accolades for the Offshore Department

Staff in the Offshore Department have received several official and unofficial compliments from stakeholders, both offshore sailors and offshore race organizers like Newport to Bermuda. The great hiring done recently, starting with recruiting Jim Teeters back, with the commitment to providing the staff needed to properly serve offshore sailors has resulted in a very quick reputable turnaround from several years ago.

Bylaws review

After the new board is installed in October, I expect there to be a proper updating and overhaul of our bylaws in 24/25 after several years of repairing the 'airplane' as we flew it. Some recent changes caused some logical conflicts that need to be resolved and other bylaws haven't been reviewed in over a decade. A review of the regulations will naturally follow the updating of bylaws.

Looking ahead to Long Beach

We continue to work on providing a proper training facility for the US Sailing Team athletes in the run up to LA 2028's Olympic Regatta in Long Beach. However, we have many friends of the team in the Long Beach/San Pedro area, including two current US Sailing board members, Mike Van Dyke, leader of the organizing committee for the Olympic Regatta as well as Marie Rogers, former LAYC commodore so we're confident we'll have the logistics for training and Olympic competition well in time to maximize the benefit to our athletes.

Wilmington Community Aquatic Center, Port of Los Angeles

US Sailing's Education Department, led by Stu Gilfillen, is consulting for the Port of LA to help it realize its dream of an aquatic center for the community of Wilmington, sitting adjacent to the Port and considered to be an under resourced, underserved community, mainly of color, which has no access to the water that others in the San Pedro/Long Beach area have.

Update on the 7/9 USOPC National Governing Body Council Meeting – last meeting before the Games

The representatives, CEOs, and board chairs of the NGBs were invited to the Zoom call between them and USOPC Board and senior staff. The agenda ran the gamut from infection protocols at the games to demonstrations at the Games policies and our NGBC elections, which re-elected Dexter Paine to the

USOPC Board. Dexter gave a report on the USOPC Board meeting in Indianapolis, recently, including the decision of the Board to extend the CEO, Sarah Hirshland, through the year of 2029, to provide a good 'post LA 2028 transition'.

Dean Nakamura gave an update on the Paris Games. He thanked the NGB staffs working so hard on the logistical challenges in the runup to the Games. Our athlete delegation size is 576, with close to 55% women. Accreditations for athletes and staff start being distributed tonight or tomorrow.

Nitra Rucker reviewed US athlete/staff demonstration rules. She discussed that there are types of demonstrations supported by USOPC. Those center around social and racial justice. If an athlete violates IOC rules but not USOPC rules, USOPC will advocate on behalf of the athlete and will not act against that athlete. There are impermissible demonstrations, such as acts of violence, impeding the Games, hate speech, denigrating other people or organizations. USOPC called its policy a 'safe harbor' set of rules that is more permissive of demonstrating than is IOC. Here are the USOPC rules:

<https://www.usopc.org/racial-and-social-justice-demonstrations>

Infection Guidelines – anyone with an infectious disease will be separated from other athletes to minimize spread. Dengue Fever is a bad disease without a vaccine. It is gaining a foothold in France, so mosquito repellent is important.

Finally, elections for NGBC leadership will be held this fall. Window for nominations is September 23-11.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Jepsen', written in a cursive style.

Richard Jepsen, Board President