

## POST COVID-19 TRANSITION - ROWING OPERATIONS #1

---

For Rowing Clubs and School Rowing Programs,

Based on the announcement made by Premier Mark McGowan on Sunday 26 April 2020, outlining the cautious easing of restrictions that came into effect from midnight 26 April 2020, Rowing WA circulated this [summary](#) of revised WA Government information related to:

- Gathering restrictions
- Can I now play sport at my club?
- Prohibited Gatherings
- Prohibited Activities

Since the Premier's announcement on 26 April, Rowing WA has sought clarity from Rowing Australia (RA), AON (rowing's national insurance provider), SportWest and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) on personal accident insurance cover and the contextual application of the WA Government advice related to the *cautious easing of restrictions* for rowing clubs and programs.

Throughout this COVID-19 pandemic, Rowing WA have endeavoured to ensure that WA rowing stakeholders have the most current and relevant advice from the WA and Federal government related to our ability to safely provide rowing services to our members. Individual entities (clubs or schools) are empowered under the WA Government Emergency Management Act Directions to ultimately determine whether they can provide rowing services to members in accordance with the WA Government restrictions.

Yesterday afternoon RA updated their advice to clubs (via their E-Newsletter and COVID-19 Factsheet on their [website](#)) to state:

*Rowing Australia would like to update the rowing community across Australia with regard to the national and state progress of COVID-19 and how it relates to our sport.*

*As you are all aware, there has been significant progress in reducing the spread of the virus throughout the community.*

*As a result there are now differing restrictions around Australia in relation to activities, including sport and recreation, reflecting the differing disease burden and rates of local transmission across the country.*

*RA encourages rowing clubs to directly approach their State/Territory Rowing Association, who are in turn closely monitoring State/Territory Health Department advice, for guidance around whether on-water rowing is permitted, what restrictions look like specifically and guidance for your operations for your State/Territory.*

*We will assist in providing advice with regard to practical tips and measures that can be used to maintain the principles of enhanced hygiene and social distancing during this time.*

Rowing WA will continue to provide updated information from relevant authorities via their [COVID-19 Updates](#) page on their website, including these information releases.

If you have not seen it yet, RWA also provide a range of useful links related to activities, information and tools related to off-water training, mental health, RWA's own Strava group for members without ergos plus more. These resources will be updated as more tools and activities come to hand. For more information please check out the [website](#). We encourage clubs and schools to share this information with their members

Rowing WA's further investigations since Sunday have been able to confirm the following:

### **1. PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE (AFFILIATED CLUBS ONLY)**

Following discussions yesterday with AON and RA and in line with previous advice provided by RA ([here](#)) 'personal accident insurance covers members for all activities sanctioned by the state associations and clubs in respect of Rowing'.

Based on these discussions and WA Government COVID-19 guidance, the insurer has confirmed that clubs that do choose to sanction on-water training will be covered under the existing Personal Accident Insurance provided through RA and RWA.

As a reminder, to comply with the general (irrespective of COVID-19) insurance requirements it is recommended that:

- Clubs ensure that anyone using the clubs facilities and services (rower or coach) is registered as member within their Revolutionise Sport database.
- Clubs provide clear guidance to their members around what are 'sanctioned club activities' and also keep a record of any changes to this definition or scope of 'sanctioned activities' to satisfy this insurance requirement and ensure safe club operations
- Clubs maintain a register of when members are at the club. A simple sign-in/out book would serve this purpose

These three items will ensure that a claimant is covered by the insurance policy, and will expedite the processing of any personal accident insurance claim. The three requirements will provide evidence that the claimant was a member at the time of the incident, that the activity being claimed was a club activity and that they were engaged in the activity when they claim they were.

### **2. ROWING WA 2020 MEMBERSHIP FEES**

At Tuesday night's Board meeting it was decided that RWA would revise all of its membership fees back to a \$20 fee, to cover the provision of insurance and basic services through this COVID-19 pandemic. Staff are working through the practicalities of managing this process and will provide further information soon.

If a 2020 regatta season is able to be delivered in any capacity then a pro-rata additional membership fee will be payable by those wish to take part in any of these regattas.

### 3. CURRENT WA GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS IMPACTING ROWING CLUBS

A high level summary of the WA and Commonwealth Government restrictions that impact rowing shed operation include (taken from [WA Government website](#)):

#### Social distancing

Social distancing is integral to help limit the risk of COVID-19 coronavirus spreading throughout the community. It includes:

- minimising all unnecessary contact with others
- keeping 1.5 metres apart and a minimum of 4 square metres per person in any setting
- avoiding physical greetings such as handshakes, hugs and kisses

For more information visit [Australian Government advice for social distancing](#).

#### Hygiene

Every Western Australian needs to play their part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus. This means following good hygiene habits and exercising social distancing.

- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitiser. For more information visit the [World Health Organisation's guide to hand hygiene](#).
- Don't shake hands or make unnecessary physical contact with others.
- Social distancing: stay 1.5 metres away from others wherever possible.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Use a flexed elbow or a tissue; if you use a tissue, dispose of it immediately and appropriately.
- Stay home if you're sick. Do not go to work or school.

#### Updated gathering restrictions



WA remains in a State of Emergency, and various restrictions are enforceable by fines of up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for businesses. Police officers also have the power to issue \$1,000 on-the-spot fines.

For more information visit:

- [Cautious easing of restrictions thanks to WA's COVID-19 progress](#)
- [Cautious easing of restrictions FAQs](#)
- [Closure and Restriction \(Limit the Spread\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

#### 4. TO RE-OPEN YOUR ROWING SHED OR NOT?

The advice RWA provided on Sunday clearly suggests that the ability for clubs and schools to safely manage a reintegration of on-water training as part of club activities has been made easier by the 'easing of gathering' restrictions for indoor and outdoor spaces from 2 people to 10 people. However, the application of this revised rule and existing rules related to social distancing and hygiene will still prove challenging to club committees.

As these restrictions continue to change (for better or worse), clubs and schools will need to be agile in their response and continually assess their ability to abide by the 'current' restrictions and provide a safe environment for their members. The penalties for not abiding by these rules can be up to \$250,000 per entity and \$50,000 per individual.

In recognising that all clubs have different physical environments to manage, Rowing WA provide the following suggestions for club committees and school rowing programs to consider as they develop protocols and procedures to re-open their sheds in accordance with the WA Government requirements and to ensure ongoing member safety:

- Boat classes restricted to 1x at present. Rowing WA is awaiting feedback from the Minister for Sport and Pandemic Unit on whether crew boats could be managed in a way to meet the current restrictions. This is unlikely to extend to coxed boats;
- Rowing to be based on squads of no more than 10 participants. This would allow up to 10 single sculls to be boated in a session. The coach would count as part of this ten and hence reduce the number of rowers that could be within the squad;
- Clubs to develop a system that ensures that never more than 10 people are utilising the boatshed at any one time. This may be achieved through staggered arrival, boat preparation/washing and departure times;
- Clubs to utilise a booking system for rowing times that ensures adherence to the 10-person gathering rule. Revolutionise Sport can be used to develop this booking system;
- All activities in and around the boathouse, on the hard stand (or pontoon) to be at all times under the direct supervision of a nominated accountable Committee Member, Coach or person of authority;
- When members arrive at the club for their rowing session, they must check-in with the 'person of authority' and confirm there is capacity (abiding by the 10-person gathering rule) for them to enter the boatshed area (assuming the boat shed is at least 40 square metres and the 1.5 metre social distancing is maintained);
- A "sign in" register of all participants in each session to be maintained by the nominated "person of authority". This also ensures compliance with the insurance provision outlined above;
- In signing in, each participant will be required to attest that they have not been diagnosed with COVID-19, do not have any symptoms which may indicate COVID-19 or have been exposed to a known carrier of the coronavirus at the commencement of each session. This could be incorporated into the session registration process;
- Social distancing to be practiced at all times with access to the boat house limited to a maximum of 10 participants for the sole purpose of the retrieval and replacement of equipment;
- All boatshed wet areas and gyms to be placed out of bounds by physical locking or barring wherever possible (including toilets and change facilities);
- Common areas such as clubrooms to remain closed as gathering limits and social distancing will be hard to police. The focus should be on providing members the ability to train on-water;

- Signage to be erected around the club outlining good hygiene protocols;
- Anyone attending the boatshed should follow strict adherence to hygiene practices, with special consideration to communal surfaces including tool-sheds, work benches, trestles, boats and tinnies, buckets and sponges, rack and trolley handles, access doors, and bathrooms. Coaches (or “persons of authority”) could limit member contact points by opening of shed, laying out trestles and boats and cleaning equipment outside the shed;
- On return from a rowing session, boats are to be thoroughly washed inside and out using detergent (by the rower) and by hosing off. Signs could be established to hang off a boat once it has been properly cleaned and sanitized.
- On return from a rowing session, oars are to be sanitised using alcohol-based spray of wipes after every use;
- A single coaching power boat occupied by one person be permitted as might be required to accompany each squad;
- Clubs should consider the increased risk of COVID-19 exposure to older members and potentially have specific strategies to acknowledge this increased risk
- Alcohol based hand sanitiser and soap to be provided for the use of all members and used upon arrival at the boatshed and regularly during attendance at the boatshed;
- Any recorded COVID-19 cases amongst active members would result in the immediate closure of the club for 14 days;
- Active club members or school rowers encouraged to download and use the COVIDSafe App;
- If clubs or schools feel that their members are not following the guidelines provided to members, the club must address these issues with haste; and
- For rowing sheds in close proximity to other rowing sheds (e.g. Canning Bridge), all parties should discuss their proposed rowing activities to ensure the collective activities do not breach the government restrictions, nor put members health at risk.

As suggested in previous communications clubs need to conduct their own risk assessment on their capacity to strictly adhere to the WA and Commonwealth Government guidelines to make sure that first and foremost clubs and schools are protecting the health of their members, but where possible providing an opportunity to take part in an activity that provides significant mental and physical health benefits. Sport will play an integral role in the re-integration into a post COVID-19 world, but we also need to ensure we do our part to limit the spread of this dangerous virus.

If clubs or schools have any specific questions related to their rowing environment please get in touch. As clubs begin to develop their own processes and procedures for re-integration into on-water rowing then I ask that you please share this information with me so I can share this information with others that may benefit from similar strategies.

Stay safe.

Kind Regards,



Daniel Tackenberg  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rowing WA