

Wednesday, 27 January 2021

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

Dear South Australian Rowing Community,

Following email correspondence to you on *Wednesday 23 December 2020*, I provide clarification on how our regattas will operate in the immediate future.

All regattas scheduled in SA for the remainder of the 2020-21 season will go ahead as planned. Rowing SA has made the pre-emptive decision to exclude spectators for the following regattas:

- **Saturday 30 January** – Murray Bridge (joint decision with Murray Bridge Council and Murray Bridge Boat Club)
- **Saturday 6 February** – West Lakes SPS#2
- **Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 February** – West Lakes State Champs
- **Saturday 13 February** – West Lakes
- **Saturday 20 February** – West Lakes SPS#3
- **Saturday 6 March** - West Lakes SPS#4
- **Saturday 13 March** – West Lakes
- All future regattas are still to be considered

This decision has not been made lightly but has been done to give the athletes the best opportunity to race. Only competition athletes, registered coaches, registered support staff, Rowing SA volunteers and Boat Race Officials will be able to access the event site. Live streaming has been organised for all these regattas.

COVID-19 restrictions continue to bring challenges to the rowing community and will impact the way in which we undertake the remainder of the 2020-2021 regatta season and beyond. Rowing SA's aim continues to be the delivery of the sport to the rowing community as safely and as practically as possible.

Further information will be released prior to each regatta on exact procedures including drop off and pick-up procedures for athletes, QR code venue check in and strict access controls for all attendees.

It is the responsibility of each club/school to ensure your community abides by the procedures to prevent the regatta from being cancelled. As such, **we request acknowledgement from each School Principal and Club President that the information outlined in this letter has been read and every effort will be made by your school/club to ensure compliance of their community. This acknowledgement can be completed via return email to aswift@rowingsa.asn.au**

For the purpose of non-compliance and penalties, the following processes will be taken by Rowing SA.


In the first instance, individuals that breach the guidelines contained within the Rowing SA COVID Safe Event Plan, e.g. spectators in attendance at a regatta, will be asked to immediately rectify the matter e.g. spectators to immediately leave the event site. For breaches that are not rectified, repeat breaches by one club/school, or serious breaches, the following steps will be escalated for each additional incident. These actions will be agreed upon by the regatta's Head Referee plus a Rowing SA Board member/Rowing SA CEO. Temporary suspension or cancellation of the regatta may be required if breaches are not immediately addressed.

1. Individuals involved in the offending practice or behaviour will be asked to leave the site. A warning will be issued to the individuals Club (captain)/School (Head of Rowing).
2. Athletes/crews belonging to the school/club of the offending practice/behaviour will be removed from further racing on that day.
3. School/Club of the offending practice/behaviour will be barred from entering the next Rowing SA Regatta.
4. School/Club of the offending practice/behaviour will have affiliation temporary suspended for 1 week.

If a regatta is suspended or cancelled due to non-compliance, security guards will be employed for subsequent regattas to turn away anyone without authority to be on-site.

As you can appreciate these decisions have been challenging to make and we appreciate your support. 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