

## **Safety/Rescue Meeting, APBA Annual Meeting, January 25, 2020, Hilton, SeaTac**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am

Safety Committee attendees: Buzz Rasmussen, Heidi Dunk-Vincent, Sam LaBanco, Tom Stanley, Rich Fuchslin, Pat Gleason, Bob Koschka. Approximately 25 others attended in addition to safety committee members.

The agenda is attached as part of the Pdf of the presentation charts. The agenda is similar to the agenda used for the opening meeting on January 22. However, other charts used in the opening meeting have been updated as a result of the Annual Meeting activities.

### **Introduction -BW**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the activities, accomplishments, issues that had arisen during the previous three days and to answer questions and suggest the next actions for the committee.

There have been three well attended sessions and now a fourth related to the subject of APBA safety. Some suggested that the turnout would have been even larger without the schedule overlaps due to simultaneous meetings.

Prior to the annual meeting and during the meeting a number of people asked to join the safety committee. They are welcome and their names are listed in the PowerPoint in white. The BOD will approve the names in the near future. Let it be known that others may join upon requesting.

During the annual meeting time frame, Chris Fairchild has asked for 2 additional rule proposals to be written for rules addition to the GSR. One would propose a rounding of the sharp tip on certain turning fins for outboard hydro's. The other would state that there would be no riding on or in a boat except for the driver to avoid victory lap happenings when a crew member(s) have been climbing on a boat.

A few wording change suggestions have been received for the GSR rules drafts that were sent to committee members prior to the annual meeting for coordination and discussion in the various commission meetings. These rule topics are shown on the attached charts. **The actual wording will be back to committee members in about 2 weeks after the annual meeting for a period of a week during which there will be voting by committee members and the results communicated to the BOD for action on rules that have been approved. A key variable in the voting could be the implementation date. Since the majority of these rules are already in use for years in boat racing outside the US, since there is relatively low cost associated with them, since this winter is a good time to incorporate the rules, the hope would be that the majority, if not all will be passed. The committee will be asked to vote yes/no/abstain and with no votes the reasoning why such that there might be improvements. Implementation dates will also be commented on.**

## **Other items of interest occurring during the meeting-BW**

Course design was discussed both in the SO and Offshore meetings. The ability to improve the buoy positioning and then replicate it from year to year with GPS measurements has been proven on both record size course and small local courses. Russ Dodge has continued to stress his willingness to help clubs and promoters with course improvements. Some courses that have gone through the process have had a significant reduction on Incident Reports.

During the meeting the desire to have a copy of the Incident Reports from a race to the appropriate commissions remained high. The current insurance provider saw no issues with this.

A rescue member wanted more information, possibly from demonstrations, regarding working with an FHR that was attached to an unconscious person and how to protect the neck. There will be some work done in region 10 on the subject.

There currently doesn't exist an inspection duration or life duration for life jackets. A member would like the subject re-visited similar to what was in the rules a number of years ago.

Designs for lost cost one-way communication links from the judges stand to Inboard to eliminate the corral are desired. There is also the request for designs to enable the communication of stoppage of the race from the judges stand to the boats. Members would like this subject re-visited as it has been discussed in previous years.

The idea of having samples of cut resistant material on file, similar to cockpit registration samples, was proposed. Cut resistant clothing manufacturer's will also keep the cut resistance level on their product website.

The Inboard restraint belt proposal developed by the Inboard safety committee (Eli W) was asked by the Inboard commission to be reviewed with the idea of reducing the length of the wording. Eli suggested it might be appropriate to have the wording become the GSR restraint belt rule. This will be developed and be included in the rules sent to committee.

A rescue member would like the minimum water depth requirements in the rule book reviewed to see if they are adequate.

A Vintage member would like any comments regarding the aging of resorcinol glue to be provided because of the desire to run the older hulls that may have used these glues prior to the epoxies.

A member would like information regarding the clamshell like helmets used by State Troopers in Washington State. Wondering about their suitability for racing use.

Jason Diamond suggested that there be more information regarding concussion symptoms and protocols available. Ken Smith and his group had prepared this info, printed on two sides of an 8x 10 card a few years ago and the idea was to get the material printed with a plastic covering

and distributed to APBA members. BW will look for the material and the art that was prepared and see how we can get this accomplished.

A Vintage member has brought to our attention in another meeting the "GO KART 360 PLUS TEAM VALHALLA NECK COLLAR" for unrestrained drivers that he intends to try out with his Unlimited hydro. The collar has a helmet support at the rear of the helmet and he thinks that it may help hold his head and take strain off his neck muscles in the high wind stream. It might be another anti-bucketing possibility. The web site is at <https://www.valhallaracing.com/collections/neck-braces/products/360-plus-device?variant=274432030>

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am