



Dear Rowing Colleagues,

Distributed to RWA Board & Staff, Club Presidents (and head coaches), WAIS, IGSSA and PSA Schools

Please distribute widely amongst your membership

As you are aware the impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) are now being felt across Australia with clear direction being provided by the Australian and State Governments and their medical advisors. This obviously has significant implications for the wider Australian sporting landscape which in turn is being felt directly by the rowing community with the recently announced cancellation of the 2020 AON Sydney International Rowing Regatta.

Where to for our sport?

Rowing WA (RWA) is working in close collaboration with Rowing Australia (RA) over the conduct of RA sponsored events and is taking guidance from RA in the continued practice of the sport at club level and the conduct of RWA Regattas and events. RA in turn is providing very considered guidance to the State Associations based on its access to information available to it from its well-developed network of sources including the AIS, Sports Medicine Australia and other Government Departments. RA is exercising strong and appropriate leadership in its role as Rowing's peak body in Australia.

Rowing WA's Current Position

The health and welfare of our members is our paramount consideration;

- RWA will only distribute information which is either factual or considered to be the best available information at the time. This will include information related to the conduct of regattas and events. RWA will not deal in speculation. We request that our membership adopt this approach;
- We will inform the WA rowing community promptly as new information and decisions come to hand;
- Our decisions and plans will remain subject to change as new information, guidelines or Government directives come to hand;
- We recommend that our Members (Clubs) implement specific measures to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus in their membership. This advice will be communicated later this week.
- We will review each upcoming Regatta on a case by case basis (or in tranches) and inform the community of our decision in a timely manner;
- The practice of rowing is an individual's choice and we ask that individuals not be criticised or ostracised for exercising their personal choices in these difficult times.

I have been in contact with a number of clubs over the past few days but I just wanted to loop everyone in with our current and future actions related to COVID-19.

The RWA Board is meeting tomorrow night to review our position statement related to COVID-19 but as you can imagine with information changing quickly it is hard to keep up.

In understanding that some of you have access to expert medical expertise in this area, it would be extremely valuable if you could all share the communications you have already sent to your members with me and the date this was sent so I share with your fellow members and use to assist develop some guidelines relevant to all clubs.

We ask that all questions or comments in regard to both National and State events be directed to this office and discourage direct approaches to Rowing Australia. It is expected that advice related to the conduct of the 2020 AMRC should be released within the coming days.

Thank you for your consideration and we are committed to keeping the community informed as information comes to hand. We will appreciate you distributing this email to your Club membership.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Tackenberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Tackenberg
Chief Executive Officer
Rowing WA

