



NEW ZEALAND ROWING ASSOCIATION INC

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Draft Minutes

The Special General Meeting of the New Zealand Rowing Association Inc. was held virtually via Zoom on Monday 14 December at 6pm.

1. Welcome by the President – 6.10pm

Bill Falconer welcomed everyone to the meeting and took a roll call of delegates to confirm attendance. All delegates were present.

Philippa Baker-Hogan requested an 'h' be added to the spelling of Whanganui, and to amend her name to Philippa Baker-Hogan on the confirmation of delegates list.

2. Confirmation of Delegates

Auckland	Mat Jensen, Michael Arms
Bay of Plenty	Brendan Cullum, Mark Elphick
Canterbury	Justin Wall, Becky Tuke
East Coast	Peter Simmons, Ross Webb
Marlborough	Tim Babbage, David Henry
Otago	Natalie Matheson, Lauren Farnden
Southland	Peter Sinclair, Kevin Flutey
Waikato	Catherine Stapleton, Peter Fraser
Whanganui	Bob Evans, Philippa Baker
Wellington	Andrew Carr-Smith, Catherine Duffin
NZSSRA	Janey Charlton, Trudy Keys

3. Confirmation of votes available to be cast at the meeting

The president confirmed there would be two votes per Local Association and therefore 22 votes in total.

4. Recognition of Other Attendees - Board Members, Life Members and Affiliates

Jock Mackintosh (Director), Raechel Cummins (Director), Thornton Williams (Director), Roger Milne, Gerry Dwyer (NZRA Chair), Sean Durkin, Sonya Walker (Rowing Manager), Simon Peterson (Rowing NZ CEO), Rachael Kennedy (Rowing NZ Board Secretary)

5. Apologies

Tony Popplewell, Lesley Milne, KRI.

6. REMIT - Proposal for Re-Shaping the 2021 Rocket Foods NZ Rowing Championships

There has been deep discussion across all Local Associations and consultation with Rowing NZ

and the NZ Championships Review Committee throughout this entire process.

The President called on Jock Mackintosh (Chair of Domestic Rowing Committee) to introduce the remit.

Rowing NZ were given a mandate to look at the National Championship programme and how it could be improved. It was felt by many across the country that the Championships had become unexciting, certain events are poorly attended, and there were many issues with clashes of races which made it difficult for coaches to do accurate entries. A subcommittee was established and met many times to create a plan on how to change this. This committee met with all Local Associations for feedback and to help refine the proposal taking on feedback. This refined proposal was then taken to the 2020 Whole of Sport Forum.

The subcommittee is aware that this proposal will not be perfect for all Clubs or Associations, however it was important to make a start and there will be an opportunity to revisit this post the 2021 New Zealand Rowing Championships to refine any issues.

The National Championships Review Subcommittee strongly endorses the changes.

This remit has been moved by Auckland Rowing Association and seconded by Otago Rowing Association.

Mat Jensen (member of the subcommittee) hopes that Associations saw the letter from the Rowing NZ elite team supporting these proposals. Mat is aware of some concerns:

- Allowing first year Under 20 RPC athletes to compete in senior, however, to allow the block system to take place the Under 20 events have been removed and High Performance has given a considerable amount. This is not intended as a medal grab for RPCs. Instead, it allowed those first year, young RPC athletes to compete against their own level rather than be disheartened by rowing in the Under 22 grade.
- Secondly, the removal of lightweight events. It is an unfortunate reality that there are only a handful of elite level lightweights left in the country and they would be racing in premier heavyweight events. Considering lightweights have been included in 2024 the Olympic programme for another cycle, the committee suggest that senior lightweights could race as showcase events on the Saturday and Sunday.

Natalie Matheson (member of the subcommittee) re-iterated that not everything is perfect, but the appetite out there is that we need change. Hopefully, everyone is supportive to ensure some change occurs.

Discussion:

Wellington tabled an amendment to Rule 7 in the Rules of racing as the Constitution does not cover the event list at National Championships.

It was made clear by the NZRA President and Chair that this was a matter of procedure and it is covered sufficiently by Rule 26 of the NZRA Constitution, however, Wellington delegates expressed they would be more comfortable if the amendment was voted on and felt that:

The event list for the 2021 New Zealand Rowing Championships was confirmed at the 2017 Annual General Meeting of NZRA, which was the year after the 2016 Rio Olympics. This was done in accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Racing.

Unless and until Rule 7.1 is changed the event list for 2021 cannot be changed. The SGM is not an AGM. And the SGM is not being held in the year following the Olympic Games regatta.

But the event list for 2021 can be changed - if Rule 7.1 is changed to accommodate that. And the SGM can do that by adjusting Rule 7.1 to add an exception allowing the SGM to change the events list for 2021.

The President called for show of acceptance whether to table this amendment. All Associations voted in favour of tabling the remit. Associations did note that prior warning of this remit would have been appreciated.

Wellington Rowing Association Amendment:

Rule 7 - The New Zealand Rowing Championships
Amend Rule 7.1

"The list of all events at the New Zealand Rowing Championships shall be confirmed by the NZRA annual general meeting held in the year following the Olympic Games regatta for the following four years; **except the list of events may be confirmed at the NZRA special general meeting held in December 2020 for that Season.** NZRA shall decide the order of the events."

Wellington Rowing Association / Bay of Plenty Rowing Association

Vote: 22 for / 0 against

Carried unanimously

Following this vote on the amendment, the conversation reverted to the original remit.

The President called for final comments before the vote.

- Canterbury Rowing Association is going to support the proposal; however, the Association has reservations regarding high performance rowers being able to row in the senior grade. In addition, the Association thinks that removing events from the National Championships programme after rowers have paid subs for the year is unfair and a retrograde step.
- Whanganui Rowing Association supports the proposal in its entirety; however, the Association also has reservations regarding Under 20 RPC athletes being allowed to compete in the senior grade. Whanganui Rowing Association would like to request that Rowing NZ do not take up their right to enter these Under 20 athletes in senior.
- East Coast Rowing Association endorse what Whanganui and Canterbury have already said and have the same concerns about RPC athletes in senior grade.
- Waikato Rowing Association are very supportive of this proposal but also have the same concerns regarding Under 20 RPC athletes in senior, however they are aware that this would be a very small group of athletes who are eligible for this. Waikato also inquired about the order of events and when these would be released. It was confirmed that the draft programme has been available since the Whole of Sport Forum in October, and these will be confirmed if and when the proposal is voted through.
- The NZRA Board Chair accepted the validity of the above speakers and noted that Rowing NZ would have to be extremely careful they do not abuse the privilege when putting RPC athletes in senior
- Wellington Rowing Association are in support of this remit however several clubs in their areas would like to see the club coxed four remain coxed and not become coxless as outlined in the proposal.
- Whanganui Rowing Association reconfirmed that if a change is not made then the Associations are not listening to the majority of the rowing community. It needs to be accepted that not everyone will be happy, but we need to move forward rather than stay where we are.

The President then called for voting on the following remit:

REMIT

Rule 3 – Definitions and Abbreviation.

Add:

Dame Four – Women’s Premier Coxless Four event at the New Zealand Rowing Championships

Rule 7 - The New Zealand Rowing Championships

Amend:

1. "The list of all events at the New Zealand Rowing Championships shall be confirmed by the NZRA annual general meeting held in the year following the Olympic Games regatta for the following four years; **except the list of events may be confirmed at the NZRA special general meeting held in December 2020 for that Season.** NZRA shall decide the order of the events."

Rule 10 – Club Representation

Amend:

No rower may race for two different entities (e.g. Club, RPC, NZRA) at the same regatta, except a rower racing for a RPC may also race for their club in the ~~Boss Rooster~~ **Men’s and Women’s Premier Eight, Men’s and Women’s Premier Quadruple Sculls, Boss Rooster and Dame Four events.**

Rule 13 – Classification According to Ability

Amend:

3.e) A rower moves up to Premier immediately when selected to row for a RPC; **except, effective 1 September 2020, a rower moving up to Premier for the first time who is eligible to compete in U20 events does not move up to Premier until the end of the Season and, if the rower is not already Senior, instead moves up to Senior.**

Rule 18 – Composite Crews

Amend:

Composite crews comprising of rowers from clubs from any one or more Local Association may be entered in any four, quadruple sculls, eights, octuple and U22 ~~or U20~~ doubles and pairs events (except the Boss Rooster **and Dame Four** events) with the written approval from the Local Associations.

NB: The Premier eight and quad drafts can be achieved by Associations pre-approving composite crews in the premier events selected via a draft system. The regatta conditions can just allow Premier 8+/4x entries to be made through until Friday.

Rule 19 – Rowing Performance Centres

Amend:

RPC and other high performance squads (e.g. the Summer Squad) shall declare their membership prior to their first regatta.

Crews from these squads when entering a regatta:

- a) Shall be made up from competitors declared in the RPC’s roster.
- b) Shall only enter ~~U20~~, U22, Open and Premier events at Championship Regattas, and may also enter Open events at Major Regattas. Except:
 - i. A RPC ~~based~~ crew may not enter the Boss Rooster **or Dame Four Events** – **these events** shall only be for crews consisting of competitors from the same club of record.
 - ii. **A RPC crew may enter the Senior Single, Senior Pair and Senior Double events with athletes eligible to row Senior (U20 and in their initial year at the RPC).**
- c) Shall be entered by the RPC of which they are members.
- d) Shall not race in non RPC ~~based~~ crews and/or their own club crew at the same regatta except for the ~~Boss Rooster event~~ **Premier Eight, Premier Quadruple Sculls, Boss Rooster and Dame Four events.**

NB: The Premier eight and quad will be raced as composite crews rather than RPC crews. This means they have to use their club colours rather than RPC colours in these events.

Auckland Rowing Association / Otago Rowing Association

Vote: 22 for / 0 against

Carried unanimously

The President declared the remit, as amended, is adopted unanimously.

7. Closure of Meeting

Rowing NZ staff informed the delegates that all relevant paperwork will be released before the end of this week.

The President closed the SGM at 6.47pm

Appendix A:

Removal of Lightweight events listed.

List of Events presented for confirmation:

Men:	Women:
Novice Double Sculls (2x) Novice Coxed Four (4+) Novice Coxed Quadruple Sculls (4x+) Novice Coxed Eight (8+)	Novice Double Sculls (2x) Novice Coxed Four (4+) Novice Coxed Quadruple Sculls (4x+) Novice Coxed Eight (8+)
Intermediate Single Sculls (1x) Intermediate Double Sculls (2x) Intermediate Coxed Four (4+) Intermediate Coxed Quadruple Sculls (4x+) Intermediate Coxed Eight (8+)	Intermediate Single Sculls (1x) Intermediate Double Sculls (2x) Intermediate Coxed Four (4+) Intermediate Coxed Quadruple Sculls (4x+) Intermediate Coxed Eight (8+)
Club Single Sculls (1x) Club Double Sculls (2x) Club Coxless Pair (2-) Club Coxless Four (4-) Club Coxless Quadruple Sculls (4x) Club Coxed Eight (8+)	Club Single Sculls (1x) Club Double Sculls (2x) Club Coxless Pair (2-) Club Coxless Four (4-) Club Coxless Quadruple Sculls (4x) Club Coxed Eight (8+)
Senior Single Sculls (1x) Senior Double Sculls (2x) Senior Coxless Pair (2-) Senior Coxless Four (4-) Senior Coxless Quadruple Sculls (4x) Senior Coxed Eight (8+)	Senior Single Sculls (1x) Senior Double Sculls (2x) Senior Coxless Pair (2-) Senior Coxless Four (4-) Senior Coxless Quadruple Sculls (4x) Senior Coxed Eight (8+)
Premier Single Sculls (1x) Premier Double Sculls (2x) Premier Coxless Pair (2-)	Premier Single Sculls (1x) Premier Double Sculls (2x) Premier Coxless Pair (2-)

Premier Coxless Four (4-) Premier Coxless Quadruple Sculls (4x) Premier Coxed Eight (8+)	Premier Coxless Four (4-) Premier Coxless Quadruple Sculls (4x) Premier Coxed Eight (8+)
Under 22 Single Sculls (1x) Under 22 Double Sculls (2x) Under 22 Coxless Pair (2-)	Under 22 Single Sculls (1x) Under 22 Double Sculls (2x) Under 22 Coxless Pair (2-)
Para: Open Para Single Sculls (1x) Open Para Double Sculls (2x)	

