

Friday, 9 October 2020

Re: COVID impact on Rowing SA's 2020-21 Season

Dear South Australian Rowing Community,

South Australia has done a great job in managing the COVID-19 outbreak, however as it is an ever-evolving situation, there are no guarantees of what the next 12-months will bring. The intention of this letter is to inform you of how our regattas will operate in the immediate future.

Pleasingly, at this stage all regattas scheduled in SA for the 2020-21 season will be going ahead. To ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions a number of changes will be required to the way that they operate, at least in the short term.

Currently, any public gatherings such as regattas are restricted to 1,000 people. In relation to regattas at West Lakes, the facility's open access design, the inability to control numbers on site at any one point in time and to manage public behaviours creates significant issues and the potential to breach current Government COVID-19 guidelines and rules.

In formulating these plans, priority has been given to our competitors to ensure they can compete within the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

The Rowing SA Board outline several key decisions for our regattas scheduled in 2020:

- Refer to the table on page 2 outlining the restrictions to be implemented at each regatta in 2020. Spectators will not be allowed to attend regattas in October and November 2020. Further consultation with SA Health, local Council and the host Clubs will determine the restrictions implemented on regattas in December 2020. A decision will be communicated as soon as possible.
- Regatta schedules will include greater breaks between age groups. Racing opportunities will not be significantly impacted.
- Coaches and essential support staff (1 coach/support staff per 5 athletes) will be permitted to attend all regattas along with competitors. They will need to be registered with up to date details on Rowing Manager (name, phone, email) prior to the regatta.
- 2 parent/general support personnel per Club/School are permitted to assist their athletes assemble their marquee/outdoor athlete area and manage this area in line with COVID-19 guidelines. Boatsheds are not a place to congregate.

- No shared food or communal water can be provided to athletes – only bottled water. Athletes are required to bring their own food and drinks.
- No food/beverage sales permitted at Regattas. Council permits for this will not be issued in 2020.
- The current decisions will be reviewed weekly and any changes will be communicated promptly.
- A decision regarding restrictions to scheduled regattas in 2021 will be made in December.

Table: Restrictions to be implemented at regattas in 2020

| Date | Event Name | Location | Restrictions |
|--|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| October 17 th | 1.9km Time Trial Regatta | West Lakes | Spectators NOT permitted |
| October 25 th | Australian Indoor Rowing Championships | Torrens Rowing Club | Spectators NOT permitted |
| October 31 st | 4.8km Time Trial Regatta | West Lakes | Spectators NOT permitted |
| October 31 st | Junior Regatta | West Lakes | Spectators NOT permitted |
| November 7 th | Port Adelaide Regatta & Head of the Port | Port Adelaide | Spectators NOT permitted |
| November 14 th | Round the Island Regatta | West Lakes | Spectators NOT permitted |
| November 14 th | Junior Regatta | West Lakes | Spectators NOT permitted |
| November 21 st | West Lakes Regatta | West Lakes | Spectators NOT permitted |
| November 28 th | School Premiership Series #1 | West Lakes | Spectators NOT permitted |
| December 5 th & 6 th | Riverland Regatta & 2 nd Grade State Championships | Berri | To be advised as soon as possible |
| December 19 th | Henley on Torrens | Torrens Lake | To be advised as soon as possible |

Based on a risk assessment, these measures need to be in place to ensure the safety of our rowing community and to ensure Rowing SA meets current Government COVID-19 guidelines and rules. There will be a zero tolerance on any Club not adhering to these restrictions and consequences will apply. Consequences will include temporary suspension of Affiliation with Rowing SA and exclusion of entries to the following regatta. Live streaming/result capabilities are being investigated to maximise interaction and engagement of spectators and our wider community while restrictions on our regattas are in place.

Clubs and Schools are reminded that all existing COVID-19 Safety Plans and practices must continue to be strictly adhered to and enforced. Stay home if you are unwell, keep 1.5 metre distance from others wherever and whenever possible, and adhere to the density requirement of 1 person per 2 square meters. The approach to training and regattas should focus on 'get in, train/compete, get out', to minimise as much unnecessary contact as possible.

Importantly, all clubs and schools should be mindful that participation in any competition is up to the individual.

As you can appreciate these decisions have been challenging to make and we appreciate your support. We acknowledge the impact that this decision will have on Club/School ability to fundraise. We aim to revert to normal when possible in compliance with COVID-19 regulations. We will continue to provide updates to you as soon as further developments come to hand.

Regards,



Philip Paterson
Chair – Rowing SA Board

Regards,



Andrew Swift
Chief Executive Officer