

**Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC)
Fall 2001 Meeting
Hosted by The Yale University Cycling Team**

In attendance:

Mark Abramson, NCCA Committee & Assistance ECCC Conference Director

Jim Young, NCCA Committee and Founder of the NCCA

Representatives from schools across the ECCC

The meeting started with Mark Abramson presenting a PowerPoint presentation to the meeting attendees. The meeting then progressed to several discussion points. The content of the presentation is included below.

Introduction

- Annual meeting of ECCC
- Plan race season
- Discuss conference issues
- Vote on rules & proposals
- Participation is encouraged
- Socialize with conferencemates

Meeting Structure

- The riders of the ECCC make it happen
- Votes by only one representative per team
- Time limits per discussion point
- Discussion should continue all year long!

Overview of NCCA

- NCCA - National Collegiate Cycling Association
- A committee of USA Cycling
- Governed by NCCA Committee
- Rulebook is based upon USAC
- Riders can pick race category
- n.b. NCCA is not the NCAA

Overview of ECCC

- ECCC - Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference
- Includes NY, NJ, PA, New England
- Schools split into Div 1 (>15,000 students) and Div 2 (<15,000 students)
- Historically has one of the largest groups of riders
- One of the smallest conferences geographically
- Always well represented at Nationals (1st MTB Omnium, 1st MTB DS, 1st XC/STXC/RR/TTT, 1st Track Nationals)

Annual Calendar

- Spring season: Road
- March - April, Nationals in May
- NCCA Committee meeting at Nats
- Fall season: Mountain
- Sep. - Oct., Nationals in Oct.
- Winter season: Cyclocross
- Nov. - Dec., Nationals in Dec.

Club Setup

- Need a USA Cycling NCCA Club License (via USA Cycling)
- Pay conference dues (\$20) to the conference director
- Riders need USA Cycling license with NCCA sticker
- Must ride in identical school jerseys, no trade team gear

Keep Up To Date

- Join eccc_info@topica.com mailing list
- Visit www.eccc-info.com for schedule, rules, and other info
- Other ECCC members are an excellent resource!
- Contact officials & conference director for assistance

Build Your Club

- Always be looking for next generation of team leaders
- Network with Alumni for team support and sponsorship
- Publicize the club in school & local media
- Host a race!

Race Promotion

- Coordination begins with USCF district representative
- Must have course inspected
- Flyers need to be approved
- Work with experienced team members, other teams, and your officials

Help Out The ECCC

- Your help is needed to keep the conference running strong
- Promote a race weekend
- Host the conference meeting
- Tabulate points standings
- Write an article for the website
- Throw a BBQ at a weekend

Race Results

- Results are one of the most important features of a race
- Accurate, timely results are critical for success in determining conference champions and nationals qualifiers

2002 Road Schedule

- Priority events: Army, Easterns, UNH
- Easterns: April 27/28
- Season start: March 9/10?
- Nationals: May 11/12

1. Results & Points Service

Pioneer Event Productions (PEP) results service (John Frey of Massachusetts, NCCA Alumni) has proposed to the ECCC to handle all results and points posting. This service will apply to each and every conference event over the entire season. This service will alleviate the problems of:

- Untimely results
- Incorrect results
- Results that change from feedback from officials, promoter, riders, conference director, etc. (PEP will be a single point of contact).
- Inconsistent formatting and points calculation

Overview of benefits:

- Full & accurate results for all competitors
- Consistent system for entire season
- Results & points earned at that race printed on-site
- Full series point standings posted on the Web within 24 hours
- Free number kits and pins
- Automated registration system
- Fully maintained database of all riders

- Cost based per rider, per event (not a flat fee per race), limits the risk to promoting school
- No cost for numbers or pins, reduced registration labor, no data entry for results, possibly one less official required (determined by chief official)

The fee will be \$2.50 per rider per event (\$1.50 additional event per rider per day) paid by each promoter/organizer to PEP Results.

VOTE: Does the conference want to have this service?	
Yes: 16	No: 0
ACCEPTED	

Issues to resolve include: Replacement numbers; timing/results for time trials (ITT, TTT); how to coordinate between officials, registration, and PEP on race day with rider names, numbers, etc.; handling of one-day license holders; race day registrants.

The cost per rider led to a discussion of the entry fee maximum for ECCC events. A founding belief of NCCA racing is that it should be as inexpensive as possible to maximize participation. So the \$2.50 fee per rider can be shouldered in part by the riders (though an entry fee increase) and partly by the promoters (since they will be defraying several large costs by using PEP). The discussion led to splitting the \$2.50 down to \$1 entry fee increase and \$1.50 for the promoter. This would set the maximum entry fee for an event at \$13. Of course, promoters are strongly encouraged to set entry fees below this amount if the race budget allows.

VOTE: The entry fee will be raised \$1 to \$11 + \$2 insurance = \$13 max per event	
Yes: 16	No: 0
ACCEPTED	

If an event has justified expenses that necessitate a higher entry fee, they may (or may not) get approval for an entry fee increase from the Conference Director.

2. Disciplinary Procedures

In the past season, several disciplinary actions resulted in widely varying results. The USCF rules were applied as were relevant to a USCF race, without taking into consideration the team standings overall, points awarded, or relevance of relegation. The desire arose to create some ECCC procedure for dealing with discipline that applies relevant penalties (i.e. points penalties) to teams that are in violation of the USCF rulebook and code of conduct.

The current USCF rulebook states that protests to an USCF official's ruling can be made by the team or rider that has been disciplined and/or penalized. This team or rider needs to present the chief USCF official with:

1. A written statement of the protest
2. \$10.00 protest fee (refunded upon ruling in their favor, not refunded upon ruling against)

The USCF rulebook calls for the official to create a jury of people who witnessed or were involved in the events in question (except riders from the disciplined team). This jury then discusses and decides on the ruling and their ruling is final. The proposal is that the jury be made up entirely of NCCA/ECCC members and officials (such as NCCA Committee members, conference director, team coaches/captains, or other NCCA riders). The members of this jury and the team leaders must effectively communicate the fact that the jury's decision is final and accepted. The motion brought to the floor was to make sure that the jury is made up of NCCA community members only. This needs to be effectively communicated to the chief official.

VOTE: Ensure that the protest ruling jury is comprised entirely of NCCA community members.	
Yes: 15	No: 1
ACCEPTED	

Note: there was some additional discussion about proper parliamentary procedures presented by Sam Dangremond of Tufts University (the only dissenting vote), but John Shea of Dartmouth quickly clarified that there was no request for the minority's opinion, and the topic was subsequently tabled.

3. TTT Entry Fees

Based upon the inconsistent charging of riders for team time trial, the motion was made to charge for TTT's per team, not per rider.

VOTE: TTT entry fees will be based per team, not per rider	
Yes: 16	No: 0
ACCEPTED	

4. One-day licenses allowed at Easterns

A quick discussion ensued about the concern raised by a student that one-day licenses dilute the significance of the Eastern Championships because one-day riders can show up and race without having raced all season long with an annual license. The response to this concern was that limiting Easterns to annual license holders would make it more difficult to compete at Easterns and would reduce participation.

VOTE: Allow one-day licenses at Easterns.	
Yes: 16	No: 0
ACCEPTED	

5. TTT Points Awarding

The topic of team time trials led to a discussion of how many TTT teams would be allowed to participate in a race. Many options were discussed to change the current guideline which states that only one team per school per category can race in a TTT. The spirit of the discussion revolved around providing an opportunity for as many people as possible to ride in the TTT to gain valuable experience without creating gross advantages for larger teams. Note: teams may start with 4 riders maximum. Time is taken from the wheel of the 3rd male for men TTT's, the wheel of the 2nd female for women TTT's.

The options presented were:

1. Continue to allow only one TTT per school per category.
2. Allow multiple TTT's per school per category, and:
 - a. Score all TTT's per school.
 - b. Schools MUST designate a TTT that is racing for points. Other TTT's from that school in the same category are "exhibition" races only.

- c. Score only the 1st place TTT per school, other TTT's from that school in the same category displace points. For example, if a school gets 1st and 4th in a TTT A race, they are awarded 1st place points and no one is awarded 4th place points.
- d. Score only the 1st place TTT per school, other TTT's from that school do not figure in the results (for points purposes) nor do they displace points. For example, if a school gets 1st and 4th in a TTT A race, they are awarded 1st place points and the 5th place team is awarded the 4th place points.

VOTE: Allow multiple TTT teams per school per category.	
Yes: 12	No: 3
ACCEPTED	

VOTE: Score the 1 st place TTT per school, other TTT's from that school do NOT figure in the results, nor do they displace points. Team do NOT need to designate a team per category.	
Yes: 10	No: 6
ACCEPTED	

6. Events must have scheduled races for all NCCA categories

The 2001 road season featured events that only had races for A and B men and women. This did not allow for C or D men to participate and contribute valuable points to their team totals. If a team decides to have an event at all, they must hold it for all categories of riders.

VOTE: All categories must be allowed to race each event.	
Yes: 16	No: 0
ACCEPTED	

7. Tiebreakers

In the event that two teams tie overall for an event/weekend, a tiebreaker is needed. The current tie breaking methods in the USCF rulebook do not address the multiple-category format of collegiate racing, and do not translate well. Thus, the following tie breaking method was proposed:

First, look at number of 1st place finishes among the A racers (men + women). The team with the most 1st places wins.

If tie is not broken, look at number of 2nd place finishes among the A racers (men + women). The team with the most 2nd places wins.

If tie is not broken, look at number of 3rd place finishes among the A racers (men + women). The team with the most 3rd places wins.

If tie is not broken, look at the number of 1st place finishes among the B racers (men + women). The team with the most 1st places wins.

Continue through all categories until the tie is broken. Please note that 4th place and below is not considered in this tie breaking method. If the teams involved are still tied after looking at all of

these places, there was a proposal for street sprints and/or arm wrestling, but nothing was approved.

8. Prestige Events/"Weekend" vs. One-Day Events

The team points system was discussed at the meeting at considerable length. The issue of points at "prestige" events, regular season events, Easterns, and "Weekend" events was addressed and resolved. This applies to team points that are used for Eastern Championship, Nationals, and Ivy League points. Please note that these are team points, not individual points.

In the 2000 and 2001 seasons, the following points table/method was used:

1. Sum all individual racer points per team across all categories.
2. Split into Division 1 and Division 2 schools.
3. Rank teams according to total points.

One-day events were handled as separate events, and team points were awarded to each separate day. Army and Easterns were treated as a weekend long "event", points were added together across all events per team, and two events worth of points were awarded.

For the 2002 Road season, there will be a distinction made by the promoter of each weekend (including co-hosted races) whether or not they wish for their races to be tabulated together or separately. This distinction shall be clearly stated on the race flyer by each promoter.

Example: UCONN and Yale host a race weekend together. UCONN puts on the road race, Yale a criterium. Since they are co-hosting the weekend, they decide to have the team points tabulated together. Thus, the sum of individual racer points per team from the road race are added to the sum of individual racer points per team from the criterium. The teams are then awarded points according to how many events took place that weekend. Since there were two races (road race + criterium), the "2 Races" points column is awarded, with the first place team getting 40 team points.

If instead the weekend was not co-hosted, each individual event would follow the "1 Race" column for team points.

Easterns has three events (road race, criterium, and team time trial), so it follows the "three race" points schedule. However, ECCC rules state that the team points for Easterns are worth double, so the team points column for Easterns represents double the value of a 3 Race event.

Team points table:

	1 Race	2 Races	3 Races	4 Races	Easterns
PLACE	POINTS	POINTS	POINTS	POINTS	POINTS
1	20	40	60	80	120
2	16	32	48	64	96
3	13	26	39	52	78
4	10	20	30	40	60
5	7	14	21	28	42
6	5	10	15	20	30
7	3	6	9	12	18
8	2	4	6	8	12
9	1	2	3	4	6
10	0	0	0	0	0

9. Points Races

The points race format was discussed because the scoring of points races in the 2001 road season was problematic and the results were unacceptably delayed as a result. However, due to the fact that the conference will have improved resulting this season, points races will be allowed on courses that lend themselves to the points race format, typically on course that are short in length (1 mile or less). Please discuss the matter with your USCF official and conference staff prior to the event.

A points race is a race in which sprints for points are held on certain laps as designated by the organizer/promoter, usually every five laps on short courses, two-three laps on longer courses. In each sprint, the first four riders shall normally be awarded points in order of finish as follows: 5 points, 3 points, 2 points, 1 point. The number of points will be double on the final sprint, and may be doubled for a halfway sprint.

Team points also need to be awarded according to the NCCA Criterium points schedule, 5, 3, 2, 1 on designated laps. Keep in mind that not every points-race sprint needs to be a team points sprint, since there only need be as many team points sprints as required by the NCCA Criterium points schedule.

Please review the points race rules in the USCF rulebook. In the 2001 book, it is located on pages 65-68. It is quite complicated and it is up to you and your riders to fully understand the rules! Pay close attention to the rules about lapped riders.

10. Mountain Bike Season 2002

Because of the discussion required for mountain bike issues and schedule, the Mountain Bike 2002 Season meeting will be held in February, 2002. The meeting shall be announced on the eccc_info@topica.com mailing list.