

Wednesday, 19 January 2022

Re: Rowing SA's COVID-19 Response_Update 19.01.2022

Dear Rowing SA Stakeholder,

On 13 January 2022, the Premier of South Australia along with the SA Chief Public Health Officer, announced plans for a staged return to school for the beginning of Term 1, 2022.

As a part of efforts to minimise the peak of COVID-19 cases and strain on the SA Health system during this time, Rowing SA has adopted the government's guidelines, and as a result schools will be unable to compete at Rowing SA regattas until week 4, subject to further government updates.

Club/community sport can continue to compete. The key update for clubs since 2021 is a stricter density limit of 1 person per 7m² for gym settings, which includes boatsheds.

The below table outlines several frequently asked questions to help navigate your way through the next phase of the 2021/22 season.

Question	Rowing SA's Decision	Reason/Evidence
Can schools compete in our regattas from this Saturday 22 January 2022?	No. Schools cannot compete in our regattas until Saturday 26 February.	As outlined by the SA Government, they have <i>temporarily postponed from now until week 4 high risk activities (eg interschool sport, choir), large gatherings (eg assemblies), external activities (eg camps and excursions).</i>
What additional restrictions will be in place for our regattas from this Saturday onwards?	Several, in addition to the current SA Health guidelines.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No training allowed from the West Lakes facility during the regatta. 2. Only 1 spectator per athlete allowed. 3. New strict BRO and volunteer processes. 4. At least two independently hired COVID Marshals to monitor compliance of attendees. 5. Masks required for all attendees.
Can schools continue to train for rowing activities?	Yes, but is dependent on your school's situation.	Currently, this is a school-by-school decision, the emphasis is on activities which have large groups together. Obviously, we have year 7s & 8s (12s if they still row) at school from week 1 so there is no reason why they couldn't be doing fitness at school as long as they don't mix as large groups or year levels. Again, this is a school-by-school decision.
What happens to the School Premiership Points (SPS) this season as schools will likely be able to only compete in two SPS regattas (not 4)?	It will still be awarded this season.	As all schools have had/will have the opportunity to compete in the available SPS regattas, this award can therefore still be presented.

Will Premiership Points be awarded considering all schools are unable to compete?	No. The awarding of Premiership Points will be suspended during this time.	It is not a fair competition if 50% of clubs/schools are unable to compete in the regattas (not by their choice). The awarding of points will resume from Saturday 26 February.
Will we still run the 'general' regattas on Saturday 22 January and Saturday 12 February?	Yes, however without entries from schools.	There are no restrictions in place for community sport competitions, so these regattas can continue under strict COVID protocols.
Can school students compete for clubs?	Yes. They would need to be a member of a club in this instance.	There are no restrictions in place for community sport competitions.
On the two days where the SPS regattas were to run, there is a high chance that many schools and clubs will train at West Lakes. This has the potential to be a safety risk to our community. How will this be managed?	Strong communication and consultation.	We insist that no school race or train with another school during their training session. We will shortly follow up with each club and school who use the West Lakes facility to gather information on their training sessions to ensure numbers present are spread over the weekend, and also so we do not go over the permitted maximum 1,000-person capacity at our facility. If required, we will provide training times to each school/club which will be different between each of these two weekends.
What effect do these changes have on the Head of the River regatta as well as qualification for this event?	Several.	Ultimately a decision on this will need to be reached by the Heads of Rowing Schools Committee. There are several options to be discussed and Rowing SA will be fluid and supportive of reaching a positive solution for the students.
Will live streaming be available for regattas?	Yes, but not all.	Live streaming will be available for regattas from Saturday 26 February and throughout March. This is because we expect that there will be spectator restrictions for the remainder of this season.
Should State Team selection and training continue?	Yes, but not the Pathway program.	As the State Team Pathway program has not yet commenced its selection there are many nominees who are from a mix of schools. Selection for this event will be postponed until further notice as it has the same concerns to interschool sport. Other Interstate crews including Youth crews have been selected and therefore who is training and when can be managed and controlled. Therefore, these crews should continue to train as normal. This includes the day training at Murray Bridge on Sunday 30 January 2022.

In addition, and as previously advised, Rowing SA strongly advises those eligible in our community to receive a full course of a Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) approved COVID-19 vaccination and get your Booster if eligible. There remains no mandate at this stage, however a mandate may be imposed dependent on further advice.

We will be continuously monitoring updates and will keep you informed of any further changes as necessary. Please continue to monitor the SA Health website to ensure you are up to date with all exposure sites and regulations that may impact you.

We remind everyone to remain vigilant about following COVID-19 safe practices. This includes QR code check-in, hand hygiene, physical distancing and if you are presenting with flu-like symptoms, please remain at home until a negative test is returned or your prescribed quarantine period has concluded. In addition, masks are required by SA Health to be worn in shared indoor public places which includes boatsheds, changerooms and bathrooms. **Please review the accompanied *Rowing SA COVID Compliance Update_19/01/2022* document to ensure that you and your members follow the current requirements.**

We appreciate your understanding and expected compliance as we navigate safely through the second half of our 2021/22 rowing season.

Regards,



Philip Paterson
Chair – Rowing SA Board

Regards,



Andrew Swift
Chief Executive Officer