



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

CGS Boat Shed

15 February 2021 at 6pm

1. Attendees:

Board: Alison Creagh (Chair), Alison Chinn, Catherine Garrington, Ben James, Luke Letcher, Ben Page, Kent Peters, Neil Smith, Deb Styman.

By invitation: Tobias Wehr-Candler (Schools Representative), Geoff Northam (Chief BRO)

Staff: Sally Clark (Executive Officer), Dave Fraumano (Head Coach)

Attendees were asked to attend this meeting in person.

2. Apologies: nil

3. Register of interests

- a. Alison Creagh - member of CRC.
- b. Kent Peters noted Toby Wehr-Candler is an employee of CGS.
- c. Deb Styman - nominee for the masters ACT Interstate crew.

4. Welcome officially to Sally in her first meeting as EO and welcome to Toby as Schools Rep and Geoff N, Chief BRO, as observers at this meeting.

5. Acceptance of Minutes

- a. January 2021 Board Meeting Minutes – accepted Kent, seconded Neil with small amendments noted to the attendance item.
- b. Outstanding action items.
 - i. Incidents occurring at Yarramundi Reach – work in progress in liaison with NCA.
 - ii. Additional buoys requested on the course - also work in progress.
 - iii. Safety sub-committee establishment is pending, and may not occur until after this current season.
 - iv. Safety Review – Alan Buturic is continuing the work Michelle Smith commenced, Michelle will also continue to assist with this review.
 - v. RA Strategic Review – comments from the Board will be collated and submitted.
 - vi. RACT has submitted a letter in support of the CRC shed development application.

- c. **Out-of-Session Board Decisions via Circular Resolution.** Recommendations from the Regatta Sub-committee on the HotL were discussed and considered by email. By majority vote, the Board agreed to the three recommendations below.
- i. Recommendation 1. The inclusion of an U17 eight into the program with the purpose for having it included as an U17 event allowed crews to race in their combinations that they would be racing at NSW Championships and the Nationals. Having it as an U17 crew would attract more schools to enter an 8+.
 - ii. Recommendation 2. The Schoolboy and Schoolgirl eight will not be included as part of the two entry cap for Senior students in the Head of the Lake Regatta.
 - iii. Recommendation 3. The three-entry cap for single sculls in the ACT Junior Championships will remain, however schools will be able to submit additional entries to create a waiting list. The decision as to how many additional rowers from the waiting list will be allowed to race will be made by the Chief BRO.
6. **Schools Report** -Tobias Wehr-Candler (invited to attend for this agenda item). As Schools Representative stated schools would like day-to-day school's issues to go through the Regatta Sub-committee, rather than having a direct and separate representation on the Rowing ACT Board. Regatta Sub-committee meetings quarterly was suggested as being sufficient to cover Schools issues at this stage.
7. **Head Coach update**
- a. High Performance Update:
 - i. New administrative support (Sarah Davoren) appreciated.
 - ii. 7 new Wintech sculls have been received on a good rental agreement.
 - iii. National's trailers are booked to Tasmania. Returning trailer is being negotiated by RA.
 - iv. Excellent results were noted by ACT athletes at NSW champs last weekend. This will lead to invitations for some rowers to Olympic trials.
 - v. Board noted that not only did ACT athletes perform well at NSW Champs, but the ACT Schools did very well also at this event.
 - b. Interstate Team Selection:
 - i. Higher number of athlete nominations were received this year for Nationals.
 - ii. Due to some drop outs - Kings Cup, Victoria Cup, Youth Eight crew nominees trialled again today. Victoria Cup and Youth Women's Eight crews will continue training for this event. Other ACT athlete selection updates were also mentioned. Crews will be advised on 18 February for Board approval before publication.
 - iii. Well done to all athletes noted.

8. Director of Finance Report

- a. The financial reports were circulated prior to the meeting to all Board members.
- b. Noted that seat fees have dropped this season.
- c. HotL – entry numbers are predicted to be less than previous.
- d. Balance Sheet is looking strong.
- e. Grant money received (pontoons etc) – need to look at expenditure of these with deadlines in mind.
- f. Financial statements; accepted Ben Page, seconded Ben James.

9. Items for discussion:

a. Board Performance and Rowing ACT Governance:

i. RACT Board Performance (noting absence of EO at the end of 2020):

- Backlog in meeting minutes will be updated on the website as soon as possible.
- Order of Events – question on specific events being updated.
- Masters selection policy – finalised in late December. Holiday cross-over meant it was delayed and posted directly to nominees and website. Policy will be circulated to the Board in normal circumstances.
- Special thanks were noted to Katrina as HP Co-ordinator and Acting EO – her final day was last Saturday. A gift from RACT will be presented at the uniform presentations to athletes.
- HPP Co-ordinator vacancy – Sarah Davoren has been appointed to this position in a non-ongoing, part-time capacity currently.
- Board delegations were explained as they currently are actioned. Discussion on whether a formal process or delegation structure is required. The Board agreed this would be useful to create.

ii. Rowing ACT Governance:

- Grade point system - Alison Chinn. A summary paper was circulated prior to the meeting regarding incorrect grade scores presently within the entry system. Grade adjustments have not been happening automatically this season.
ACTION: Regatta Secretary (Stuart) to adjust the links in the system to activate automatic grade score adjustments.
ACTION: Alison Chinn to do a cross-check and an audit of the current grades and present recommendations to the Board as soon as possible (by circular resolution if required).
ACTION: Risk and Compliance working group is seen as a good step to track and monitor the Board and EO required actions, including the duties listed below. A Delegation guideline document is to be developed also for EO and Board guidance. Alison, Kent and Neil expressed interest in sitting on this sub-

committee. The working group will come back to the Board with recommendations on the priorities.

- a. Board Charter
- b. Matters that require Rowing ACT decisions
- c. Rowing ACT delegations
- d. Compliance processes

b. Regatta Updates (Rowing ACT EO):

- i. 2021 Head of the Lake/ ACT Junior Championships regattas (including COVIDSafe Management). Site plans have been followed up to ensure club setup is suitable. Numbers are capped for this event. Presentations and how this will occur is being worked through.
- ii. ANUBC Regatta. It was noted that the President of the Jury Report and Fine Reports have not been presented or tracked recently (due to EO absence). Poor rower substitution processes by Clubs have been noticed and Clubs/rowers will be warned, clubs will be reminded on the correct process and it will be reinforced that fines will be issued. **ACTION:** EO to continue to receive Head of the Jury reports and Fine reports. Board is to receive copies of these reports.
- iii. Order of Events for the next regattas – **ACTION:** EO to follow up with Regatta Sub-committee Chair and Chief BRO to preview the order of events, and then will invite the Board to comment.
- iv. Regatta Sub Committee Report – thanks noted to the Regatta Sub-committee for conducting these meetings and forwarding recommendations.
 - Recommendation 2: WTT dates – approved.
 - Recommendation 3: ACT Indoor Champs – pending.
 - Recommendation 4: Masters selection races not scheduled in the regatta events - changes in scheduling have been made.
 - Covid restrictions for future regattas – confirmed we are currently working within changing Government guidelines.

- c. Sea Plane Proposal Update (Alison Creagh). Summary of the process to date presented including public consultation options. 2 submissions have been received from RACT community (one HP and one general community). **ACTION:** A follow up public presentation to the RACT community by NCA is to be initiated.

10. Items for decision:

- a. Board Resignation and Board Vacancy. Thank you to Ben James for his time on the Board. Two new Board member candidates have nominated and were voted on.

- b. Consideration of women competing in Rowing ACT men's events. A full explanation document from Geoff Northam, quoting racing rules, was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.
ACTION: Board working group (Neil Smith, Alison Chinn and a BRO representative) and public consultation is to take place to investigate and provide recommendations back to the Board on a possible proposed change to the RACT By-Laws to allow for cross-gender entries of rowers into opposite gender races.
 - c. Point score matter – Confirmed that crews with cross-gender rowers in the crew should not be accruing club points under current rules as they invitational entries. **ACTION:** Clubs are to be reminded on the proper process to lodge objections.
11. **Workplace Health & Safety reports** – to be considered by circular resolution for this month.
- a. Report on safety incidents
 - b. Water Quality – Lake Burley Griffin and Lake Tuggeranong
 - c. COVID-19
12. **Community Feedback (complaints & compliments)** – noted separately in other agenda items.
13. **Items for noting:**
- a. Personnel Matters – new HP Co-ordinator has been appointed.
 - b. RA Masters Commission Update – email coming with further details.
 - c. RA Council Update – 2 RA Board vacancies are coming up at the AGM.
 - d. Rowing ACT meetings – external stakeholder meeting summary was provided.
14. **Other business**
- a. Four-five ACT rowers have qualified for the World Indoor Rowing Championships. Event live time will be middle of the night ACT time.
 - b. Traffic management consultation is underway for Yarralumla Bay/CRC shed area.
15. **In camera session (if required)** – not required.

Meeting closed 9.18pm.

Next Meeting: 15 March 2021



Alison Creagh
President

BOARD PAPERS

Agenda Item 5 - Schools Report:

As a result of Board consideration, schools were invited to provide input into Rowing ACT Board meetings through a Standing Agenda Item.

The Rowing ACT Letter to schools is below and their response is attached.

For all Heads of Rowing in the ACT school rowing community:

School representation on the Rowing ACT Board

In September 2020 Rowing ACT was asked to consider the appointment of a School Representative to the Board by representatives of the ACT school rowing community. The Rowing ACT Board has considered this request.

The Rowing ACT Board would like to offer the following opportunity to the ACT school rowing community:

- A school representative is invited to attend Rowing ACT Board meetings as an observer. The observer would fully contribute to discussions at Rowing ACT Board meetings with a focus on how decisions may affect the school rowing community. The observer would not be eligible to vote on Board matters. The Rowing ACT Board believes the incumbent for the observer position should be nominated by the ACT school rowing community and should be the same attendee at each Board meeting.
- The Board would welcome an ACT Schools Sub-Committee as a formal sub-committee of the Rowing ACT Board to ensure that the ACT School rowing community interests are represented to the Board. The chair of this sub-committee would be a member of the Rowing ACT Board or a person appointed by the Board.
- Neil Smith, as a member of the Rowing ACT Board, has offered to chair an ACT Schools Sub-Committee.
- Rowing ACT will have a standing agenda item at each board meeting to offer the opportunity for school related issues to be raised and discussed by the Board.
- The ACT school rowing community is encouraged to canvas nominees to fill future board vacancies for both elected and appointed positions. You should note that the Rowing ACT Board is a skills based board and seeks to appoint board members who bring a range of skills to the board along with their understanding of the ACT school community.

I am available to discuss these points with ACT schools if there are questions.

Head of the Lake/Junior Championships Regatta Planning

Rowing ACT is also keen to engage with the ACT school rowing community to commence the detailed planning for 2021 Head of the Lake/Junior Championships Regatta. In particular Rowing ACT would be keen to seek your advice on planning requirements, event format, COVIDSafe management and merchandise. The Acting Executive Officer, Katrina Wiseman is available to commence discussions on these issues.

We look forward to working with you to support a successful regatta season for the ACT school rowing community.

Best regards

Alison

Alison Creagh AM CSC
President

The monthly report from schools is provided below. Tobias Wehr-Candler will represent the schools for this agenda item in the Board Meeting.

Dear Rowing ACT Board,

Firstly we would like to congratulate the Rowing ACT board on the appointment of Sally Clark as Executive Officer, all Schools have noted her great communication in the early weeks, and are looking forward to working with her.

We acknowledge that 2020-21 has provided numerous challenges, especially with uncertainty around events and COVID-19 restrictions, and we look forward to resuming some normality and ensuring structures are in place to review, reflect and improve our events and ensure they meet the needs of all stakeholders. Our recent Regatta Sub-Committee meeting was productive, and we believe that this forum should be utilised and leveraged more in reviewing, reflecting and improving the events that are run to benefit all participants involved.

Once the regular rowing season concludes, the Schools have committed to meeting together in review of the season. Our priority is to provide more participants access to and offer appropriate opportunities for our students to race and experience the sport. At present we have no pressing matters to raise with the Board that are required to be discussed at this meeting, other than those presented through the Regatta Sub-Committee meeting. We look forward to discussing opportunities for improving the student rowing experience following the conclusion of the regular school rowing season where we would be pleased to present ideas for strategic consideration.

On behalf of the ACT rowing schools,
Tobias Wehr-Candler

Agenda Item 8 - Items for discussion:

a. Board Performance and Rowing ACT Governance

Rowing ACT Board is asked to discuss Board Performance and Rowing ACT Governance matters including a report on the Grade Point System provided by Alison Chinn.

b. Regatta Updates

A mid-season Regatta Sub Committee was held in Feb 21. The Regatta Sub Committee Report is attached. The Regatta Sub Committee identified concerns around Masters Selection crews racing in normal regatta events with this causing a disruption to other rowers. On advice from the Chief BRO this concern was addressed for the ANUBC Regatta with the majority of Masters Selection races being held outside the regatta program.

c. Sea Plane Proposal

President Rowing ACT and CEO Rowing Australia had a second meeting with Andrew Smith from NCA to understand the process for consideration of the proposal for a Seaplane on Lake Burley Griffin. A range of matters were raised and it was suggested that initial information could be provided to NCA prior to the public consultation process. The email to NCA from Rowing ACT and Rowing Australia is provided below.

It is likely that the NCA will brief the Lake User Group on the Seaplane proposal.

NCA has offered to brief the ACT rowing community on the Seaplane proposal as part of the public consultation process so Rowing ACT can determine rowing concerns and then consider what Rowing ACT might wish to present to the NCA as part of the public consultation process.

The Rowing ACT Board is asked to consider if the NCA should be invited to brief the ACT rowing community on the Seaplane Proposal as part of the public consultation process to help inform a Rowing ACT submission.

Email to Andrew Smith, NCA from CEO Rowing Australia and President Rowing ACT:

Dear Andrew

Thank you for the opportunity to meet to outline initial observations and concerns from Rowing Australia (RA) and Rowing ACT on the seaplane on Lake Burley Griffin (LBG) proposal. We understand that there are a number of steps to undertake before a decision can be made on the seaplane proposal including community consultation, safety reviews, regulatory reviews and heritage/environment assessments. Both RA and Rowing ACT are undertaking reviews on the impact of the seaplane for the ACT rowing community and offer the following initial comments:

- *Overview of the ACT rowing community.* The ACT rowing community is the largest lake user of LBG and consists of RA Headquarters, RA Men's NTC and Rowing ACT Clubs, Schools and the Rowing ACT/ACTAS High Performance Program. There are over 1000 rowers regularly using LBG (throughout the year) ranging in age from 12 - 80+ years old. Some of our rowers, coaches and support staff are employees while others are volunteers. There are 14 Clubs and Schools and two high performance training facilities (RA National Training Centre (NTC) and Rowing ACT/ACTAS) located around the shores of LBG from East Basin to West Basin with the major concentration of clubs, schools and high performance centres located at Yarralumla Bay. Rowers in the ACT vary in experience and rowing competence from novice to elite level. Rowers will train and compete in boats that vary in size from Singles to Eights.

The ACT rowing community uses all of LBG for training to enable long training sessions of 20+km and competes on the rowing course on Yarramundi Reach and the National Time Trial Course of 2km running from the white poles at Yarralumla Bay to the National Museum. Training times on LBG for both high performance centres occur two to three times a day and session times and locations of training will vary depending on the training program, weather and water conditions. Clubs tend to train in the morning and a number of schools train in the afternoon. Training camps are run

several times per year prior to, and midway through, the summer season with multiple on-water sessions in a day. Interstate clubs and schools visit Canberra and LBG for training camps to take advantage of the size and conditions on LBG. Timing for individual rowers training on LBG is ad hoc and linked to weather and water conditions.

- *Lake Use Strategy.* We acknowledge that LBG is a valuable asset to the Canberra and it should continue to be available for public use. Rowers are proud of our lake and its value to the ACT community. Rowing formally commenced in the ACT as LBG was filled so Rowing ACT has a long association with LBG.

We have observed that there is increased use of LBG by commercial ventures including ferries, tourist boats, GoBoats, the Black Mountain Water Park and now the potential Seaplane. There is also increased use by the community including rowers, yachts, dragon boats, SUP, kayakers, triathlon and individual ad hoc users.

We believe there is a need to develop a Lake Use Strategy as part of consideration for the seaplane. The Strategy should consider the future use of LBG to ensure that there is an understanding of, and future planning for:

- regulatory considerations
- commercial use
- community use
- heritage and environmental management
- safety for users
- infrastructure management - moorings, pontoons, training courses, lake walls etc.

- *Regulatory aspects including Lake Safety and Lake Ordinance.* It is unclear how lake safety will be managed with the increased commercial and community use of LBG. As LBG is under a Lake Ordinance it is unclear what Maritime Safety law and rules would apply for the seaplane. RA, Rowing ACT, rowing clubs and schools all have responsibilities under the WHS Act to manage safety for their respective members as they are registered organisations in the ACT. We believe that clear guidance needs to be provided on the safety responsibilities of the seaplane. Also, a clear understanding should be provided around lake safety management. Ideally this information would be made available to lake users prior to the public consultation to allow proper consideration of the safety risks associated with the seaplane proposal.

Also we consider that lake safety should include the possible risk associated with fuel spills with an understanding of how a fuel spill would be managed as water quality is an issue for lake users including rowers.

- *Mooring location.* We understand that the long term intent for seaplane mooring is planned for Acton or Lotus Bay. We note that the infrastructure for appropriate mooring is not yet available in these locations. The Yarralumla Bay mooring was used for the demonstration. You should note that Yarralumla Bay has the highest number of rowing clubs and boat sheds with a very high number of rowers using the areas around Yarralumla Bay on a daily basis and throughout the day. As a result of this high usage there is risk with near misses or collisions between rowers. Rowing ACT works with clubs and schools to monitor incidents and then works with NCA to implement control measures to mitigate these collisions. We consider that mooring

the seaplane at Yarralumla Bay would increase the safety risk to our rowers and have concerns that a Yarralumla Bay mooring may be considered as a temporary or contingency site for mooring the seaplane. This is of real concern to our organisations.

- *Rowing Australia and Rowing ACT Safety Responsibilities.* Both organisations have a number of employees (high performance rowers, coaches and support staff) who use Lake Burley Griffin as their primary place of work. This means that LBG is considered an industrial workplace. It is the responsibility of both our organisations to create a safe environment for our employees and detailed risk assessments are underway to identify the risk and appropriate mitigations to manage the risk. While a workplace incident involving a rower and the seaplane is considered unlikely, it is still possible and the consequences are potentially catastrophic. Insurance coverage must also be considered and an increase in insurance premiums to cover an incident involving the seaplane would be concerning to the ACT rowing community. These issues are of real concern to our organisations.

Rowing Australia and Rowing ACT both intend to make submissions during the public consultation process and the intent of our initial comments is to provide you an outline of our initial areas of concern. We look forward to continued engagement and discussion with you and welcome any questions you may have on the matters raised in these initial comments.

Best regards

Ian Robson
CEO
Rowing Australia

Alison Creagh AMCSC
President
Rowing ACT

Agenda 9 - Items for decision:

a. Board Resignation and Board Vacancy.

As a result of the resignation of a Board member there will be an Appointed Member vacancy at the end of this meeting. The CVs and Expressions of Interest for possible Appointed Member candidates are provided separately for Board consideration.

b. Consideration of Women competing in Rowing ACT Men's events.

In the last month Rowing ACT has received two separate requests for women to compete in men's events at the same regattas. Each request has been considered by referring the request to the Chief BRO. In both cases the Chief BRO recommended that the requests be refused. President Rowing ACT subsequently advised the athlete or club that their requests were not supported. They were also advised that the matter would be raised for discussion at the next Rowing ACT Board meeting (Feb).

President CRC wrote to Rowing ACT to raise their concerns that the request for their rower had been refused. The Board was copied on the email. President Rowing ACT referred the concerns to the Chief BRO for his advice.

The Chief BRO (Geoff Northam) provided the following response:

I would like to start by listing some principles that apply to regatta officiating:

- Officials are bound to apply the authorised rules of racing, as set out by the governing body. In this case the governing body is RACT.
- There is no instrument or provision for any boat Race Official, including the Chief BRO, that provides officials with discretionary authority to vary the Rules and by-Laws
- The rules that apply to RACT regattas are identified and published through two sources – RA Rules of Racing (current published version is 14 Sep 2017 edition) and in RACT By-Laws (currently 22 July 2019 edition). By-Laws Part VII specifically identify the applicable rules as RA Rules of Racing except as modified by RACT By-Laws. There a specific provisions identified, none of which bear relevance to the matters raised by CRC
- RACT By-Laws Code of Conduct (Clause 37) specifically requires All participants and officials to ‘Act within the rules and spirit of our sport’. Of note is the two doctrines of compliance and spirit are expressed mutually (ie bound by ‘and’) and not individually exclusive (ie ‘or’).
- Boat Race Officials have no authority to influence or otherwise alter the outcome of a race, either by selective waiving of specific rules, or by discretionary variation of the rules. They may apply sanctions within the rules to eliminate a crew that has interfered with another crew. This does not extend to altering the finish order or time of any other crew, other than through the correct action of excluding a crew. If a crew remains disadvantaged after correctly excluding a crew, then the only remedy available to the official is to order a re-row of the race without the excluded crew, with as many crews as is required to preserve rankings for progression.

Turning to the matters raised by CRC, there are a number of points of clarification and correction that should be discussed:

1. The assertion that each state has the capacity to operate differently is a generalisation that overlooks the mechanism to do so. There is no State that confers authority on BROs to vary the rules of racing at the discretion of BROs. Any variation that may occur is made at the discretion of the state governing body.
2. Kim Brennan has been cited as a precedent. The RA High Performance coach requested that RACT permit Kim to race in Mens A Grade events at local regattas to help her prepare for the Olympic Games. RACT agreed to permit her to complete in RACT mens 1x events, but this was by invitation, and her participation was transparent in the determination of rankings for pointscore. The pointscore was determined on the basis that Kim did not compete in the event, or if looked at differently from a technical perspective, Kim was effectively excluded from the results at the completion of the race. Cara was similarly granted permission to enter mens events when she was attempting to gain national team

selection. Again this was at the request of HP coaches to help prepare her, and her participation was by invitation. I recall at that time RA Rules of Racing did not explicitly exclude a women from entering a mens race, but a man was excluded from entering a womens race. This rule was ultimately changed to meet national expectation in relation to gender equity principles.

3. The assertion that Cara's participation in a mens event will inspire other female athletes is dubious at best. In my experience young athletes are inspired by the opportunity to race in an event that includes elite athletes. This source of inspiration is lost if Cara does not complete in womens events. Furthermore, it is improbable that female athletes will be aware that Cara has competed in a mens event. Inspiration requires awareness, and Cara's participation has been in recent times by stealth, which is unlikely to generate the claimed inspiration.
4. There is an assertion that Cara has been singled out. That is not correct. There were other female crewed boats that sought to row in mens events, and all these requests were denied by the Chief BRO as lacking HP coach sponsorship, and not permitted by the Rules of Racing.
5. There is a claim of a change in attitudes around Cara racing in mens events. This is not true. On the previous occasions this season where Cara raced in the mens 8+, there was no explicit forewarning of her intention to row, other than by a substitution by SMS text on the day. This appears to be a strategy of stealth, as it is known that substitutions are not processed until after the regatta has concluded (BROs are only processing withdrawals in real time. The first instance of Cara racing in the CRC mens 8+ only came to the attention of BROs as a result of an objection raised by another member of the rowing community, and production of video to substantiate Cara's presence in the boat. BROs became aware of the second instance as a result of the first instance, and confirmed Cara's presence during the race. The third instance was noted at the start on the suspicion that CRC would again substitute Cara into the boat. The BRO treatment of Cara's presence in the Mens 8+ was consistent. The CRC mens 8+ entry was changed to by invitation on each occasion once confirmed. Technically the CRC mens 8+ was excluded at the completion of the race as not conforming to the rules of racing. There has been no change in attitude in how Cara's presence in the boat has been treated.

There are other considerations that have not been raised in discussions, but merit consideration (on the broader question of rowing out of gender category).

- An elite female athlete is taking up a position in a mens 8+ that may be denying opportunity for an aspiring male competitor. The consequences of preferential treatment on other rowers has been ignored for convenience.
- By not competing in Womens events, an elite female athlete is effectively diminishing those events for other female competitors. In some circumstances this could lead to the event not having sufficient competitors to form a race that accumulations premiership points.
- The reverse situation must also be capable of withstanding scrutiny, or put more bluntly, 'pass the pub test'. That is, is it acceptable for a male athlete to compete in a womens event because that male athlete cannot find sufficient competition in a mens event? The acceptability of this situation must stand up as strongly as the

case for a female athlete competing in a male event if RACT is to maintain a position of gender equity.

- An elite athlete is capable of manufacturing a competitively challenging race by self-handicapping. There is no rule that compels a rower to start rowing at the starter's signal to go. An elite competitor can wait at the start for a period of time sufficient to create a challenging race for that elite athlete.
- There does not appear to have been any broader consultation with other competitors and clubs on allowing rowers to compete in races for the other gender. An important role of the BRO is to preserve the fairness of competition for all, not just some of the crews competing. Any proposal to compete outside the rules of racing with an entitlement to accumulate premiership points is clearly outside the bounds of even the most basic principles of fairness. It is the role of the BROs to prevent such situations to restore fairness for all competitors.

There are many things raised in this e-mail that need to be discussed by the broader rowing community before any proposal of adoption should be considered by the RACT Board in the form of By-Law exceptions to the Rules of Racing. There are some troubling aspects on perceptions of fairness raised within the CR letter which are presented solely in the prism of an individual's interest, and not the broader rowing community.

For clarity, I would like to close by stating that BROs are engaged to ensure the Rules of Racing are followed to ensure safety and fairness. Nationally, there are no BROs at any accreditation level that have been authorised to apply variations to the Rules of Racing at their discretion. To do so places BROs above the authority of the State and National Governance bodies to determine what rules apply to what races. There is no rowing organisation in Australia that subscribes to such arrangements. BROs are charged with the responsibility to diligently apply the rules of racing to ensure competition is safe and fair, with no favour granted to any individual or club.

I hope this account gives you a sound basis upon which to engage all RACT clubs on the questions raised in an open and informed manner.

The Rowing ACT Board is asked to:

- a. *Decide if women can row in men's events at Rowing ACT regattas for the remainder of Regatta season 2020/2021 and how this should be recorded for the purposes of point score.*
- b. *Decide if women who are under-going National training and selection can be allowed to row in men's events at Rowing ACT regattas to assist with their training and preparation for National selection.*
- c. *Decide if further work should be undertaken around Rowing ACT By-Laws for future regatta seasons to allow women to compete in men's event*

c. Point score matter.

The Chief BRO has previously advised that a women competed in a men's 8+ race in the November 2020 regatta. This was identified by the BROs after the race and the Chief BRO advised that the crew should be recognised as rowing "by invitation" and not receive the point score for that event.

The Rowing ACT Board is asked to:

- a. Decide if the club is eligible to receive points for that event.*

Attachments:

- Letter to Schools inviting School input to Rowing ACT Board
- Letter from Schools in Response to rowing ACT Letter
- Grade Score Paper from Alison Chinn
- Regatta Sub Committee Minutes
- CVs and Expressions of Interest from candidates for the Rowing ACT Appointed Member position

2020-2021 Rowing ACT Membership Totals

(Report @ 10/3/2021 | Ages @ 31/12/2021)
 Note: Club Total + School Total ≠ Membership Total (as members may belong to both a Club & a School)

Club	Unknown	U16	U17	U19	U21	U23	Open	Male	Female	Total
ACT High Performance							3	1	2	3
ANU Boat Club			6	24	19	48	33	64	97	
Australian Defence Force Academy - ACT			2	7	14	2	15	10	25	
Australian Defence Force Rowing Club						22	12	10	22	
Black Mountain Rowing Club	8	5	4	1		111	67	62	129	
CGS Masters Rowing Club						14	10	4	14	
Canberra Rowing Club	1	2	10	14	4	129	81	79	160	
Capital Lakes Rowing Club	11	3	15	5	3	53	37	53	90	
Lake Tuggeranong Rowing Club	1	3	7			10	9	12	21	
Royal Military College Rowing Club					2	22	12	12	24	
TOTAL	21	13	44	51	42	414	277	308	585	
School	Unknown	U16	U17	U19	U21	U23	Open	Male	Female	Total
Alfred Deakin High School	1								1	1
Canberra Girls Grammar School	45	11	35	7	2	4	5	99	104	
Canberra Grammar School	3	64	22	23	9	6	8	72	63	135
Daramalan College	48	17	10	4	1	5	42	43	85	
Lake Ginderra College			2					1	1	2
Marist College Canberra	34	8	13	4		3	62		62	
Merici College	3	1	2					6	6	
Narrabundah College				1				1		1
Orana School	8	5	5				4	14	18	
Radford College	1	83	22	31	7	4	12	77	83	160
St Clares College				1				1	1	
St Edmund's College				1				1		1
St Mary Mckillop College				3				3	3	
Telopea High School	1	1						1	2	
TOTAL	4	287	87	126	32	13	32	266	315	581
Total Membership	Unknown	U16	U17	U19	U21	U23	Open	Male	Female	Total
TOTAL	4	294	88	145	68	53	439	510	581	1091

Regatta Updates

2020/21 Regatta Season statuses

Regatta	Date	NCA/ACT Permits?	2020/21 Entries/Seats	2019/20 Entries/Seats	Other notes
Col Panton	20/09/20	NCA Approved	39 entries, 171 seats	35 entries, 140 seats	
Head of the Molonglo	18/10/20	NCA approved, ACT Land Use approved	23 entries, 120 seats	13 entries, 64 seats	Change of date from August
Tuggeranong Cup	24/10/20	Approved	10 entries, 40 seats	19 entries, 76 seats	Regatta cancelled day before
Radford/Daramalan	07/11/20	NCA approved, ACT Land Use approved	298 entries, 808 seats	417 entries, 1167 seats	No Kinross Wolaroi; higher club entries but much lower school entries
CGGS/Marist	21/11/20	NCA approved, ACT Land Use approved	370 entries, 968 seats	341 entries, 1030 seats	Final day S John
CLRC Sprints	05/12/20	NCA approved, ACT Land Use approved	20 entries, 98 seats (including coastal event)	N/A	2018 season: 39 entries, 84 seats. 2020 event included coastal events.
CGS	30/01/21	NCA approved, ACT Land Use approved		387 entries, 943 seats	
ANU	13/02/21	NCA approved, ACT Land Use approved COVID event exemption received.		372 entries, 933 seats	
ACT Head of the Lake	27/02/21	NCA approved, ACT Land Use approved COVID exemption not required		227 entries, 782 seats	
ACT Junior Championships	27-28/03/20	NCA approved, ACT Land Use approved COVID exemption not required		345 entries, 885 seats	
ACT Open & Masters Championships	13-14/03/21	NCA approved, ACT Land Use approved COVID exemption not required		260 entries, 611 seats.	Schools in NSW at Head of the River

