

## **August 2022 Rule Amends Summary and Q & A's**

In collaboration with the Umpires Commission and the RV Rules Working Group, the RV Board have ratified an extensive suite of Rule changes for the 2022-23 Regatta season.

These changes include, following the successful trial of Rules 25 and 26 (Grade Scores) last season, with some minor amendments, the ratification of those changes for permanent implementation.

### **Why the large suite of changes?**

The majority of these changes are aligning the Victorian Rules of Racing with the Rowing Australia and International Rules of Racing so that any Victorian athletes racing Nationally or Internationally are not disadvantaged.

Additionally, many Rules are being renumbered and updated grammatically, and as such not materially changing the impact and/ or purpose of the Rules.

Following the successful implementation of the trialed Grade changes through the 2021/22 season, event observations, results and community feedback indicated that minor amendments were needed to be made to the Grade Rules that were trialed to enable them to be implemented permanently.

### **Which Rules should I pay particular attention towards?**

All rules are important and need to be acknowledged, however the rules which materially change regatta operations, racing opportunities and progression needing to be noted are:

- Rules 26.8 & 26.9; Grade Scores
- Rule 29; Weighing of Coxswains
- Rule 51; Uniforms

### **What are the changes to Rule 26.8?**

Following the successful trial of U15 events at selected regattas, U15 shall be added to the Rowing Score Calculation Table at the same level as U17.

### **What are the changes to Rule 26.9?**

By racing Club Events, an athlete's score is being changed to be 1.25 (B Grade - same as U19 events). During the trial, the score implemented was 0.75 (A Grade).

By racing U17 events, an athlete's score is being changed to be 2.05 (C Grade - same as Year 10 events). During the trial, the score implemented was 1.55 (B Grade).

### **Will Beginner events still be available?**

Yes, following the successful trial, Beginners Events will continue for athletes who are in their first 12 months of competition and who have not won their way out of C grade during that initial 12 months.

### **What are the changes to Rule 29, Weighing of Coxswains?**

The key change here is that Coxswains will be required to weigh in once per day, but on each day of Championship competition, not more than 2 hours before their first race. Previously, coxswains weighed in not less than one hour and not more than 24 hours before their first race at each Championship regatta.

**What are the changes to Rule 51, Uniforms?**

The rule further clarifies that crew headwear shall be identical, in color but not necessarily in design and rowers may wear undergarments of differing lengths as long as the undergarment is an identical color.

**Are there any other changes for the upcoming season that are being made?**

Yes, following the successful implementation of the trialed Grade changes through the 2021/22 season, event observations, results and community feedback, the following operational amendments will be made to the regatta calendar and structure:

1. 2 set orders of events (Metro & Country regattas - with Country Regattas to field more masters events) will be developed
2. Mixed events will be run as divisions (first & final).
3. Masters selection events will NOT be held at the State Championship Regatta.

RV will continue to monitor the regattas and results through the year to ensure opportunities for Hosts and athletes are optimized.