

Rules 25 & 26 Questions and Answers

November 9, 2021

Q; Why make the changes now?

A; There is no need to wait as changes can be implemented easily and with the low number of competitors, the regatta calendar and event orders can be easily managed.

Q. Why make the changes at all?

The Objectives of the changes are to:

- Differentiate elite pathways and consider what relevant and meaningful competition might look like for those not racing in elite pathway-based competitions, and
- Equalise the numbers and improve the depth of fields and quality of racing for all Grades races, and
- Provide opportunities for non-elite pathway athletes to transition from School competition to Club competition or return to Club competition.

Q. What was the level of Community Consultation?

A; Following extensive Competition Commission development of the changes, two online community forums were hosted with the community offered the opportunity to question and comment on the draft changes. Following the initial forum (attended by 55 people), the Competition Commission reviewed comments/ feedback, distributed an amended proposal inviting further comment. From the second forum (attended by 57 people), the Competition Commission reviewed comments/ feedback, and then amended the proposal for presentation to RV Board for ratification of the rule changes to be trialled.

Q; Can I still race 2,000m?

A; Yes you can. 2,000m races will continue to be offered at U19, U21, U23 and Open levels with a new Club category developed especially for Club athletes.

Q. Why not move every race to 2,000m?

Over the past few years, there has been an ongoing and significant decline in entries across the 2,000m grade racing categories. By changing all Grade racing to 1,000m, it will encourage, maintain (and grow) participation at all grade levels of racing whilst still providing 2,000m opportunities. Reducing the distance to 1,000m will discourage elite pathway athletes from entering grade competition, safeguarding this competition for non-pathway athletes.

Q; What will be the New Grades and Rowing Score Ranges?

A; The new Grades and RS ranges will be as below:

- A Grade races to be open to all competitors.
- B Grade races to be open to rowers or crews with an RS equal to or greater than 1.00
- C Grade races to be open to rowers or crews with an RS equal to or greater than 2.00

The lowest possible RS will be 3.0

Q; What will be my new Rowing Score?

A; Your current RS will be reset as below:

- Current RS \geq 3.70 or Age \geq 65 New Starting Score 2.25 C Grade
- Current RS \geq 3.01 and $<$ 3.70 New Starting Score 1.25 B Grade
- Current RS \geq 0.50 and $<$ 3.01 New Starting Score 0.50 A Grade
- Current RS $<$ 0.50 Unchanged A Grade
- Beginners in their first year of competition Starting Score 2.25

Q; How is my Rowing Score Changed?

A; Your RS will be automatically changed in Rowing Manager and your club administrator will be able to see the resultant change in score and Grade (if any). RV will advise the Clubs when the scores are changed.

Q; Why change the rules; can't you trail without the Rule changes?

A; The Rules provide the integrity of competition and to implement the proposals, the Rules need to be changed to manage all aspects of the competition, integrally the changes to the Rowing Score.

Q; When will these changes come into affect?

A; The first scheduled Grade regatta is Carrum on Sunday Nov 28.

Q; Why change the RS and depth of Grades?

A; These changes will allow for a rebalancing of the numbers in each Grade and for fairer transition between the Grades.

Q. When will we know which new events will be trialled at which regattas/ days?

A; The schedule is currently (especially for the 2022 regattas) being developed and will be released as soon as practical. We're considering how and when we will trial, for example, over the 2-day regattas, the 2000m Club races with the new 1,000m Grade races. The new initial 1 day, 3 bracket schedule is <https://rowingmanager.com/?regatta;file=16031>

Q; Who qualifies as a beginner?

A; A Beginner is someone who is in their first 12 months of competition. They can race Beginner for 12 months unless they race, then win their way out of C Grade.

Q; What U17 events are now going to be offered at the Grade Regattas?

A; Based on Club feedback, we will be trialling the addition of two U17 boat classes (1x and 4x+) over 1,000 to provide competitive and enjoyable racing opportunities for younger rowers.

Q. What new Master's events are now going to be offered at the Grade Regattas?

A; Based on Club feedback, we will be trialling the addition of Master's Coxed Quad and Coxed Fours at . This will also encourage competitors to fill the rest of their program by entering in grade events (to boost participation in grade competition and give masters athletes a more accurate RS).

Q; Are State Championships available for All Grades?

A; Yes, State Championships will be available for all Grades and the new Club Events.