



**ROWING AUSTRALIA RULES OF RACING
AND RELATED BY-LAWS**

Rule Book

2025 Edition

**RA Board Approved
18 December 2025**

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Rowing Australia would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the following people in the revision of these rules in 2025:

RA Umpires Committee Chair:	Grant Ford
RA Athletes Commission Representative:	Luke Letcher
RA Technical Delegate:	Brett Ralph
RA Technology Manager:	Chris Grummitt
RA Event Staff:	Alice Evans
General:	Cameron Allen
General:	Andrew Guerin

PART I - SCOPE

RULE 1 ROWING, BOATS, REGATTAS, ROWERS

- 1) Rowing is the propulsion of a boat, with or without coxswain, by the muscular force of one or more rowers, using oars as simple levers of the second order and sitting with their backs to the direction of movement of the boat. Rowing on a machine or in a tank which simulates the action of rowing in a boat is also considered as rowing.
- 2) A rowing regatta is a sporting competition consisting of one or more events divided, if necessary, into a number of races, in one or more classes of boats for rowers divided, as a general rule, into different categories of gender, age or weight and/or para-rowing classification.

RULE 2 APPLICATION

- 1) RA is empowered under the Articles to govern the conduct and control regattas and competitions at selected and approved venues in Australia. These events are the pinnacle of regattas conducted in Australia. These rules are created to ensure the orderly conduct of such events.
- 2) These Rules and the relevant By-Laws shall apply to the conduct of all regattas and competitions including, where appropriate, Indoor rowing competitions and Coastal Rowing in Endurance and Beach Sprints formats, conducted under the auspices of RA and provide direction for the administration of competition within the sport.
 - a. For those events that involve Coastal Rowing in Endurance and Beach Sprints formats and Indoor Rowing, the RA Rules for Coastal Rowing and RA Rules for Indoor Rowing respectively shall apply.
 - b. In addition, these Rules of Racing and related By-Laws may be supplemented by Event Regulations.
 - c.
- 3) Any Member Association, club or individual who participates in any capacity in a rowing competition governed by these Rules is deemed to accept without exception or reservation the application of these Rules, the related By-Laws and Event Regulations, particularly those relating to the authority and jurisdiction of RA and of the Australian Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 4) Each Member Association is responsible for ensuring that the organisation of any RA Event within its State or Territory complies with the requirements of these Rules.
- 5) In addition, these Rules of racing and By-laws shall be supplemented by Event Regulations.

RULE 3 EXCEPTIONS

- 1) The host Member Association or the Organising Committee, acting in agreement with RA may, in exceptional cases, depart from these provisions.
- 2) In any such case, RA shall be notified immediately after the regatta and the reasons for such change shall be given.

RULE 4 CODES AND POLICIES

Each competitor, coach, official and employee of RA agrees, in entering into any RA Event, or being involved in the conduct of any RA Event, and while a member of, or having nominated for, any team

representing RA, to abide by, and conform to, the terms of any Code or Policy that RA may adopt and maintain to govern the conduct of such persons from the date of commencement of the RA Event, appointment as a coach or employee or the date of nomination for or selection to any team until the latter of:

- 72 hours after their release from an RA Event;
- 7 days after their release from a trial; or
- 6 weeks after their release from a representative team.

Current Codes and Policies shall be maintained on the Rowing Australia website.

RULE 5 BLANK

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RULE 6 BLANK

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RULE 7 BLANK

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RULE 8 DEFINITIONS

“RA Event” a rowing event conducted under the auspices of RA including the Interstate Rowing Championships and National Rowing Championships as defined in these Rules and other events approved by the Board. The regattas at which these events are held shall be conducted under these Rules and related By-Laws.

- 8.1 “Interstate Events” are events conducted at the Interstate Rowing Championships, open only to crews and scullers representing Member Associations and such crews and scullers shall only compete in the registered colours of their State or Territory Associations.
- 8.2 “Interstate Masters Events” are events conducted at the Australian Masters Rowing Championships, open only to crews and scullers representing Member Associations and such crews and scullers shall only compete in the registered colours of their State or Territory Associations.
- 8.3 “National Rowing Championships” are events open to all competitors and to all crews comprised of competitors who are members of Clubs affiliated to Member Associations or Members of Clubs affiliated to other National Rowing Federations recognised by RA.
- 8.4 “Australian Rowing Championships” shall mean the National Rowing Championships and the Interstate Rowing Championships conducted at the same venue on consecutive days and shall be described at all times and in all documents as “The (insert sponsor and year) Australian Rowing Championships”, or any additional name which the Board approves.
- 8.5 “Australian Masters Rowing Championships” shall mean the National Masters Rowing Championships, open to all Masters crews comprised of competitors who are members of Clubs affiliated to Member Associations or Members of Clubs affiliated to other National Rowing Federations recognised by RA
- 8.6 “The Board” shall mean the Board of RA.

- 8.7 "Member Associations" shall mean the members of RA.
- 8.8 "RA" shall mean Rowing Australia Ltd.
- 8.9 "Organising Committee" shall mean the committee or other body appointed by RA, or a Member Association awarded the right to host an RA Event, for the purposes of conducting the event.
- 8.10 "Athlete Services" shall mean administration services provided at a regatta to facilitate competitor information, withdrawals and substitutions and like services.
- 8.11 "Clubs" means an organisation holding membership of a Member Association.
- 8.12 "Code" means any code of conduct adopted by RA to govern the conduct of competitors, coaches, officials and employees of RA.
- 8.13 The "Technical Delegate" means the person appointed to that position by the Board in accordance with Rule 14, including a person appointed temporarily in the absence of the encumbered.
- 8.14 "RA Events Staff" shall be any employees of RA nominated by the CEO to provide Events and Events-related services to a specific RA Event.
- 8.15 "Umpires Committee" means the sub-committee of RA appointed by the Board
- 8.16 "FISA" means the International Federation of Rowing Associations. FISA is a non-governmental, not-for-profit, international organisation constituted pursuant to Article 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code. It is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and it respects the Olympic Charter.
- 8.17 "World Rowing" World Rowing is the designation used operationally by FISA. Any reference to or use of the designation "World Rowing" in this Rulebook shall apply equally to FISA, Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron.
- 8.18 "Provisional Classification" for para rowing at Rowing Australia events is by application to Rowing Australia with the provision of medical documentation to support the request as outlined in the Rowing Australia Para Rowing Classification Guidelines and Regulations.

RULE 9 RA EVENTS

Control by RA

RA Events shall take place under the authority of RA, which may give directions to the Organising Committee through the RA Events Staff, Technical Delegate and/or the President of the Jury to supervise and verify the application of the RA Rules of Racing and By-Laws or any variation of them approved by RA. Details of any departures from the RA Rules of Racing or By-Laws must be provided to competing Member Associations at least 3 months prior to the Regatta.

9.1 Date for the Event

RA shall determine the dates for the conduct of all RA Events.

9.2 Venue Selection for the Event

- 9.3.1 The Board shall approve the venue and Member Association to host an RA Event, through a Board approved method such as a venue rotation or expression of interest process, under the provisions of these Rules and to the specifications determined by the Board.

- 9.3.2 If required, RA shall ensure that the Member Association which has been

selected to conduct the RA Event is notified at least 18 months prior to the conduct of the event.

- 9.3.3 A Member Association selected to host an RA Event will need to display to RA that they are capable of conducting the event within the provisions of these Rules and staging terms and have successfully conducted a major event to the satisfaction of RA, at the proposed venue at least 12 months prior to the date of conduct of the proposed RA Event.
- 9.3.4 Should any Member Association be unable to display to RA that they are able to meet the required standard for the conduct of the RA Event at least twelve months before the conduct of the event, then the Board shall be entitled to award the conduct of that event to an alternate Member Association, and on such venue and on such commercial arrangements, as it sees fit.

9.4 Notice of Regatta

- 9.4.1 RA and/or the Member Association shall release the dates and venue of the regatta as soon as practical after the decision has been made, but no later than 12 months prior to the regatta.
- 9.4.2 The following items must be released by RA and/or the Member Association at least six months prior to the regatta:
 - 9.4.2.1 the place, time(s) and days(s) of the RA Event;
 - 9.4.2.2 the program of races;
 - 9.4.2.3 the amount of entry fees and deposits;
 - 9.4.2.4 a plan of the course accompanied by a statement outlining those respects in which the course does not meet the requirements of RA as detailed in these Rules, such variations having previously been approved by RA;
 - 9.4.2.5 the date and closing time for entries; and the address for correspondence.

9.5 Entries

- 9.5.1 Entries into all RA events are to be made via the online regatta entry platform specified by RA.

9.6 Staging Agreement

Any Member Association that is awarded the conduct of an RA Event shall enter into a Staging Agreement within three months of the Event being awarded, which shall provide, amongst other things:

- 9.6.1 The monetary agreements between the Member Association and RA;
- 9.6.2 Dates for the conduct of the RA Event;
- 9.6.3 Appropriate recognition and involvement of sponsors of RA;
- 9.6.4 Monitoring of the preparations for the conduct of the RA Event;
- 9.6.5 Inspection of facilities;
- 9.6.6 Insurance;
- 9.6.7 Naming of the RA Event;
- 9.6.8 Division of responsibilities for the conduct of the RA Event;
- 9.6.9 Promotion of the ideals of RA, and their recognition;
- 9.6.10 Creation of an Organising Committee for the conduct of the RA Event, and the representation of RA on that Committee;
- 9.6.11 Appointing of a representative of the Organising Committee to the RA Masters Commission for the term of the Agreement, in the case of the Australian Masters Rowing Championships;
- 9.6.12 Recognition by the Member Association that the RA Event is the intellectual property of RA;
- 9.6.13 Agreed reporting processes;
- 9.6.14 Arrangements for the sale of merchandise;
- 9.6.15 Any other terms and conditions on which the parties may agree.

9.7 Staging Fees and Contributions to RA

- 9.7.1 A Member Association conducting the Australian Rowing Championships
 - 9.7.1.1 shall contribute a Staging Fee to RA agreed to by both parties, within 30 days of the conclusion of the regatta, or at a schedule agreed to by both parties.
- 9.7.2 A Member Association conducting the Australian Masters Rowing Championships
 - 9.7.2.1 shall contribute a Staging Fee to RA agreed to by both parties, within 30 days of the conclusion of the regatta, or at a schedule agreed to by both parties.
- 9.7.3 The staging fee represents a return on the intellectual property owned by RA but ceded, in part by way of Staging Agreement, to the Member Association hosting the Event.

9.8 Trophy Levy

- 9.8.1 The Member Association conducting an Australian Rowing Championships
 - 9.8.1.1 shall contribute Fifty Cents Australian (AU\$0.50) from each seat fee collected to the funds of RA within thirty days of the conclusion of the regatta.
- 9.8.2 The Member Association conducting an Australian Masters Rowing Championship
 - 9.8.2.1 shall contribute Fifty Cents Australian (AU\$0.50) from each seat fee collected to the funds of RA within thirty days of the conclusion of the regatta.
- 9.8.3 Such contributions shall be accumulated in a separate fund or account and shall be used solely for the purpose of acquiring, refurbishing, upgrading, updating and generally retaining at a high standard all perpetual trophies of RA.
- 9.8.4 The fund shall also be used for the provision of safety boxes, security devices and insurances necessary to cover the perpetual trophies on an annual basis including transport to and from and presentation at the Australian Rowing Championships and Australian Masters Rowing Championships.

9.9 Reports on Conduct of Regatta

9.9.1 Report on Arrangements for RA Events

Three months prior to the start of an RA Event the Organising Committee of a Member Association conducting an RA Event shall inform RA via the RA Events Staff and/or the Technical Delegate of the arrangements for the regatta and the schedule for the completion of those arrangements.

9.10 Report on Regatta

A Member Association conducting an RA Event shall provide a written report and financial statement, duly audited and certified, to the Chief Executive Officer of RA in time for inclusion in the agenda papers of the Annual General Meeting following the regatta. The Chief Executive Officer of RA shall forward copies of the report to all Board Members, RA Office-bearers, Councillors and the Secretary of each Member Association.

9.11 Briefing of Competitors

Prior to all RA Events the coaches, rowers, coxswains, scullers, umpires and starters shall be called to a meeting to be convened by the Organising Committee, which meeting shall be conducted by the Umpires Committee and the Technical Delegate. At such meeting RA's Rules of Racing shall be explained and attendees informed that such Rules and the Code will be strictly enforced. The venue and timing of the meeting shall be advised by the Organising Committee to all competing crews.

RULE 10 INTERSTATE EVENTS

10.1 Purpose

The Interstate Events are promoted to develop the competition between representative crews from the Member Associations and the conduct of such events is essential to the development and profile of the sport of rowing.

10.2 Date for Conduct

10.2.1 Unless the Board shall otherwise determine, the Interstate events between the Member Associations shall be conducted upon the last day of the Australian Rowing Championships each year on dates determined by the Board;

10.2.2 And as the last events on the penultimate day of competition at the Australian Masters Rowing Championships.

10.3 State Colours

Each Member Association crew shall wear its racing colours when competing as a Member Association crew and the following racing colours have been registered by the Member Association with, and approved by, RA as their respective colours:

- New South Wales: Light blue top, Waratah on left breast;
- Queensland: Maroon top with white 'Q' on the left breast;
- South Australia: Red top with navy blue and gold stripes and with a State monogram on left breast;
- Tasmania: Myrtle green top with a map of Tasmania in primrose surrounding a rampant lion in rose;
- Victoria: Navy blue top with a white letter 'V' on left breast;
- Western Australia: Gold and black top;
- Australian Capital Territory: Royal Blue and Gold top.

The Member Associations may, at least three months prior to the conduct of an Interstate Event, apply to RA for approval to change or vary its racing colours, and for the registration of alternate State colours.

10.4 Status of Competitors

10.4.1 Subject to RULE 17.3, Interstate events shall be open to competitors who are citizens of Australia or that have been a resident in the State or Territory of Australia for which they intend to compete for a continuous period of not less than 12 months prior to the close of entries.

10.4.2 The status of competitors set out in these rules shall apply to each of the Interstate Events.

10.4.3 These Rules relating to lightweight rowers shall apply to lightweight rowers in Interstate Events.

10.4.4 The Rules and supporting Regulations and By-Laws relating to para-rowing apply to para-rowers in Interstate Events.

10.4.5 These Rules relating to replacement and changes to crews shall apply to Interstate Events.

- 10.4.6 These Rules relating to coxswains shall apply to coxswains in the Interstate Events.
- 10.4.7 Unless otherwise determined by the Council, not more than one entry shall be made from each Member Association for each Interstate Rowing Championship for any one or more of such Championships, which such determination shall be made one year prior to it taking effect.
- 10.4.8 Unless otherwise determined by RA, each crew shall comprise representatives of a single Member Association.

10.5 Events

- 10.5.1 The Interstate Events shall consist of the following races with their respective trophies:

- Women's PR3 Single Scull
- Men's PR3 Single Scull
- Women's Single Scull for the Nell Slatter Trophy
- Men's Single Scull for the President's Cup
- Women's Lightweight Quad Scull for the Victoria Cup
- Men's Lightweight Four for the Penrith Cup
- Women's Youth Eight for the Bicentennial Trophy
- Men's Youth Eight for the Wilkinson Cup
- Women's Eight for the Queen Elizabeth II Trophy and ULVA Trophy
- Men's Eight for the King's Cup

- 10.5.2 The Interstate Masters Events shall consist of the following races with their respective trophies:

- Men's Masters Quad Scull for the Interstate Masters Championship Trophy
- Women's Masters Quad Scull for the Veteran's Cup
- Men's Masters Eight for the Brian Vear Memorial Trophy
- Women's Masters Eight for the Interstate Masters Championship Trophy

All Interstate Rowing Championships shall be rowed as straight final races, except where a variation of this Rule is made by the Board and/or where entries exceed the number of lanes approved for racing on any particular course.

10.6 Overall Point Score

- 10.6.1 At the conclusion of the Interstate Events at the Australian Rowing Championships, RA will present the Rowing Australia Cup, which may be known as "Sponsor Name" Rowing Australia Cup and shall be presented on an annual basis to the Member Association which secures the highest overall score for events conducted in the Interstate Regatta.

- 10.6.2 States shall be awarded points in each event on the following basis:

- First place: 8 points
- Second place: 6 points

- Third place: 5 points
- Fourth place: 4 points
- Fifth place: 3 points
- Sixth place: 2 points
- Seventh place: 1 point

10.7 Interstate Regatta Draw

The draw for starting positions for Interstate Events shall be conducted at such time and place as arranged by the Chairman of the Organising Committee in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer of RA.

RULE 11 TROPHIES AND MEDALLIONS

- 11.1 The perpetual trophies of RA shall be under the control of the Chief Executive Officer of RA. The trophies may be released by the Chief Executive Officer to:

- 11.1.1 the Organising Committee for exhibition and subsequent presentation to winning representative crews; or
- 11.1.2 the Member Association of the winning representative crews for special occasion.

Provided that the Organising Committee or Member Association requesting possession of the trophies:

- 11.1.3 Indemnifies RA for all approved transport costs
- 11.1.4 provides adequate and acceptable undertakings as to security of the trophies to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer; and
- 11.1.5 returns the trophies to the control of the Chief Executive Officer within such time frame as they may direct.

- 11.2 The perpetual trophies shall be insured by RA for such sum as RA may from time to time determine.

- 11.3 The perpetual trophies, while in the control of the Chief Executive Officer, shall be kept in safe custody.

- 11.4 The perpetual trophies shall not leave Australia.

- 11.5 After each RA Event, a uniform silver gilt plate or other suitable form shall be affixed to or inscribed upon each Trophy. On each gilt plate or other suitable form shall be inscribed the year and name of the winning crew and where possible the member(s) of the winning crew.

- 11.6 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Rule regarding care and control of the perpetual trophies, the ownership thereof shall always remain with RA.

- 11.7 The members of the crews, coxswains and coaches winning RA Events shall be presented with suitably inscribed quality medallions or trophies inscribed with the venue, event and date. Such trophies shall be of a type approved by RA.

- 11.7.1 Edward Kenny Memorial Medallions shall be presented to the members of the crew, coxswain and coach winning the Interstate Men's Eight Oared Championship of Australia for the King's Cup.

- 11.7.2 The Queen Elizabeth II Medallions shall be presented to the members of the crew, coxswain and coach winning the Interstate Women's Eight Oared Championship of Australia for the Queen Elizabeth II Trophy.

- 11.7.3 Edward Kenny Memorial Medallions shall be presented to the sculler and coach winning the Interstate Men's Single Scull for the President's Cup.
 - 11.7.4 The Nell Slatter Medallions shall be presented to the sculler and coach winning the Interstate Women's Single Scull for the Nell Slatter Trophy.
 - 11.7.5 City of Penrith Medals shall be presented to the members of the crew and coach winning the Interstate Men's Lightweight Four for the Penrith Cup.
 - 11.7.6 The Victoria Cup Medallions shall be presented to the members of the crew and coach winning the Interstate Women's Lightweight Quad Scull Championship of Australia for the Victoria Cup.
 - 11.7.7 Noel F. Wilkinson Memorial Medallions shall be presented to the members of the crew, coxswain and coach winning the Interstate Men's Youth Eight Oared Championship of Australia for the Noel F. Wilkinson Cup.
 - 11.7.8 The Bicentennial Medallions shall be presented to the members of the crew and coach winning the Interstate Women's Youth Eight Oared Championships of Australia for the Bicentennial Cup.
 - 11.7.9 The Edward Kenny Memorial Medallions shall be presented to the sculler and coach winning the Interstate Para Men's Single Scull.
 - 11.7.10 The Nell Slatter Medallions shall be presented to the sculler and coach winning the Interstate Para Women's Single Scull.
- 11.8 If any RA Event is abandoned at any time, RA, in consultation with the Council, shall decide the question of the custody of the perpetual trophy for such event.
- 11.9 In the event that any of the National Rowing Championship events is won by an overseas crew, any trophy for that event shall remain under the control of the Chief Executive Officer.

RULE 12 PRIZES

- 12.1 Cash prizes may be awarded for regattas and races conducted under the auspices of Rowing Australia.
- 12.2 Competitors may receive cash prizes for competition.
- 12.3 Any such prize shall be paid to the School, Club or State Association of any competitors winning such prize, or to Rowing Australia, and not directly to competitors
- 12.4 Such School, Club, State Association or Board may distribute such prizes among the competitors who won it to them.

RULE 13 BLANK

This rule is intentionally left blank.

RULE 14 TECHNICAL DELEGATES

- 14.1 The Board shall appoint up to two Technical Delegates, subject to Appendix 13, to ensure that the RA Rules of Racing, related By-Laws, and Event Regulations are complied with, and that regattas are satisfactorily operated in terms of safety and competition. The Chief Executive Officer of RA shall notify the Organising Committee of the Regatta, the Umpire's Committee and the President of the Jury of the appointment of the Technical Delegate(s).

By-Laws to RULE 14 — Duties of the Technical Delegates

These By-Laws are found in Appendix 13 to the Rules of Racing

RULE 15 NATIONAL ROWING CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

The National Rowing Championships shall, unless otherwise approved by RA, comprise the events set out in Appendix 8. The order of conduct of the events provided in this Appendix shall be as approved by RA. National Rowing Championships shall be governed by the RA Rules of Racing

RULE 16 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

The Australian Masters Rowing Championships shall, unless otherwise approved by RA, comprise the events set out in Appendix 9. The Australian Rowing Masters Championships shall be governed by the RA Rules of Racing.

PART II ROWERS AND COXSWAINS

SECTION 1. GENERAL

RULE 17 RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

17.1 Registration with Member Associations

17.1.1 Clubs and Schools must be registered with their Member Association in order to be eligible to enter RA Events. Members of RA approved Associations such as Sporting Institutes and Defence Rowing must be registered with their Member Association through a club or school.

17.1.2 Any School competing in an RA Event shall comply with [RULE 18.5](#), and [RULE 26.1](#)

17.2 Transfer Between Interstate Clubs

17.2.1 All competitors who wish to compete for a Club in a different State other than the Club they last competed for or were registered with, must apply for and be granted, a transfer prior to being eligible to enter an RA Event and be permitted to race.

17.2.2 A competitor requiring a transfer shall apply to the Member Association with which they were last affiliated.

17.2.3 Such competitor shall not be entitled to row for a Club affiliated with a Member Association other than the Member Association with which they were affiliated in their prior year unless:

17.2.3.1 they receive a clearance and approval to transfer from the prior Member Association; or

17.2.3.2 period of 21 days has elapsed from the date of their service of a request for transfer has been delivered to the Member Association from whom they seek clearance, and that Member Association has not indicated their objection pursuant to the provisions of Rule 17.2.4.

17.2.4 A Member Association shall be entitled to refuse a clearance and transfer approval to any applicant if:

17.2.4.1 Any monies are outstanding to it or a Club affiliated with it;

17.2.4.2 Disciplinary action has been taken and the terms of such action have not been fulfilled.

17.3 State or Territory of Origin

Purpose

Member Associations wish to ensure that all rowers who commenced their rowing career in a State or Territory, and no matter where they are resident in Australia, are available to compete for that State or Territory in the Interstate Events unless they have applied for and been granted a change of domicile.

17.3.1 For the purposes of this Rule:

“Domicile or State of Domicile”, shall mean the state of residence, including a person’s housing, and/or work commitment, postal address and period of permanent residence;

“Rower” shall mean all competitive oarspersons, including coxswains, in all categories of sweep oared or sculling boats catered for in the Interstate Events and the Interstate Masters Events, regardless of their status at the time they were first affiliated as provided in Rule 17.3.3.

“State of Origin” subject to this Rule shall mean the State or Territory of first affiliation of a rower with RA, through their Member Association.

17.3.2 Except as provided in this Rule, all Rowers competing in the Interstate Events or the Interstate Masters Events must row for the State or Territory through which they were first affiliated with RA through their Member Association in accordance with this rule.

If a Rower:

17.3.2.1 is domiciled in a State or Territory other than their State or Territory of Origin for a continuous period of;

17.3.2.1.1 four (4) months in the case of a Rower competing in the Interstate Masters Event;

17.3.2.1.2 six (6) months in the case of a Youth Rower competing in the Interstate Event;

17.3.2.1.3 (subject to rule 17.3.3) two (2) years in the case of all other Rowers competing in the Interstate Event.

and

17.3.2.2 is a registered rower with the Member Association in the State or Territory of Domicile;

then the rower may request, through the Member Association of the State or Territory of Domicile, by written application to RA, by no later than 35 days before the close of entries of the relevant Interstate Event or Interstate Masters Event, a clearance to compete for the State or Territory of Domicile rather than the State of Origin. A clearance to compete in an Interstate Masters Event is not a clearance to compete in an Interstate Event.

17.3.3 The period that any Rower accepts and holds an invitation to attend a National Training Centre (NTC) in the Australian Capital Territory or New South Wales will not form part of the continuous period of domicile for the purpose of Rule 17.3.2.1.3 unless the Rower was domiciled in the Australian Capital Territory (in the case of men) or New South Wales (in the case of women) at the time the invitation to attend the NTC was extended.

- 17.3.4 An application for clearance must provide evidence to the satisfaction of RA of the Rower's
- 17.3.4.1 Domicile for a continuous period of not less than four months in the case of a Masters Rower, six months in the case of a Youth rower, or two years in the case of all other rowers, prior to the date of application for clearance, and
 - 17.3.4.2 registration with the Member Association in the State or Territory of Domicile.
- 17.3.5 RA shall forward a copy of the application to the Member Association of the State of Origin within two working days of its receipt, and the Member Association of the State of Origin shall have fourteen (14) days from the date of being forwarded from RA to object to the granting of the requested clearance.
- 17.3.6 If no objection from the Member Association of the State of Origin is received within the period specified, a clearance will be deemed effective from the expiration of that period, and the State of Origin and the State of Domicile will be notified accordingly.
- 17.3.7 Upon receipt of a written objection from the Member Association of the State of Origin, RA will appoint a panel of three Councillors of RA who represent Member Associations not involved in the application for clearance to receive submissions from the respective Member Associations, who shall then submit their decision to the Board for ratification. The Board shall then advise the parties of their decision, and such decision shall be binding on all parties.
- 17.3.8 Nothing in this Rule 17.3 will prohibit a rower competing for his/her State of Origin after they have been cleared to compete for their State/Territory of Domicile.
- 17.3.9 Any clearance to compete for a State/Territory of Domicile under this Rule 17.3 is withdrawn if a rower competes for their State/Territory of Origin after the date of the clearance and the continuous periods referred to in Rule 17.3.2.1 will reset as if the Rower had never resided outside of his/her State of Origin.
- 17.3.10 A Rower dissatisfied by the implementation of this Rule 17.3 (other than a decision under Rule 17.3.6 or 17.3.7) may appeal to the Council for adjudication in the best interests of the Interstate Events and rowing. Any decision by the Council under this Rule 17.3.10 shall be unanimous.
- 17.3.11 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Rule 17.3 a Rower may not compete for more than one State/Territory in an Interstate Event or an Interstate Masters Event in a calendar year.

RULE 18 ELIGIBILITY AND INSURANCE

- 18.1 RA Events shall be open to all competitors who are authorised to compete by their affiliated Member Association and who are eligible under these Rules.
- 18.2 Each Member Association shall ensure that their competitors shall have a state of health and fitness which allows them to compete at a level commensurate with the competition level of the particular event and ensure each competitor, team official and the Member Association carries appropriate health, accident and property insurance covering their persons, equipment and property.
- 18.3 Entries for RA Events will be accepted only if an approved waiver form from each competitor and coach if received by RA prior to the commencement of racing.
- 18.4 All rowers shall be eligible to compete in the Open category in the appropriate weight division.
- 18.5 No competitor may race for more than one Club, Institute or School at the same regatta, but a competitor may represent their State and their Club and their School or University (where they are representing their University in a University Event) at a Regatta.

- 18.6 Open 'Club' events at the National Championships are restricted to:
- 18.6.1 Athletes who are all the member of the one club, including the Coxswain.
 - 18.6.2 Athletes who have not been a member of a National Senior A or Under 23 team in the previous year (athletes who have been a member of a National Under 19 or Under 21 team in the previous year are eligible to compete in Club events).
 - 18.6.3 Athletes who, 14 days prior to the close of entries, are not nominated for national selection in the current year (athletes nominating for national selection in a National Under 19 or Under 21 team are eligible to compete in Club events).
 - 18.6.4 Notwithstanding 18.6.2 and 18.6.3 any athlete that holds a para classification is eligible to race in club events.
- 18.7 Events for Lightweight, Para, Masters, Under 23, Under 21, Under 19, Under 17 and School rowers are open only to rowers complying with the requirements of the relevant category.
- 18.8 Interstate Regatta and Interstate Masters – No Member Association may enter more than one crew in each event.
- 18.9 Composite Crews — Clubs may, with the approval of the Member Associations with which they are affiliated, enter composite crews in RA Events, unless otherwise specified in other Rules.
- 18.10 Composite Crews — No composite crews shall be allowed in Interstate Events.

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RULE 21 GENDER ELIGIBILITY

- 21.1 Rowing Australia is committed to the fundamental principles of fairness, equality and inclusivity. It is, however, necessary to provide certainty on gender categorisation to maintain the integrity of Rowing Australia events.
- 21.2 Rowing Australia will maintain two separate gender categories for rowing events:
- 21.2.1 Women – for rowers who are eligible under this Rule to compete in women's events
 - 21.2.2 Men – for rowers who are not eligible to compete in a women's event. This shall be an open category.
- 21.3 To be eligible to compete in a women's event, a rower must be either:
- 21.3.1 Assigned and recognised as female at the time of the rower's birth (AFAB), or;
 - 21.3.2 Declared as eligible to compete as a woman pursuant to this Rule and its By-Law
- 21.4 This Rule does not apply to Coxswains.

21.5 By entering a rower in a women's event, or as a woman in a mixed crew, the member state, club, school or other organisation submitting the entry is certifying that it's satisfied that the rower is eligible by this Rule and its By-Law to compete in a women's event

21.6 Any issue as to the eligibility of a rower to compete in a women's event shall be determined by Rowing Australia in accordance with the By-Law to this Rule

By-law to Rule 21 – Men's and Women's Event

Eligibility by Sex

- 1) *The eligibility of a rower to compete in women's events is subject to the over-riding authority of Rowing Australia to review and declare that rower's eligibility at any time whether arising by way of:*
 - a) *An application by a member federation for a declaration as to the eligibility of a rower to compete in women's events.*
 - b) *Its own decision to review and declare the eligibility of a rower to compete in women's events.*
- 2) *The authority of Rowing Australia to determine any issue as to the eligibility of a rower to compete in women's events under this Rule shall include, but is not confined to, any such issue arising in the case of Sex Identification, Sex-reassignment, Hyperandrogenism, Transgender, and Variations of Sexual Development.*
- 3) *When considering any issue as to the eligibility of a rower to compete in a women's event at any Australian national championship events, the over-riding consideration for Rowing Australia will be to ensure fairness of competition for those who are eligible to compete in a women's event - in particular, whether that rower has acquired a competitive advantage over rowers who have eligibility on the basis of AFAB.*
- 4) *Rule 21 provides that to be eligible to compete in a women's event, a rower must be either:*
 - a) *Assigned and recognised as female at the time of the rower's birth (AFAB); or;*
 - b) *Declared as eligible to compete as a woman pursuant to this Rule and its By-Law*
- 5) *Declared Eligibility*
 - a) *A rower who is not eligible to compete in a women's event on the basis of AFAB may be declared by Rowing Australia as eligible to compete in a women's event through the review process under this By-Law.*
 - b) *Rowing Australia may make a declaration as to eligibility subject to such restrictions and conditions as it considers as reasonably necessary to maintain the integrity of the women's category.*
 - c) *The assessment processes will be outlined in Rowing Australia's "Whole of Sport Gender Diverse and Transgender Inclusion Policy (Annexure B)"*
- 6) *Application for Declaration as to Eligibility*
 - a) *The process for application for a declaration of eligibility shall be outlined in Rowing Australia's "Whole of Sport Gender Diverse and Transgender Inclusion Policy"*

RULE 22 MIXED EVENTS

For crews competing in a mixed **event**, the proportion of rowers who are eligible to compete in a women's event shall be 50 per cent of the rowers of that crew (excluding the coxswain).

RULE 23 SAFETY AND HEALTH OF ROWERS

- 23.1 The health and safety of all participants in the sport of rowing is a matter of paramount concern.

- 23.2 Rowing Australia has adopted a Medical Management Policy and has created a process of managing an athlete's medical information that aims to best serve both the athlete and the sport. At all times the athlete's well-being is of utmost importance and the principle of confidentiality of medical information remains paramount. The Medical Management Policy can be found on the RA website.

23.3 Rowers entering RA events shall ensure that:

- 23.3.1 They have a state of health and fitness which allows them to compete at a level commensurate with the competition level of the particular event; and
- 23.3.2 They have the basic swimming ability as defined in the By-Laws to this Rule

23.4 In addition to the safety provisions in [Rule 62](#) each club or school shall ensure that;

- 23.4.1 The rowers entered to represent their club or school meet the requirements stated in points 23.3.1 and 23.3.2 of this rule.
 - 23.4.2 Their rowers are able to develop as athletes and compete free from unhealthy influences such as discrimination of any form, harassment and abuse so that the athletes are able to operate in a safe and secure environment.
- 23.5 The organising committee shall comply with all safety and health requirements of RA and other authorities and shall ensure that the facilities at the regatta are of a sufficient standard to provide a safe, hygienic and healthy environment for rowers and other regatta participants.
- 23.6 Clubs and Schools and organising committees shall respond fully and promptly to any inquiry by RA as to any issue relating to the health and safety requirements as provided by these Rules and By-Laws.

By-laws to RULE 22 – Safety and Health of Rowers

1) Swimming Ability

- (a) *All rowers competing in a RA Regatta shall be able to swim 50m and keep their head above water unassisted for three minutes. It is the responsibility of the club or school to ensure and certify that rowers can meet these minimum standards and be able to provide evidence thereof if requested by RA. At the Australian Masters Rowing Championships and the Australian Coastal Rowing and Beach Sprints Championships it is the responsibility of the individual rower.*

2) Pre-existing Conditions

- (a) *Any pre-existing conditions which may incapacitate a rower during competition and training must be notified to the Event Medical Officer prior to racing.*

3) Pre-competition Health Screening

- (a) *All athletes competing in any regatta under the auspices of RA must undergo, if directed by RA, a pre-competition health screening which includes a questionnaire, an annual physical examination and ECG following the IOC's recommended procedure. It is recommended that rowers participating in Australian Masters Rowing Championships undergo a Health Screening at least annually and prior to the commencement of this event*

4) RA Principal Medical Officer (PMO)

- (a) *All requirements for the Health Screening will be conducted under the direction of the RA PMO or their nominee who shall be a qualified health practitioner.*

5) Intravenous re-hydration

- (a) Any rower who has been re-hydrated intravenously shall not subsequently compete on that day.

6) *Injections (No-Needle Policy, available on the RA website)*

- (a) *During RA Regattas (from 24 hours before the start of the first race of the Regatta through to 24 hours after the end of the last race at such regatta), any injection to any site of an athlete's body of any substance:*

- (i) *must be medically justified.*

Justification includes physical examination by a certified medical doctor, diagnosis, prescription of medication, route of administration and appropriate documentation;

- ii) *must respect the approved indication of the medication = no off label;*

- iii) *must be administered by a certified medical professional; and*

- iv) *at regattas where an RA Doctor is present, must be reported immediately and in writing not later than 24 hours afterwards to the Regatta Doctor or qualified medical practitioner (including athletes with a valid TUE for this competition). The report must include the diagnosis, medication and route of administration.*

The disposal of used needles, syringes and other biomedical material which may affect the security and safety of others, including blood sampling (e.g. lactates) and other diagnostic equipment shall conform to recognised safety standards.

Any violation of one of these principles may constitute a violation of the RA Rules and may lead to sanctions including exclusion of the crew concerned or, where appropriate, disqualification of the whole team from the regatta. The Board is the judicial body which shall determine the process to be followed. The costs of any investigation related to this rule may be charged to the individual concerned.

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RULE 26 CATEGORIES

The following categories of rowers are recognised by RA:

26.1 School (men and women)

26.1.1 A school competitor is one who:

26.1.1.1 Qualifies as Under 21 under the provisions of these Rules; and

26.1.1.2 Is attending a secondary school as a full-time day student.

26.1.2 Only athletes representing their school may compete in school events.

26.1.3 School events are restricted to crews consisting of representatives of one school only.

26.2 Under 17 (men and women)

- 26.2.1 A rower or coxswain shall be classified as an Under 17 rower until 31 December of the year in which the rower reaches the age of 16.
- 26.3 Under 19 (men and women)
 - 26.3.1 A rower or coxswain shall be classified as an Under 19 rower until 31 December of the year in which the rower reaches the age of 18.
- 26.4 Under 21 (men and women)
 - 26.4.1 A rower or coxswain shall be classified as an Under 21 rower until 31 December of the year in which the rower reaches the age of 20.
- 26.5 Under 23 (men and women)
 - 26.5.1 A rower or coxswain shall be classified as an Under 23 rower until 31 December of the year in which the rower reaches the age of 22.
- 26.6 Open (men and women)
 - 26.6.1 A rower or coxswain who is too old to be classified an Under 23 shall be classified as Open. Open rowing events are open to rowers of all ages.
 - 26.6.2 Open Club (men and women) – National Championship Regatta
- 26.7 Masters (men and women and mixed)
 - 26.7.1 A rower may compete in Masters rowing events from the beginning of the year during which they reach the age of 27. The age of a Masters rower shall be that which they reach during the year of the event.
 - 26.7.2 Masters age categories are defined in Appendix 7.
- 26.8 Para-rowing
 - 26.8.1 A rower may compete in a Para-rowing event if they are a para competitor who has an Eligible Impairment and has been allocated an eligible Sport Class and Sport Class status under the Para Rowing Classification Regulations. (Appendix 6). Rowers may compete in a more functional Sport Class than their assigned Sport Class, but not a less functional Sport Class.
 - 26.8.2 A para rower is a rower who is formally classified by a full RA, World Rowing or National Classification Panel and is granted an eligible sport class and sport class status. Para-rowing events are open to rowers of all ages. There are no restrictions on coxswains in respect of para-rowing eligibility, gender or age.
 - 26.8.3 Rowers at the Australian Masters Rowing Championships and Australian Coastal Rowing and Beach Sprints Championships may compete in para rowing events with a Provisional Classification.
 - 26.8.4 The categories and boat classes are defined in the Para Rowing Competition Regulations (Appendix 6)
- 26.9 Rower Score Category - Member Associations to use local provisions
- 26.10 University (men and women)
 - 26.10.1 A University Competitor is one who qualifies as a University Competitor according to the Australian University Sport Guidelines.

In addition to these categories, a lightweight category for men and women (see [Rule 32](#)) is recognised by RA.

RULE 27 ADDITIONAL CATEGORIES

A Member Association may, in the case of regattas held under its jurisdiction, establish additional categories.

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RULE 29 COXSWAINS

- 29.1 Coxswains are members of the crew. Any reference to rowers in these Rules shall include coxswains unless otherwise stipulated.
- 29.2 The gender of a coxswain shall be open so that a women's crew may be steered by a man and a men's crew may be steered by a woman.

For clarity, any crew competing in an event specified as a single-club or non-composite crew event, including but not limited to Open Club or Masters Champion Club events, must be steered by a coxswain of the same club as the rest of the members of the crew.

- 29.3 Age categories shall apply to coxswains, excepting in Under 23 and Masters Categories.
- 29.4 The minimum weight for a coxswain (wearing racing uniform) is 55.0kg for all coxswains. The weighing scales shall indicate the weight of the coxswain to 0.1 kg.
- 29.5 To make up this weight, a coxswain may carry deadweight in a sealed bag which shall be placed in the boat as close as possible to his/her person. No article of racing equipment shall be considered as part of this deadweight.
- 29.6 These provisions shall also apply to coxswains in lightweight races.

RULE 30 WEIGHING OF COXSWAINS

- 30.1 Coxswains shall be weighed wearing racing uniform by a person duly authorised by the Organising Committee on tested scales not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race in which they are competing, on each day of the competition.
- 30.2 The Organising Committee may require on the occasion of the first weighing or subsequently the deposit of an official identity card with photograph. Where an official photograph of the crew has been checked for correctness against such identity card, this photograph may be used instead by the Control Commission at time of weighing.
- 30.3 If coxswains are carrying deadweight, the Control Commission may require the weight of the deadweight to be checked at any time before the race or until immediately after disembarkation. Additionally, the Starter and Umpire may check the presence of the deadweight.

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RULE 32 LIGHTWEIGHTS

- A rower may compete in Lightweight rowing events if they meet the following criteria:
- 32.1 A crew competing in a lightweight mens event shall have an average weight (excluding coxswain) not exceeding 70.0 kg and no individual rower may weigh more than 72.5 kg.

- 32.2 A rower competing in a lightweight mens single scull event may not weigh more than 72.5 kg.
- 32.3 A crew competing in a lightweight women's event shall have an average weight (excluding coxswain) not exceeding 57.0 kg. No individual rower may weigh more than 59.0 kg.
- 32.4 A rower competing in a lightweight female single scull event may not weigh more than 59.0 kg.

By-Law to Rule 32 – Weighing of Lightweights

Lightweight rowers shall be weighed wearing at least their racing uniform on tested scales not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race of each lightweight event in which they are competing, each day of the competition. The weighing scales should indicate the weight of the rower to 0.1 kg. Subject to the following paragraphs on carrying weight forward.

Notwithstanding the foregoing,

- a) *If a rower has races in other events on a day of racing, the weight recorded for the first event may be applied to qualify for subsequent events. Rowers may re-weigh for other events after their weigh-in for their first event on a day of racing, within the time limits applicable to that event. This weight may also be carried forward for any other races in which the rower competes on that day of racing*
- b) *If two rounds of the same event takes place on the same day of competition and some rowers in the second round do not have to race in the first round of that day, then these rowers in the second round shall be weighed at the same time as the rowers in the first round.*
 - i) *On each occasion of weighing, each crew shall present itself together if possible as a crew and shall be weighed as a crew. If the first race is subsequently postponed or cancelled, the lightweight rower is not required to be weighed in again on the same day for that event.*
- c) *The Organising Committee may require on the occasion of the first weighing or subsequently the deposit of an official identity card with photograph.*
- d) *A rower or crew not meeting the required weight may be weighed again any number of times within the allowed time limit. However, if a rower or crew fails to meet the required weight or does not present itself by the expiry of the time permitted for weighting, the rower and the crew of that rower are no longer eligible and shall be excluded from the event. A replacement rower under the provisions of Rule 59 48 or 60 49 may be weighed at any time before the next race of the crew. In such case, the individual weight and the crew average weight using the weight of the replacement rower and the recorded weights of the remaining crew members must comply with this Rule.*
- e) *Any rower who has been re-hydrated intravenously between the weigh-in and the respective race shall not be allowed to start.*

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PART III CLASSES OF BOAT

RULE 36 CLASSES OF BOAT

The following classes of boat are recognised by RA:

- Single Sculls (1x)
- Double Sculls (2x)
- Pair (2-)
- Coxed Pair (2+)
- Quadruple Sculls (4x)
- Coxed Quadruple Sculls (4x+)
- Four (4-)
- Coxed Four (4+)
- Coxed Eight (8+)

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PART IV BOATS AND CONSTRUCTION

RULE 39 FREE CONSTRUCTION

The construction, design and dimensions of boats and oars shall, in principle, be unrestricted subject to Appendix 14, [Rule 1](#), paragraphs 1 and [Rule 40](#). However, except for the rowers' seats, all load bearing parts including the axes of moving parts must be firmly fixed to the body of the boat.

Nevertheless, the RA may, in By-Laws to these Rules, impose appropriate requirements.

By-Laws to Rule 39 – Boats and Equipment

The By-laws to Rule 39 can be found at Appendix 14

RULE 40 INNOVATION IN EQUIPMENT

Innovations in equipment including, but not limited to, boats, oars, related equipment and clothing, must meet the following requirements before they are allowed for use in RA Events:

- 40.1 They must be commercially available to all competitors (patents may not exclude the use by a team or a competitor);
- 40.2 Not add to the cost or complexity of the sport without adding corresponding value;
- 40.3 Not provide an advantage to some competitors over others or change the nature of the sport;
- 40.4 Be safe and consistent with the principles of sustainable development and;
- 40.5 Be a positive development for the sport of rowing and maintain the principles, in particular those of fairness and equality, of the sport.

Any innovation must be submitted to Rowing Australia for evaluation. If it is judged to meet the above conditions and is approved for use, it must be readily available for all competitors by January 1st in order to be authorised for use in RA Events that year. Crews shall not be allowed to compete with

unapproved innovations in events held under these rules.

Rowing Australia has the sole authority to decide all matters under this Rule including whether an innovation is significant, whether it is readily available, whether the costs are reasonable and whether it is safe and consistent with the principles of sustainable development and whether it is a positive development for the sport of rowing and maintains the principles of the sport.

RULE 41 BOAT WEIGHTS

All boats used in RA Events shall be at least the minimum weights as set out in:

- a) Appendix 15 to the Rules of Racing.
- b) Appendix 16 - Coastal Rowing Endurance and Beach Sprints Rules

PART V COURSES

RULE 42 CHARACTERISTICS

- 42.1 The standard course for a RA Event shall provide fair and equal racing conditions for eight crews racing in separate, parallel lanes over a distance of 2,000 metres and 1,000 metres for masters events. The lanes shall be perpendicular to the start and finish lines.
- 41.2 For a RA Event the standard course must be provided with technical installations and equipment to Category A as defined in the By-Laws. In addition, it must also comply with all the specifications and descriptions given in the latest edition of "The RA Events Manual".
- 41.3 In order to be classified as a championship course, full details of the course concerned must be submitted in writing to RA by the applicants, and the course must be inspected at the cost of the Member Association concerned and approved by a person appointed by RA for that purpose.
- 41.4 RA may approve non-standard requirements for RA Events other than Interstate Events where this is in the interests of the event and the sport of rowing.
- 41.5 Requirements for Beach Sprint and Coastal events are defined in Appendix 16.

RULE 43 RACING DISTANCE

- 43.1 The standard flatwater racing distances shall be 2,000 metres straight for Men and Women other than Masters. For Masters (Men, Women and Mixed crews) the course shall be 1,000 metres straight.
- 43.2 The provisions of this Rule require the use of moveable starting installations in order that the bows of all boats of whatever class may be aligned on the same start line. If this is not available, start aligning sight boards for all boat classes may be used if approved by the Technical Delegate.
- 43.3 The length of the course and all intermediate distances shall be measured by an independent qualified surveyor and an accurate, certified plan shall be held by the Organising Committee conducting the Regatta. This plan shall be available for inspection by RA at any time.
- 43.4 RA may depart from this Rule where necessary for regattas in multi-sport competitions or other championships.
- 43.5 The non-standard course may be shorter (for example, sprints) or longer (for example, long distances, head of the river, etc.) than the standard course. It is not necessary that the non-

standard course be straight.

Requirements for Coastal Endurance and Beach Sprints events are defined in Appendix 16.

RULE 44 NUMBER OF LANES

On a standard course there should be a minimum of six lanes available. But in principle, the course shall have at least eight lanes usable for racing.

By-Laws to RULE 43 to RULE 44

These By-Laws are found in Appendix 1 to the Rules of Racing.

PART VI ORGANISATION OF REGATTAS

SECTION 1. GENERAL

RULE 45 AUTHORITY OF RA

- 45.1 RA Events including Ergometer Rowing competitions are under the overriding authority of RA and, where applicable, subject to the terms of any Staging Agreement entered into between RA and the Member Association or entity concerned. An Organising Committee shall be responsible for the organisation of regattas or competition.
- 45.2 The Technical Delegate and designated RA Event Staff will oversee the work of the Organising Committee on meeting the RA requirements for the event while regularly informing the Board on the progress.
- 45.3 The Member Association which has been awarded the right to host a RA Event, at least eighteen (18) months before the commencement of the regatta in the case of the Australian Rowing Championships, and six (6) months before the commencement of any other event, appoint an Organising Committee which shall be made up of:
- 45.3.1 An Event Manager;
 - 45.3.2 Portfolio roles including the areas of Finance, Competition, Volunteers and Administration;
 - 45.3.3 Such other personnel as the Member Association shall deem appropriate.
 - 45.3.4 In the case of Australian Masters Rowing Championships, the Organising Committee shall appoint a representative to sit on the RA Masters Commission.
- 45.4 Upon appointment of the Organising Committee, the Member Association shall forward full and detailed particulars of the members of that Committee to RA.
- 45.5 The Organising Committee appointed by the Member Association or other body that is conducting the Regatta is responsible for its organisation and direction and for the course and all necessary installations and equipment both on and off the water as set out in these Rules.

RULE 46 DUTIES OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Organising Committee is responsible for the proper preparation and operation of the regatta in accordance with the Rules of Racing and By-Laws.

The Organising Committee shall, in particular:

- 46.1 Fix the date and the programme of the regatta in agreement with the RA Board.
- 46.2 Prepare and distribute the advance programme including the date and time of required managers and/or competitor's briefings and draw;
- 46.3 Make available a stretch of water, rescue and medical services, and technical equipment conforming to the present Rules of Racing, related By-Laws and Event Regulations;
- 46.4 In conjunction with RA, arrange adequate insurance for third party liability, loss or damage to property and equipment and any other insurance cover required by law;
- 46.5 Take all other steps that may be required to ensure the proper organisation of the regatta.

Provide to the satisfaction of the Technical Delegate and RA Event Staff, sufficient personnel to ensure that all on shore facilities are adequately staffed so as to ensure their effective and efficient operation and the maintenance of those facilities for the duration of the event.

By-Law to RULE 46

The responsibilities and duties of the Organising Committee are set out in the By-Law to this Rule at Appendix 13

RULE 47 RA ROLES AT REGATTAS

RA shall have certain responsibilities at regattas including duties carried out by specified officials. Racing will be conducted in accordance with these Rules by RA Umpires, the Jury and the Board of the Jury.

- 47.1 RA shall have specific responsibilities at regattas as per the Rules of Racing and appropriate Event Manuals. In addition:

47.1.1 RA will appoint the following officials to represent Rowing Australia at the regatta:

- 47.1.1.1 Technical Delegate(s)
- 47.1.1.2 President of the Jury
- 47.1.1.3 Competition Manager
- 47.1.1.4 RA Regatta Doctor
- 47.1.1.5 Chief Para Classifier
- 47.1.1.6 Event Safeguarding Officer
- 47.1.1.7 Fairness Committee

- 47.2 The appointment, roles and responsibilities of these officials are set out in Appendix 13.

- 47.3 Conduct of Racing

- 47.3.1 The Jury - The Jury shall be responsible for conducting the racing and ensuring that the regatta is run in accordance with these Rules of Racing, By-Laws and Event Regulations and shall be comprised of a group of RA Umpires, supported, where appropriate by, State Technical Officials. The safety of rowers must be the prime concern of the Jury at all times during the regatta.
- 47.3.2 Board of the Jury - The Board of the Jury shall consider and decide on any protests made according to [Rule 85](#) and shall consist of the President of the Jury and two other members of the Jury designated by the President of the Jury on a daily basis prior to the start of racing.
- 47.3.3 RA Umpires shall be responsible for conduct of racing as members of the Jury.

RULE 48 DISPUTES, APPEALS AND CASES NOT COVERED

- 48.1 The Technical Delegate shall adjudicate on all cases and disputes not covered by the Rules of Racing and the relevant By-Laws for RA Events.
- 48.2 Appeals against a decision of the Technical Delegate made under Rule 48.1 may be referred to the RA Board for review.
- 48.3 Any decision made by RA under this Rule shall immediately be final and shall be communicated to the Member Association and any other relevant person in writing.

RULE 49 PRIZES AND SPONSORSHIP CONTRACTS

Competitors may receive cash or other prizes for competition.

They may also enter into sponsorship contracts provided these contracts are reviewed and approved by RA and their Member Association in advance, and that these contracts are in compliance with RA Statutes and Rules of Racing, related By-Laws and Event Regulations.

RULE 50 RA MERCHANDISING RIGHTS

- 49.1 At all RA Events RA retains the right to sell RA merchandise, souvenirs and other articles. The Organising Committee shall provide sites for this activity at no cost to RA.
- 49.2 All goods of whatever kind and description for distribution or sale or ordering for later delivery at a RA Event or any company, agent or affiliate of RA shall be under the authority, direction and control at all times of RA.
- 49.3 RA may at any time delegate, transfer, assign or licence all or part or parts of its authority and rights herein to such person(s), organising committee or Member Association as it decides upon terms and conditions acceptable to it.

SECTION 2. ADVERTISING PROVISIONS

RULE 51 COMMERCIAL PUBLICITY, SPONSORSHIP AND ADVERTISING

The Board may prescribe By-Laws regarding commercial publicity, sponsorship and advertising at RA Events.

Prohibited Advertising:

- 51.1 Any form of advertising (including body advertising) or identifications, not specifically permitted by these rules, is prohibited.
- 51.2 All advertising must comply with the laws of Australia and State or Territory of Australia which the regatta is being staged.
- 51.3 Even if otherwise permitted by laws of Australia and State or Territory of Australia, no advertising is permitted which is inappropriate or which is harmful to the image of rowing including tobacco and strong liquor (more than 15% alcohol content) or in contradiction with the RA Constitution or Rules of Racing and related By-Laws. In case of doubt, RA shall decide. In events, regattas and championships solely for junior/school rowers, advertising relating to alcohol is strictly prohibited.
- 51.4 Where an advertiser or sponsor deals mainly in products which are prohibited by this clause, but also produces some other (not prohibited) product or service, it may have identifications, provided that the identification is clearly associated with the product or service that is not prohibited and cannot be seen as advertising the prohibited product.

By-Law to Rule 51 — RA Advertising Rules

These By-Laws are found in Appendix 2 to the Rules of Racing.

RULE 52 ROWERS' CLOTHING AND BLADE COLOURS

- 52.1 RA shall keep a national register listing the racing colours of each Club, Institute and School in Australia. Member Associations shall assist RA to maintain the Register by informing RA of the colours of Clubs, Institutes and Schools affiliated with them or any alterations thereto.

- 52.2 Each member of a Club, School or Association, or of a composite crew (where allowed) competing in an RA Event shall wear the registered racing uniform of their Club, School or Association applicable to the event.
- 52.2.1.1 Each member of a Club, School or Association competing in an RA Event shall wear the registered racing uniform of their club or school and other garments which must all be identical in design (with the exception of 52.2.1.2 below) and colour except for permitted sponsor identifications which shall nonetheless be identical within each crew except as allowed for in By-Laws to Rule 51. Except as provided for composite crews, members of the same crew shall compete in identical clothing.
- 52.2.1.2 Subject to 52.5 below, rowers may wear undergarments of differing lengths as long as any undergarment is an identical colour.
- 52.3 The racing uniform shall be designed so that the shoulders and arms of the t-shirts provided by RA (if any) are seen clearly.
- 52.4 If any members of a crew wear headwear, then the headwear worn by those crew members shall be identical in colour but not necessarily in design.
- 52.5 RA may issue further regulations regarding rowers' clothing at RA Events, in particular, including use of a t-shirt provided by RA or other RA sponsor identification as in the By-Laws to Rule 51.
- 52.6 The blades of all oars and sculls should be presented in the same manner on both sides in the colours of their Club or School or a consistent colour.
- 52.7 Crews competing in the Interstate Regatta shall wear the racing uniform of their Member Association. The blades of all oars and sculls shall be presented on both sides in the colours of their Association or a consistent colour.
- 52.8 National Crews — Each crew competing in an RA Event as a National crew shall wear the registered racing colours of its National Rowing Federation.
- 52.9 In adverse weather conditions, for health reasons, coxswains may race wearing additional clothing in their club or school colours.

SECTION 3. ENTRIES, WITHDRAWALS AND CREW CHANGES

RULE 53 AUTHORIZATION OF THE MEMBER ASSOCIATION

A crew may compete in a RA Event only if authorised and confirmed as eligible by its Member Association, typically through management of an online database.

If an Organising Committee allows a crew to enter a regatta without proper authorisation from the relevant Member Association, then that Association cannot be held responsible for the crew and for its actions.

RULE 54 BLANK

This Rule has been intentionally left blank

RULE 55 ENTRIES

The entry of a crew for a RA Event shall be made in a manner approved by RA. The entry shall be valid only if all details have been completed. Names shall be shown starting with the bow rower and finishing with the stroke rower, followed by the coxswain and coach/coaches (if required). The Organising Committee of a RA Event must accept every valid entry made by the closing date.

By-Law to RULE 55 — Entries

- 1) *Entries shall be made in the form approved by RA and must include:*
 - a) *the name of the Member Association(s) or Member Association(s) with which the competitors are affiliated;*
 - b) *the classification of the event entered;*
 - c) *the name of the Club, Institute or School to which the competitors belong, where appropriate;*
 - d) *the names of the competitors including their positions in the crew;*
 - e) *declare the eligibility of the competitor to compete in the event.*
- 2) *The club, institute/association or school who enters a crew shall assume financial liability for that entry, regardless of the affiliation of the members of the crew.*
- 3) *No entry shall be accepted if all rowers and the coxswain (if applicable), and the Member Association, Club, Institute or School they represent, have not been named in the entry form.*
- 4) *As a general rule, no entries shall be accepted in a RA Event after the closing date. However, discretion may be shown by the Technical Delegate for a late entry to be accepted within the Withdrawal Without Penalty period with each request to be considered on an individual basis. Any late entry accepted may have a penalty fee charged on top of the standard seat fee. No entries shall be accepted in a RA Event after the close of the Withdrawal Without Penalty period regardless of the circumstances.*
- 5) *Entry Fees:*

The Organising Committee responsible for the conduct of a regatta may charge such entry fees as are approved by RA at least six months prior to the regatta.

RULE 56 LIST OF ENTRIES

After the closing of entries, a list of entries shall be visible through the online entry platform.

RULE 57 FALSE DECLARATIONS

- 57.1 Any false declaration regarding the name, age, classification, gender, club membership or other eligibility criteria of a rower to compete in an event will be considered as a serious breach of the rules justifying an appropriate sanction.
- 57.2 Extent of Sanction - Such a breach may result in the disqualification of the rower or rowers to which the entry relates from all events at the regatta.
- 57.3 Rowing Australia may apply additional sanctions.

RULE 58 OBJECTIONS TO AN ENTRY

- 58.1 An objection to an entry may be made only by the official representative of a member association, institute, club or school (as applicable) that has submitted entries for that regatta.
- 58.2 No objection to an entry shall be made at any time on the grounds of gender eligibility of a rower except pursuant to the objection procedure prescribed by Rule 21 and its

By-Law

- 58.3 An objection to an entry, except as to gender eligibility, shall be lodged in writing promptly with Rowing Australia after the entries are published specifying in detail the grounds on which the entry is considered to be irregular.
- 58.4 No objection to an entry will be considered unless received by Rowing Australia at least three hours prior to the first race of the event, unless the objection relates to a substitution in which case the objection must be lodged before the start of the race.
- 58.5 If Rowing Australia considers that the objection is frivolous, malicious or otherwise without substance, it may reject the objection without further consideration.
- 58.6 Otherwise, Rowing Australia will inquire into the objection, consider any submissions from the official representative of the rower or crew whose entry has been objected, and determine whether the objection is justified.
- 58.7 If the objection is found to be justified, the entry shall be rejected.
- 58.8 A rejected entry does not affect the ability of Rowing Australia to impose sanctions under [Rule 74](#).

RULE 59 WITHDRAWALS

- 59.1 If a crew or sculler is withdrawn from an event for which it has entered, a representative of the crew shall give as much notice as possible but, in any case, no less than two (2) hours prior to the advertised scheduled start time of the race, in writing, to the Organising Committee or designated regatta administration staff.
- 59.2 A withdrawal once made is irrevocable.
- 59.3 If a crew or sculler is withdrawn within seventy-two (72) hours after the close of entries, it may do so without penalty or loss of entry fee. This period will be referred to as "Withdrawal Without Penalty" period. All withdrawals made after this time regardless of reason shall be charged/not refunded the relevant entry fee.
- 59.4 If a crew or sculler fails to start in a race for which it is entered or fails to provide two hours' notice of such intention not to race the crew shall be liable to a fine of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars Australian (\$250). However, there shall be no financial sanction for the withdrawal of a crew that withdraws for medical or safety reasons acceptable to Rowing Australia.
- 59.5 In the event of a withdrawal the Organising Committee may conduct a new draw.
- 59.6 This Rule also relates to a crew/sculler that withdraws after the first race.
- 59.7 A crew that does not start a race (DNS) without notifying Rowing Australia of their withdrawal will nevertheless be considered a withdrawal for purposes of these Rules.

By-Law to RULE 59 — Withdrawals

Withdrawals will only be received by the Organising Committee or designated regatta administration staff.

RULE 60 CREW CHANGES / SUBSTITUTIONS

- 60.1 Crews – Clubs, Schools and Member Associations, using authorised personnel, may substitute up to one half the number of rowers (as well as the coxswain, if applicable) in crews provided that each replacement rower is eligible to compete in that event and eligible to represent the

club/school/association in accordance with these rules

- 60.2 Any substitution under this rule must be communicated in writing at Athlete Services at least one hour before the first heat.
- 60.3 No substitution of rowers shall be made in a crew which has already raced in a heat (or compulsory preliminary race) of its event, except in the case of medical reasons, in which case Rule 61 shall apply.
- 60.4 In the event of a substitution to a crew in an age handicapped event, the handicap shall be updated to reflect the revised average crew age.
- 60.5 No substitute is permitted for a single sculler except as permitted in 60.6.
- 60.6 A single sculler may be substituted for an Interstate Event. A Member Association shall notify the change through normal substitution procedures.

RULE 61 CREW CHANGES FOR MEDICAL REASONS

- 61.1 Before the first heat
 - 61.1.1 In addition to the provisions of Rule 60, in the case of illness or injury to a member of the crew before their first heat a substitution of that rower may be made, in principle, no later than one hour before the official start time of their race, and subject to meeting the requirements of 61.3.
- 61.2 After the first heat
 - 61.2.1 Single scullers – No substitution is permitted for a single sculler who has already raced in the heat of their event
 - 61.2.2 Crews - No substitution of rowers shall be made in a crew which has already raced in the heat (or compulsory preliminary race) of its event except in the case of illness or injury to a member of the crew and by way of medical substitution pursuant to this Rule and subject to meeting the requirements of 61.3.
- 61.3 To make a medical substitution of a rower or sculler, the following requirements shall be met:
 - 61.3.1 A medical certificate shall be provided to the RA regatta doctor or delegate unless the RA regatta doctor or delegate conducts a medical examination.
 - 61.3.2 Where an external medical doctor provides a medical certificate, the RA regatta doctor or delegate may require a separate medical examination of the rower concerned.
 - 61.3.3 The RA regatta doctor or delegate, after examining the rower, or having waived the right to examine the rower, may declare that rower unfit to compete further by reason of injury or illness and thereby approve the medical substitution of that crew member.
 - 61.3.4 A crew member who has been medically substituted from one crew shall not compete again in any event at that regatta unless approved by the RA regatta doctor or delegate as fit to return to competition.
 - 61.3.5 the substitution shall be notified in writing Athlete Services or designated regatta administration staff.
- 61.4 To reinstate a rower or sculler that has been medically substituted, the following requirements shall be met:
 - 61.4.1 A medical certificate shall be provided to the RA regatta doctor or delegate unless the RA regatta doctor, or delegate conducts a medical examination.

- 61.4.2 Where an external medical doctor provides a medical certificate, the RA regatta doctor or delegate may require a separate medical examination of the rower concerned.
- 61.4.3 The RA regatta doctor or delegate, after examining the rower, or having waived the right to examine the rower, may declare that rower fit to compete further by reason of injury or illness and thereby approve the reinstatement of that crew member.
- 61.4.4 The reinstatement shall be notified to Athlete Services in writing
- 61.5 Up to half of the rowers in a crew (plus the coxswain, if applicable) may be changed in accordance with this Rule.
- 61.6 Consequential Substitutions
- 61.6.1 Where a rower is ill or injured and a substitution is made for that rower using a rower from a second boat (with no doubling up), the rower from the second boat may in turn be substituted in that boat by another rower, even though the rower from the second boat is not ill or injured.
- 61.6.2 This consequential substitution may only occur if the line of substitutions is clearly resulting from the illness or injury of a rower in the first boat in accordance with By-Law to Rule 60 and 61.
- 61.6.3 If the ill or injured rower recovers and is reinstated back into the boat, the rower substituted for the ill or injured rower and any other rower substituted as a consequence of the initial substitution, must then at the same time, and effective immediately, be substituted back into their original boat for the next round of their event.
- 61.6.4 Where a consequential substitution is made and there is no available replacement for the second rower, then the crew of that second rower may be withdrawn as a consequential medical withdrawal under Rule 59.
- 61.6.5 Any replacement rower must be eligible to compete in that event and be eligible to represent the Club/School/University/Association in accordance with the Rules of Racing and related By-Laws.

SECTION 4. SAFETY AND FAIRNESS

RULE 62 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The primary principles guiding the Technical Delegate, Organising Committee and the Jury in charge of the regatta shall be:

1. Safety of all competitors
2. Fairness for all competitors

Each individual competitor and team official shall act at all times in accordance with these principles.

RULE 63 SAFETY — GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 63.1 The Organising Committee is responsible for providing all safety measures at its regatta and impose any further safety measures as appropriate.

- 63.2 During the official opening hours of the course, a medical and rescue service shall be ready to act both on the land and on the water, to the level specified in the RA Medical Services Provisions Policy and agreed to by the Technical Delegate.
- 63.3 The Organising Committee shall announce the official opening day of the course for training (a minimum of one day before the start of all RA Events except Australian Rowing Championships when the course shall be opened at least two days prior to commencement) and shall also announce the opening time and the closing time of the course on each day of training and of racing.
- 63.4 RA may remove the right to conduct a RA Event if it is not satisfied that the Rules of Racing and By-Laws regarding safety have been observed.
- 63.5 All rowers and team officials shall at all times act in accordance with the Rules in force relating to the safety of their boats, oars, sculls and other items of equipment.
- 63.6 It is the responsibility of Member Associations, rowers, coaches Clubs and Schools to ensure that all their equipment is in a safe and suitable condition and that the rowers meet the requirements of [Rule 23](#) regarding swimming ability and state of health and fitness
- 63.7 Rowers and team officials shall comply with the instructions of the Jury and of the Organising Committee on any matter relating to safety.
- 63.8 Any member of the Jury may prohibit any crew from going on the water if they consider that the crew constitutes a danger to themselves or other crews on the water. In the event of a dispute, the President of the Jury shall determine the issue.
- 63.9 While the organising committee of a regatta shall take all reasonable steps to provide safe rowing conditions and appropriate safety measures, the ultimate responsibility for competing safely lies first and foremost with the member association, club or school for whom the rower is competing and with the individual rower and their team officials. In this respect RA accepts no legal liability.

By-Law to RULE 63 — Competitors and Coaches Briefing

At RA Events each participating Member Association, Club or School must be represented by at least one person (competitor, coach, manager, etc.) at the pre-competition Competitors and Coaches Briefing. This person or persons shall communicate information from the meeting concerning racing and safety to all rowers and coaches in their team. Failure of a Member Association, Club or School to attend the Competitors and Coaches Briefing or communicate information may result in the Member Association, Club or School being penalised by RA.

Safety – Training at Regattas

- 1) Training shall take place only during the official training hours as notified by the organising committee.
- 2) During the official training hours, a medical and rescue service shall operate on the land and on the water.
- 3) The Organising Committee shall give advance notice of the official opening day of the course for training
- 4) The Organising Committee and/or technical delegate shall also give as much notice of the official training hours (and any changes) for each day as is reasonably possible subject to review for safety or operational requirements.
- 5) Notification of the official training hours shall specify the opening time and the closing time of the course for each day of training. All crews must be off the water by that closing time
- 6) Crews may be sanctioned for failing to follow these requirements.

RULE 64 TRAFFIC RULES ON THE COURSE

- 64.1 The Organising Committee must publish, and display clearly in the boathouse or embarkation area, the traffic rules to be followed to control the movement of the boats on the water. These rules must cover:
- 64.1.1 Traffic rules for training
 - 64.1.2 Traffic rules for racing
- 64.2 It is the responsibility of every rower, coach and team manager to read, to understand and to comply with all the traffic rules. In addition, the rowers while warming up for a race or cooling down from a race:
- 64.2.1 Must not cross the finish line (in any direction) while boats from another race are in the process of finishing;
 - 64.2.2 Must stop when a race approaches its position
 - 64.2.3 Must not follow a race over all or part of the course, even outside the buoyed area, when not taking part in a race.
 - 64.2.4 A crew may be sanctioned for failing to follow these requirements.

By-Law to RULE 64 — Traffic Rules on the Course

A copy of the traffic rules must be provided to every Member Association, School or Club entered. The traffic rules must also be published in the team managers manual and large signs must be clearly displayed in the boating area. These signs should be located beside the pontoons where the crews go out on to the water.

The traffic rules for training and racing shall identify at least one clear lane of water (13.5m) as a neutral lane between crews travelling in opposite directions on the water. If it is not possible to provide the neutral lane, then the crews travelling in opposite directions must be separated by a “swimming line”, or equivalent, as a continuous, physical barrier.

Unless specifically notified there shall be no training during racing at Rowing Australia events.

The traffic rules for racing shall cover the warm-up area and the cool-down area. They shall also take into consideration the safe movement of any boat taking part in the victory ceremony.

RULE 65 OTHER BOATS ON THE WATER

- 65.1 Racing
- 65.1.1 During the official hours of racing no boat (moving or fixed) shall be allowed on the regatta course or the training areas without the specific authority of the President of the Jury.
 - 65.1.2 The President of the Jury shall determine the position and the movement of all approved vessels, i.e. umpires' boats, rescue boats, television boats, work boats etc. They will also control and approve the personnel and equipment carried on such vessels.
- 65.2 Training
- 65.2.1 During the official hours of training (when the traffic rules for training apply), no boat (moving or fixed) shall be allowed on the regatta course or in the training areas without the approval of the Competition Manager or Technical Delegate.

- 65.2.2 The Competition Manager or Technical Delegate is responsible for ensuring that no unauthorised crews or boats shall be permitted on the water of the regatta course at any time during the course opening times, from the first day the course opens until the end of the regatta.

RULE 66 DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT

Should a crew suffer damage to its equipment, the Board of the Jury shall, upon request from any of the crews involved, decide who is at fault.

RULE 67 FAIRNESS — GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 67.1 All rowers competing at a regatta shall at all times:
- 67.1.1 Compete fairly;
 - 67.1.2 Be respectful of their opponents and the regatta officials;
 - 67.1.3 Comply with the Rules of Racing, in particular be at the start on time and follow the instructions of the officials both on the water and off.
- 67.2 Team officials shall, at all times:
- 67.2.1 Be familiar with the Rules of Racing as may be relevant to their individual team duties.
 - 67.2.2 Be respectful of other teams, and regatta officials and of the need for fair competition.
- 67.3 Regatta Officials shall ensure the Rules of Racing are applied fairly, and in the atmosphere of respect to all rowers and team officials.

Failure to comply with these requirements may lead to a sanction being imposed on the crew.

SECTION 5. THE DRAW AND PROGRESSION SYSTEM TO THE FINALS

RULE 68 PROGRESSION SYSTEM

- 68.1 Should the number of crews taking part in an event exceed that of the number of lanes used for racing a progression system, as outlined in Appendix 3, shall be used to determine the finalist subject to the following criteria.
- 68.2 In principle, the draw in the heats of an event, or the final where heats are not required, shall be random.
- 68.3 Where an event is nominated as a selection event prior to the close of entries RA may instruct that the draw be seeded.
- 68.4 Where a progression system is modified due to adverse weather conditions any subsequent round of the event shall be seeded based on the results of any round that has been completed in its entirety.
- 68.5 As a general principle, each round of an event should finish at least two hours before the following round of the same event, or at least ninety minutes before the following round of the same event at the Australian Masters Rowing Championships.
- 68.6 The Fairness Committee may alter the progression system at any time. Other than for situations where adverse weather has caused changes, the Fairness Committee will provide ample notice to competitors of any alternative system that will be used.
- 68.7 Modified progression systems may be approved by RA for RA Regattas after consultation with the Organising Committee, and Fairness Committee in the case of the National Rowing

Championships.

- 68.8 The Organising Committee shall decide whether or not to hold Finals B, C, D, E and so on, together with the relevant Semi-finals. In the cases where there are options these shall be chosen by a draw.

RULE 69 THE DRAW

- 69.1 At RA Events, the draw for each round of racing shall be undertaken under the direction of the Technical Delegate at a place and time nominated by the Technical Delegate. The draw shall be made available to competitors at least 60 minutes before the start of each round of racing for that event.
- 69.2 If an event has a Final only these Rules do not require a preliminary race to determine the lanes for the final and, therefore, the draw for lanes may also take place at the main draw. The Organising Committee may choose to run a compulsory or non-compulsory preliminary race. If a non-compulsory preliminary race is run, preference for lanes will be given to those crews/scullers who compete, crews/scullers that do not compete in this preliminary race for this event will be allocated remaining lanes.
- 69.3 If a crew withdraws after the draw, but before the start of the first heat and if the number of crews remaining in the event involves another variant of the heats and repêchages, or if the withdrawal results in an avoidable imbalance between the number of crews in each heat, the President of the Jury shall supervise a new draw or designate the responsibility to an appropriate person and, if necessary, postpone the race times to allow the redraw to be implemented.
- 69.4 In the case of difficult conditions where delays or postponements are not possible, the system to determine lanes may be modified by the Jury, in consultation with the Fairness Committee, in order to complete the regatta. Any modification will consider the previous results at the regatta in placing crews in the better lanes in accordance with RA rules.

By-Law to RULE 69 — Determining the Lanes (Normal Conditions)

Where appropriate RA shall appoint a Seeding Committee for a particular event. The purpose of seeding is to avoid having all the faster boats in an event being drawn into the same heat in the first round. In principle seeding two crews per heat with the highest seeded crew being paired with the lowest seeded crew, the next highest with the next lowest, etc. The Seeding Committee will apply criteria determined by RA and published in advance.

For the heats, a draw shall be held to determine the lane to be occupied by each crew except where the crews have been seeded. There shall be a random draw for the order of the heats so that the highest seeded crew is not always in heat 1. The seeding order shall only affect the placing of crews in the heats; it shall not be taken into account for any of the later rounds of competition.

For the repêchages, quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals, the principle is to put the crews with the best placings in their previous round in the inner lanes dependant on weather conditions. Similarly, the crews with the lower placings in their previous round are put in the outer lanes dependant on weather conditions. If the crews have the same placings in the heats, repêchages or semi-finals then there shall be a draw to determine their lanes in the next round.

In principle, crews advanced by their placing in a previous round will be assigned lanes before crews that have advanced on the basis of time.

If a crew withdraws after the heats and this results in an avoidable imbalance in the next round of racing (e.g., Semi-finals CD with 5 and 3 crews), the President of the Jury may decide to alter the progression system to balance the number of crews in each race.

RULE 70 WITHDRAWALS, EXCLUSIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS AFTER THE DRAW

If a crew withdraws or is excluded or is disqualified after the Draw, then the following procedures shall operate:

- 70.1 If the withdrawal, exclusion or disqualification takes place before the start of the first heat or the start of the first repechage, the start of the first quarter-final or the start of the first semi-final of the event the President of the Jury may take the appropriate steps to modify the Draw or to make a new Draw.
 - 70.1.1 The result of the race will show the crew as SCR (Scratched), DNS (Did Not Start), EXC (Excluded) or DSQ (Disqualified) and the crew will be placed last in the overall ranking of that event.
 - 70.1.2 A crew that does not compete in the first round of an event or which is excluded or disqualified at any point in the event shall not be ranked in that event.
 - 70.1.3 In the final ranking of an event, a crew withdrawing after its heat but before the start of its repêchage or its quarter-final or its semi-final will be ranked last in the round which the crew would have competed if it did not withdraw. If there is more than one, then equally in last place.
- 70.2 If a crew stops rowing during a heat, a repêchage or a semi-final and does not finish the race:
 - 70.2.1 then the result of the race will show the crew as DNF (Did Not Finish).
 - 70.2.2 The number of crews stipulated in the draw will go forward to the next round.
 - 70.2.3 The crew that does not finish the race will not race again in the event and will not be placed in that race and will not race again in the event.
 - 70.2.4 In the overall ranking for that event the crew will be placed last in the ranking of that round which they did not finish.
 - 70.2.5 Notwithstanding the above, where a problem outside the control of a crew which prevents the crew from finishing a race, the President of the Jury may decide to place that crew last in that race.
- 70.3 If a crew is excluded or disqualified after the start of the first heat of the event:
 - 70.3.1 then the result of the race will show the crew as EXC or as DSQ.
 - 70.3.2 The number of crews stipulated in the Progression will go forward to the next round.
 - 70.3.3 The crew that has been excluded or disqualified will not race again in the event and will not be ranked in the event.
- 70.4 In any final, if a crew withdraws before the start of the race or if a crew stops rowing during the race and does not finish the race:
 - 70.4.1 then the result of the race will show the crew as SCR (Scratched), DNS (Did Not Start) or DNF (Did Not Finish).
 - 70.4.2 The crew that withdraws or stops during the race will be placed last in that final.
- 70.5 In the final ranking of an event, a crew which stops rowing during a race (DNF) will be ranked above a crew which withdraws before the start of a race (DNS) in the same round.
- 70.6 Subject to 70.5 above, where two or more crews are DNF or DNS in the same round, the crew with the higher placing in their previous round shall be ranked higher in the final ranking of the event.
- 70.7 A crew that is relegated (REL) will be ranked below a crew which is DNF or DNS in the same round.

RULE 71 TIME TRIALS

A time trial is a race in which crews are started one after the other, whether in one or more lanes, and where the result is determined by the time taken by each crew to complete the course.

In cases of limited time availability or in adverse or unequal conditions or of a very large entry in

certain events the Fairness Committee may decide to hold time trials instead of or in combination with heats, repêchages, quarter finals, semi-finals and finals as provided below.

By-Law to RULE 71 — Time Trials

Depending on the weather conditions and the circumstances under which a decision is taken to hold time trials, the time trials may be conducted (1) as individual heats in accordance with the draw or progression system, or (2) may be conducted as one time trial in which all crews in that round shall compete against each other.

- 1 If the Time Trial System is used for the heats, then in each separate heat the highest seeded crew starts first and the second highest seeded crew shall start second. The remaining crews shall start in the order of their lanes, as given from the official draw.*
- 2 If the Time Trial System is used for repêchages, quarter-finals, semi-finals or finals then in each separate race the crews shall start in order according to their placings in the previous round. Where two crews have the same placing, (e.g. both were heat winners), then there shall be a draw supervised by the Technical Delegate to determine their starting order.*
- 3 In the case that a time trial is conducted as one trial for all crews in an event the highest seeded crew starts first, followed by the second highest crew, etc., and after all the seeded crews then the remaining crews shall start in order of a random draw, supervised by the Technical Delegate.*
- 4 If the time trial is for a subsequent round (repechage, quarter final, semi-final, final) the crews shall start in order according to their placings in the previous round. Where two or more crews have the same time placing in the previous round then there shall be a draw, supervised by the Technical Delegate, to determine their starting order.*
- 5 Each separate race shall be started at not more than five-minute intervals.*
- 6 Crews in each race compete in the same lane and shall be started at approximately 30-second intervals. Where the Fairness Committee decides that conditions are equal in two lanes, then racing shall take place using those two lanes with crews starting alternatively in adjacent lanes.*
- 7 Crews start with a "flying start" and are timed from the 100m mark. They race 1900m.*
- 8 If a crew is caught by any crew that starts behind them then they must move out of the lane to allow the overtaking crew to pass safely. Once the crew has overtaken them then they must move back into the original lane. Where two lanes are being used for the Time Trial the crew moving out of their lane must ensure they cause no interference to crews racing in the other lane.*

RULE 72 ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

72.1 At RA events when unfair or unrowable conditions prevail or are predicted, the Fairness Committee may decide to apply provisions as described in the By-Laws to this rule.

By-Law to RULE 72 — Alternative programs in cases of Adverse Weather Conditions

- 1.1 When unfair or unrowable conditions prevail or are predicted, the Fairness Committee may apply the options as described below. First consideration must be to the most appropriate option from Options 1, 2 and 3 before considering Option 4, 5 or 6.*
- 1.2 Option 1: To use the lanes offering the most equal conditions.*

- 1.3 Option 2: To recommend to the Organising Committee to change the timetable of the regatta to avoid adverse weather conditions.
- 1.4 Option 3: To suspend racing when weather conditions are, or about to become, unfair, unrowable or unsafe and recommend alternative times for racing.
- 1.5 Option 4:
- 1.5.1.1 To prioritise the lanes for each individual race, using the placings from the previous round to put the crews with the similar placings from the previous round into adjoining lanes and giving the crews having achieved better placings better lanes.
- 1.5.1.2 Where two or more crews have the same placing in the immediately previous round (e.g. each were heat winners), then there shall be a new draw for the crews with the same placing, supervised by the Technical Delegate, to determine their reallocated lanes.
- This Option shall not be used for heats (or in finals of an event where there has been no mandatory preliminary race to determine the lanes for the final).
- 1.6 Option 5: To implement the Time-Trial System for each individual race, e.g. if there were four heats from the official draw, then there shall be four separate Time-Trial Races.
- 1.7 Option 6: To implement a time trial in which all the remaining crews at each level in a round or rounds of an event compete together in one time trial.
- 2 After the Fairness Committee has determined that none of these options provide an appropriate solution, it is the duty of them to decide whether to implement one of the following solutions in order to continue the regatta:
- 2.1.1 Solution 1: To start racing earlier than previously announced, provided that the announcement of the new times is made by announcement widely on the previous day.
- 2.1.2 Solution 2: To resume racing at a later time when conditions have improved.
- 2.1.3 Solution 3: To omit a round, or part of a round, of the event (e.g. semi-finals) where adverse conditions have stopped racing for a significant period of time or where the weather forecast indicates that racing may not be possible on some of the remaining days. In such a case the composition of the next rounds will be determined on the basis of the results of those rounds that have been completed. That may necessitate more crews than initially planned in each race. Wherever possible the rankings of the crews in the previous rounds will be used as the basis for the composition of the next rounds.
- 2.1.4 Solution 4: To reduce the length of the race to no less than 50% of the original race distance where conditions are so adverse that no other alternative is possible.
- 2.2 When a decision is made to adopt any one of these Options or to implement any one of these Solutions, that decision shall be announced to the crews and notified to the Team Managers, coaches or through other appropriate communication means at the earliest opportunity as the case may require. In particular, adequate time must be given to crews to prepare for their race with knowledge of the change to the racing procedure by the adoption of one of the Options or the implementation of one of the Solutions.
- 2.3 Results from the previous rounds of racing may be used other than in accordance with the normal progression system.

RULE 73 RE-ROWS

- 1) A Re-Row is a second running of a race involving some or all crews of that race.
- 2) The Umpire shall decide whether there is to be a Re-row of a race.

- 3) The Re-row shall be over the full distance of the original race.

By-Laws to Rule 73 – Re-Rows

- 1) *The Umpire may require a race to be re-rowed in accordance with this Rule if the Umpire considers that a Re-Row is necessary to ensure the fairness of the competition and, in particular but not exhaustively, in any one of the following circumstances:*
 - a. *A race which has been started but is interrupted by weather conditions or other external influences and is stopped by the Umpire before the race is finished;*
 - b. *There is interference between crews during a race and the Umpire determines that in order to restore the chances of a crew the race should be re-rowed with all or some of the crews;*
 - c. *A dead-heat, where this is required by the Rules of Racing;*
 - d. *Other special situations as decided by the Umpire to ensure the fairness of the competition.*
- 2) *The Umpire shall decide which crews in the original race shall be required to re-row.*
- 3) *Where the original race has been completed, the Umpire may exempt one or more crews from the re-row and confirm the results of those crews in the original race;*
- 4) *Before ordering the re-row, the Umpire may exclude one or more crews from the event in accordance with the Rules of Racing where that crew's (or crew's') actions have caused the re-row.*
- 5) *In principle, a re-row shall take place not less than two hours after the original race and on the same day. The Umpire may decide, in consultation with the President of the Jury, that this two-hour limit may be reduced.*
- 6) *For the purposes of this Rule, the decision of the Board of the Jury determining a protest from the decision of the Umpire to order a re-row shall be deemed the decision of the Umpire.*
- 7) *For the purposes of this Rule, the decision of RA determining an appeal from the Board of the Jury on a decision to order a Re-Row shall be deemed the decision of the Umpire.*
- 8) *the Umpire may decide whether the Re-Row shall take place over the full course distance or over a shorter distance depending on the circumstances, including the distance already rowed by the crews in the original race, the time remaining until the next round, the overall fairness to the crews and any other relevant matters.*

SECTION 6. SANCTIONS

RULE 74 SANCTIONS

- 74.1 In any case of breach of the rules, a member of the Jury may impose appropriate sanctions. The sanctions available are:
- 74.1.1 Reprimand, which is a formal admonishment that the conduct of the rower or crew is in breach of the Rules and that this breach may be taken into account when considering an appropriate sanction for any further break during that regatta. This will be an appropriate sanction where the breach does not warrant a high level of sanction.
 - 74.1.2 Yellow Card - which is a formal warning.
 - 74.1.2.1 A Yellow Card shall apply to the next race in which that crew competes in that regatta. It shall lapse only when the race is concluded and shall therefore still apply in the case of a postponement or a re-row of that race.
 - 74.1.2.2 A crew awarded two Yellow Cards applying to the same race shall be awarded a Red Card and excluded from the event.
 - 74.1.3 Relegation (REL) – which places a crew in the last position in a race where specifically provided in these rules.
 - 74.1.4 Red Card or Exclusion (EXC) which excludes the crew from all the rounds of the event in question
 - 74.1.4.1 this sanction is for a serious and/or repeated breach of the Rules justifying that the offending crew take no further part in the event.
 - 74.1.5 Disqualification (DSQ) – which disqualifies a rower or a crew from all events in the regatta
 - 74.1.5.1 This sanction is for the most serious breach of the Rules justifying removal from the regatta.
 - 74.1.5.2 Where a rower is disqualified, that rower shall take no further part in the regatta.
 - 74.1.5.3 Where a rower is disqualified at a time when Rules 60 and 61 only allow substitutions for medical reasons, then the rower may not be replaced and the crew of that rower shall be excluded from all rounds of the event in question.
 - 74.1.5.4 Where a crew is disqualified, no member of that crew shall take any further part in any event at that regatta.
- 74.2 Sanction on a Member Club/School/Association
- 74.2.1 The President of the Jury shall additionally provide a report to Rowing Australia on the breach of the Rules and the sanction imposed.
 - 74.2.2 Rowing Australia shall, upon receiving such a report from the President of the Jury and if it considers that the sanction imposed by the Jury was not sufficient to the breach:
 - 74.2.2.1 provide a copy of the report to the relevant member club/school/association
 - 74.2.2.2 give notice to that member club/school/association that it intends to consider also imposing a sanction on that member club/school/association with that notice to specify:

- 1 the nature of the breach to be considered,
- 2 the sanction or range of sanctions that will be considered,
- 3 if past conduct is to be taken into account, the notice shall specify that accordingly and detail the relevant past conduct; and club/school/association invite the member federation to provide written submissions on the issue by a stated date.

74.2.2.3 Rowing Australia may, after considering the report and any submissions from the member club/school/association impose such sanction as it considers appropriate to reflect the serious nature of the breach and/or the past conduct of that crew or any member of it or its team official as the circumstances may justify.

By-law to Rule 74 – Sanctions

- 1) *When a Yellow card or Red Card is awarded to a crew, the sanctioned crew shall be informed immediately or as soon thereafter as possible.*
- 2) *The sanction shall be verbally announced by the Starter as part of the start procedure prior to their next race notifying them of the following: -*
 - a) *The sanction*
 - b) *The nature of the breach*
 - c) *When the breach occurred*
 - d) *Any other important facts; and*
 - e) *The name and function of the Jury member who awarded the sanction*
- 3) *In the case of a Yellow Card applying to the next race of the sanctioned crew for which the crew is not yet on the water, the sanction shall in principle be announced verbally to the crew by the Jury member at the outgoing pontoon when the crew boats for its race.*
- 4) *Where a crew already on the water is awarded a Yellow Card prior to arriving at the Start, the Starter shall announce the sanction to the crew before the start of its race.*
- 5) *A crew awarded a Red Card or otherwise excluded or disqualified shall not participate in the race once notified of the sanction.*
- 6) *If a sanction which affects the result of a crew is applied by a member of the jury, it shall be shown on the race result in the following form: DSQ – Disqualification; EXC –Red Card or Exclusion; REL – Relegation, Relegated - BUW – Boat Underweight.*
- 7) *In order to be valid, any sanction awarded by a member of the Jury under this Rule related to the conduct of the race shall be awarded and communicated to the crew no later than one hour after the conclusion of the race. This time limit does not apply to sanctions which may be awarded by the Control Commission arising from its duties after the race is concluded, or sanctions awarded by the Board of the Jury, or Rowing Australia, or sanctions awarded under Appendix 6 Para - Rowing Competition Regulations. For the purposes of this rule, communication to the crew may be through publication of the official results.*

SECTION 7. THE START

RULE 75 AT THE START

The first 100 metres of the Regatta Course constitutes the start zone. A crew may enter the start zone if permitted by the Starter, but shall not enter the racing lanes until all crews from the preceding race

have left the start zone and the Starter has attributed a lane to the crew. Crews must be attached to their starting positions at least two minutes before the designated start time.

RULE 76 THE STARTING PROCEDURE

- 76.1 Methods of Starting - There shall be two methods of starting as described in the By-Law to this Rule. The normal start procedure shall include a roll call of all crews before the start command is given. Alternatively, in case of adverse weather conditions or other valid reasons the Starter may decide to use the Quick Start procedure in which there is no roll call of individual crews.
- 76.2 Starting Process - The Starter shall inform the crews of their starting positions. They shall start the race when the Judge at the Start indicates that the crews are correctly aligned. The Judge at the Start alone shall decide if the boats are correctly aligned or if one or more crews have committed a false start.
- 76.2.1 Should the Judge at the Start deem there to be a false start or the start to be faulty, the Starter shall stop the race and, if there is a false start, shall award a Yellow Card to the crew or crews which, in the opinion of the Judge at the Start, caused it.
- 76.2.2 A crew causing two false starts or receiving two Yellow Cards which apply to the same race, for any infringement whatsoever, shall be awarded a Red Card and be excluded from the event.
- 76.3 In principle the Starter shall start the race at the schedule race start time.

The starter may start the race without reference to absentees. A crew arriving late at its starting position may be awarded a Yellow Card by the Starter.

By-Law to RULE 76 — The Starting Procedure

- 1) *Starting Procedure – Normal Start*
- a) *Crews must attach themselves to their start pontoons at least two minutes before the starting time of their race. Two minutes before the designated start time, the Starter shall announce "Two Minutes" and this shall signify to the crews that they are formally under Starter's orders. The announcement of "two Minutes" shall also be an instruction to the crews that they must be ready to race within two minutes. After announcing "two Minutes" and if they are satisfied that all the crews are ready to race the starter may, in adverse weather conditions or other special circumstances, proceed with the start without waiting for the scheduled start time.*
 - b) *Where an Alignment Control Mechanism is in use, the Starter, after all crews are attached to their start pontoon, shall alert crews by announcing "Raising Start System". They shall then activate the alignment mechanism to raise it to the surface.*
 - c) *Before giving the start commands, the Starter shall ensure that the Umpire and the Judge at the Start are ready. When the boats are aligned and they observe the crews are ready to race, the Starter shall make a roll-call by announcing — in lane order — the names of each of the crews in the race. Once the roll-call begins the crews must make sure that their boats are straight. Each crew is responsible for being both straight and ready to race at the end of the roll-call.*
 - d) *Once the roll-call begins the Starter shall proceed to finish the roll call, taking no further notice of any crew which indicates that it is not ready or not straight. After the last crew has been named in the roll-call the Starter shall check that the Judge at the Start is indicating that the crews are still correctly aligned and shall then say: "Attention".*
 - e) *The Starter shall then EITHER show the red flag OR where the start is given using traffic lights, shall press a button (or switch) to change the traffic lights from the neutral position to red.*
 - f) *After a clear pause the Starter shall give the start signal by:*

EITHER dropping the red flag quickly to one side and simultaneously saying: "GO!"

OR by pressing a button that shall, at the same instant:

- a. change the red light to green;*
- b. Make an audible signal through the loudspeakers;*
- c. start the timing system for the race;*
- d. freeze the picture on the monitor in the Aligner's hut (if freeze frame facility is provided);*
- e. release the Alignment Control Mechanism (if used).*
- g. The pause between the raising of the red flag / the showing of the red light and the start signal shall be clear and shall be variable from race to race.*
- h. In para races, the starter will follow the procedures set out in Appendix 6.*
- i. If the starting procedure is interrupted for any reason then the Starter may begin the procedure again, starting with the roll-call.*
- j. After a false start the Starter must begin the procedure again, starting with the roll call. The starter is not required to announce "two minutes" again.*

2) Starting Procedure - Quick Start

Where the Starter considers, for adverse weather conditions or any other valid reason, that the normal start with the roll should not be used, after saying "Two Minutes" they shall inform the crews that they will use the "Quick Start". After informing the crews that they will use the Quick Start in place of the roll call, the Starter shall just say: "All Crews", and after a clear pause they shall then say "Attention". They shall then proceed with the remaining start procedure.

RULE 77 FALSE START

A crew whose rowers begin rowing and whose boat crosses the start line after the Starter has shown their red flag, or the red light is shown, and before the start command is given, has committed a false start indicated by a Yellow Card. If more than one boat commits a false start, only the crew or crews that the Judge at the Start decides actually caused the false start shall be awarded a Yellow Card(s).

By-Law to RULE 77 – Consequences of a False Start

- 1) After the start command has been given, the Starter shall look towards the Judge at the Start to satisfy them self that it was a good start. Should the Judge at the Start indicate that this not be so, the Starter shall stop the race by ringing their bell and waving their red flag from side to side. If the traffic lights start system includes both visual and audible signals to indicate a false start, then these shall be used (instead of the bell and the red flag) by flashing the red light and sounding the audible signal repeatedly. If traffic lights are used, the Judge at the Start may directly activate the signal to stop the race.*
- 2) In the case of a false start, the Judge at the Start shall inform the Starter of the name of the crew or crews to be sanctioned and the Starter shall award that crew or crews a Yellow Card when they have returned to their starting position by stating "(Name of Crew), False Start, Yellow Card!"*
- 3) The Starter shall instruct the official on the starting platforms to place a yellow marker, or in the case of a Red Card or Exclusion a red marker, adjacent to the starting position of the crew or crews so sanctioned. This yellow or red marker must be clearly visible to the crew concerned.*
- 4) A crew awarded a Red Card or otherwise excluded will not take part in the race and will leave the course and return to the boating area as directed by the Starter.*

RULE 78 OBJECTIONS AT THE START

A crew awarded a Yellow Card or excluded or disqualified at the start may make an objection to the Umpire or the Starter at the time. The Umpire or the Starter shall decide immediately on the objection and shall communicate their decision to the objecting crew, to the other crews in the race and to the President of the Jury and other race officials.

SECTION 8. DURING THE RACE

RULE 79 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ROWERS

All rowers shall compete in their races in accordance with the Rules. Crews are responsible for their own steering. Each crew shall have a lane reserved for its own use and shall remain completely (i.e., including its oars or sculls) within this lane throughout the race. If a crew leaves its own lane, then it does so at its own risk. If it impedes or interferes with any of its opponents or gains any advantage thereby, it may be sanctioned without prior warning or other notification from the umpire.

RULE 80 INTERFERENCE

A crew causes interference to its opponents if its oars, sculls or boat encroach into the opponent's lane and cause a disadvantage to its opponents by contact, its wash or other distraction, or in any other way. The Umpire alone shall decide if a crew is in its own lane or if it is interfering with another crew and causing them a disadvantage. If a crew has caused interference to another crew and has, in the Umpire's opinion, affected the finishing position of that crew then it may be excluded by the Umpire. In the situation where a collision between boats or oars or sculls has occurred the Umpire may exclude the crew causing the collision even if no prior warning has been given to that crew.

In no case may the Umpire alter a placing.

By-Laws to RULE 80 — Actions on Interference and consequences thereof.

- 1) *Alerting a crew — If a crew is about to interfere with another by its wash or by leaving its lane, the Umpire shall show their white flag, call to the crew at fault, stating the name of the crew and indicate the required change of direction by lowering their flag to that side. In principle, the Umpire may not otherwise give steering indications to a crew unless there is an obstruction in its lane.*
- 2) *Stopping a crew — To ensure the safety of the competitors and to prevent damage to boats and equipment, the Umpire may intervene by raising their white flag to the vertical position, naming the crew and giving the command "Stop". A crew so instructed shall immediately stop their boat. The crew may begin rowing again to finish the race if permitted by the umpire.*
- 3) *Alerting the Umpire — If, during a race, a crew considers that it is being interfered with by another crew and is suffering a disadvantage thereby, then a member of the crew should, if possible, draw the attention of the Umpire to the interference at the time the interference occurs to indicate that it intends to make an objection.*
- 4) *Remedying a disadvantage — If a crew is placed at a disadvantage, the priority is to restore its chances. The imposition of any sanction is a secondary consideration. Should a crew suffer a disadvantage, the Umpire must take the most appropriate course of action provided by the Rules. They may, for example, stop the race, impose the appropriate sanction and order the race to be re-rowed. Depending on circumstances, they may allow the race to continue and the Umpire will then announce their decision after the race is over. The Umpire may not only sanction the crew at fault while the crew that has suffered interference does not have its chances restored to it.*
5. Nothing in this Rule lessens the responsibility of each crew to remain in its designated lane throughout the race.

RULE 81 COACHING DURING RACING

In addition to the provisions of the By-Laws to Rule 39, it is prohibited to give any instructions, advice or directions to rowers or crews that are racing with any electric, electronic or other technical device, either directly or indirectly from outside the boat.

SECTION 9. THE FINISH

RULE 82 CONCLUSION OF THE RACE

A crew has finished the race when the bow of its boat has reached the finish line. The race shall be valid even if the crew is incomplete. Nevertheless, a crew of a coxed boat finishing the race without its coxswain shall be excluded.

A race is concluded when the Umpire so indicates by showing the white flag to the judge at the finish or otherwise confirms the result.

By-Laws to RULE 82 — Conclusion of the Race

- 1) *The race was in order — Even if they are satisfied that the race was in order, the Umpire must check to be sure that no crew is making an objection under [Rule 76](#) or [Rule 82](#) and shall then show a white flag to the crews to indicate that they consider the race was in order. If no crews raise their hand to lodge an objection, the Umpires shall show a white flag to the Judge at the Finish to confirm the race was in order. Before leaving the finish area they shall make sure that a Judge at the Finish has acknowledged their signal with either a white flag or a white light.*
- 2) *After the Umpire has confirmed that the race was in order by showing a white flag to the Judge at the Finish, no further objections shall be accepted from the crews in that race.*
- 3) *The race was not in order — If the Umpire considers that the race was not in order they shall show a red flag to the crews and then to the Judge at the Finish and shall then inform the crews and the Judge at the Finish of the decision. The Judge at the Finish, in such cases, must not announce the official result of the race until the Umpire has given the decision.*
- 4) *Objections - If a crew considers that the race was not in order a member of the crew must raise their arm to indicate that it is making an objection. In this case the Umpire shall not show any flag at the end of the race but they shall consult with the objecting crew and consider their objection. The Umpire shall then decide upon one of a number of alternative actions.*
 - a) *The Umpire may over-rule the crew's objection and show a white flag to signify that the race was in order.*
 - b) *The Umpire may accept the crew's objection and show a red flag to signify that they have decided that the race was not in order. They shall then follow the procedure to handle objections ([Rule 82](#).)*
 - c) *The Judges at the Finish, in such cases, shall not announce the official result of the race until the Umpire has given their decision.*
- 5) *Official result - The official result of the race shall be determined by the Senior Judge at the Finish and crews shall be ranked in order of the bows of their boats reaching the finish line. Where the Umpire considers that the race was not in order, the Senior Judge at the Finish shall take into account the decision of the Umpire in determining the official result of the race.*
- 6) *Photo-finish — In the case of a close finish the Senior Judge at the Finish shall determine the order of finish by viewing the picture produced by the photo-finish system. The necessary equipment*

shall be operated by specialists who do not form part of the team of Judges at the Finish. Systems using less than 100 frames per second are not suitable for determining the order of finish. Organisers must provide equipment specially designed for the purpose at all RA Events.

- 7) *Timing –Finish times shall in principle be recorded to 1/100th of a second. This may mean that where there is a difference between crews on the photo-finish system of less than 1/100th of a second, those crews may have the same recorded times but will have different rankings. The exception shall be for:*
 - a) *Races where the time of each crew will determine whether they will progress to the next round in the event, in which case times shall be recorded as shown on the photo-finish system if this is necessary to distinguish between crews for the purpose of such progression;*
 - b) *Time trials (see Rule 71) where the times of each crew determine their ranking and in such races, where crews finish less than 1/100 of a second apart, their times shall be recorded as shown on the photo-finish system if any.*
- 8) *The necessary equipment shall be operated by technicians who do not form part of the team of Judges at the Finish.*
 - a) *If the finish of the race for each crew can be clearly determined by the naked eye, times taken by hand-operated timing equipment may be used. In the case of a photo-finish the times shown on the results sheets and on the scoreboard shall be taken from the photo-finish for all the crews in the race.*
- 9) *Exclusion by the Umpire – A crew excluded by the Umpire during the race or at the finish of a race shall be notified by the Umpire saying “(name of the crew) – (reason for the exclusion) – red Card – Exclusion!”*

RULE 83 DEAD-HEATS

When the order of finish between two or more crews is too close for any difference to be determined, then the result is declared a dead heat between the crews involved.

By-Laws to RULE 83 – Dead-Heats

If there is a dead-heat, the following procedure shall operate:

- 1) *In a heat, if a dead-heat occurs between crews and if those crews cannot all progress into the same level of the next round, then there must be a re-row in accordance with [Rule 71](#). If all crews involved in the dead-heat progress anyway into the same level of the next round, there will be no re-row and their relative positions in the next round shall be decided by a draw supervised by a member of the Jury.*
- 2) *In a repêchage, a quarter-final or a semi-final if a dead-heat occurs between crews and if only one of the crews progresses into the next round, it shall be the crew which had the highest ranking in the immediately preceding round. The immediately preceding round shall be the last previous round in which both/all of the dead-heat crews competed. If the crews had the same result in that round, then the ranking in the next previous round shall be used for that purpose. If on this basis the results of the crews concerned are identical, then there must be a re-row over the full course between the crews involved. The re-row must take place over the full course, and must take place on the same day as the dead-heat and not less than two hours after the race in which the dead-heat occurred. Where such a dead-heat involves more than two crews and this number exceeds the number of crews advancing to the next round, the above procedure shall be used to determine which of the dead-heat crews shall so advance. If all crews involved in the dead-heat progress anyway into the next round, there will be no re-row and their relative positions in the next round shall be decided by a draw supervised by a member of the Jury.*
- 3) *In a final, if a dead-heat occurs between crews, then they shall be given equal placing in the final order and the next placing(s) shall be left vacant. If the tied placing is for a medal position, then the Organising Committee shall provide additional medals.*

- 4) *Where a re-row is required as a result of a dead-heat under this By-Law, that Re-Row shall be over the full course distance under provisions of Rule 71.*

SECTION 10. OBJECTIONS, PROTESTS, OUTCOME OF PROTESTS, APPEALS AND DISPUTES

RULE 84 OBJECTIONS

84.1 Objections to Sanctions

84.1.1 A crew may only object to a sanction at the time it is awarded in accordance with the By-Law to this Rule by informing the member of the Jury, the Starter or the Umpire who notified the crew of the sanction that it objects to the sanction.

84.1.2 The member of the Jury, the Starter or the Umpire to whom the objection is made shall decide on the objection without delay and shall communicate their decision to the crew, to the Starter and to the other race officials.

84.2 Objection to the conduct of a race

84.2.1 If a crew considers that its race was not in order and that its ranking in the race has been affected, a member of the crew may object to the Umpire before its boat has left the immediate area of the finish line and before the umpire shows the white flag to the Judge at the Finish, in order for the objection to be valid.

84.2.2 Such an objection may only concern the conduct of that crew's race.

By-Law to RULE 84 — Objections

1) Objections to Sanctions

- a) *Where a sanction is imposed on a crew in each of the following circumstances the crew may raise an objection as follows:*
- i) *At the Start - a crew awarded a sanction during warm-up or at the Start may object to the Starter, Umpire or any other member of the Jury at the Start or at the time the sanction is awarded.*
 - ii) *During a race – a crew sanctioned by the Umpire during a race may object to the Umpire at the time the sanction is awarded or immediately after the finish of its race*
 - iii) *During cool-down or training or at any other time – A crew notified of a sanction for an infringement during cool-down or training or at any time other than those above, may object to the member of the Jury who notifies the crew of the sanction. In such cases, in order to be valid the objection must be made before the crew embarks for the race to which the sanction applies.*

2) Objections to the conduct of a race

- a) *A crew that objects to the conduct of its race must object to the Umpire immediately after the finish of the race, and before the crew leaves the immediate area of the finish line and before the umpire shows the white flag to the Judge at the Finish.*
- i) *The crew shall indicate to the Umpire that it wishes to make an objection by a member of the crew raising their arm.*
 - ii) *The objecting crew shall not leave the area of the finish line until the Umpires has heard its objection.*
- b) *The Umpire will then determine the objection as follows:*

- i) *The Umpire may reject the crew's objection and show a white flag to signify that the crew was in order.*
- ii) *The Umpire may accept the crew's objection and show a red flag to signify the race was not in order.*
 - (1) *In this case they must go to the Judges at the Finish in order to give them their decision and any necessary explanation.*
 - (2) *The Judge at the Finish, in such cases, shall not announce the official result of the race until the Umpire has given their decision.*
- iii) *The umpire may decide to seek further information regarding the objection.*
 - (a) *In this case, they shall show a red flag and then take any necessary further steps to resolve the issues relating to the objection, e.g. consult with other officials, consult with other persons, and consult with the President of the Jury etc.*
 - (b) *The Judge at the Finish, in such cases, shall not announce the official result of the race until the Umpire has given their decision.*

RULE 85 PROTESTS

- 85.1 A protest to the Board of the Jury may only be made by:
- 85.1.1 a crew whose objection has been rejected;
 - 85.1.2 a crew whose ranking in a race has been affected by the acceptance of an objection;
 - 85.1.3 a crew ruled DNS (did not start) or DNF (did not finish);
 - 85.1.4 a crew that has been excluded or disqualified; and
 - 85.1.5 a crew that disputes the published results.
- 85.2 Such a protest must be in writing and lodged with the President of the Jury not later than one hour after the conclusion of the race (in cases 85.1.1, 85.1.2, 85.1.3, 85.1.4) or the publication of the official results (in cases 85.1.5).
- 85.3 The protest must be accompanied by a deposit of \$100 or equivalent, which amount shall be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- 85.4 The Board of the Jury shall then decide if the protest was justified. It will make its decision before the next round of races in the event concerned and, in any case, no later than two hours after the last race of the day. The decision and reasoning shall be given in writing.
- 85.5 The Board of the Jury may:
- 85.5.1 Reject the protest;
 - 85.5.2 Uphold the protest and provide such relief as may be necessary to restore each affected crew's chances in the race or to correct the published results. The relief available to be provided by the Board of the Jury is as follows:
 - 85.5.2.1 Reprimand a crew;
 - 85.5.2.2 Exclude a crew from the event;
 - 85.5.2.3 Disqualify a crew
 - 85.5.2.4 Relegate a crew to last place in the race where specifically provided for in these Rules;
 - 85.5.2.5 Order a re-row in accordance with [Rule 71](#) between some of all of the crews in the race
- 85.6 In the case of a protest arising from an objection concerning the final of an event, the

Technical Delegate may postpone the victory ceremony of that event.

85.6.1 If the victory ceremony has taken place, and if the subsequent decision of the Board of the Jury changes the final result of the event then the official result shall be changed accordingly.

85.6.2 Where medal placings are affected, then the medals shall be re-awarded as necessary in accordance with the decision.

85.7 Subject only to Rule 77, the decision of the Board of the Jury on such a protest shall be final and not subject to further appeal.

RULE 86 APPEALS

86.1 Only appeals provided for by this Rule will be considered by the RA Board

86.2 A decision of the Board of the Jury which confirms the decision of a member of the Jury shall be final and may not be appealed.

86.3 Subject to paragraph 2 above, an appeal to the RA Board against a decision of the Board of the Jury may be made only by:

86.3.1 A crew whose ranking in a race has been adversely affected by a decision of the Board of the Jury; or

86.3.2 A crew whose protest against the published results was rejected by the Board of the Jury.

86.4 Appeal Time Limits and Requirements:

86.4.1 An appeal must be submitted in written form to the Board of RA on the same day as the decision being appealed, and not less than 60 minutes before the next round of the event concerned.

86.4.2 An appeal shall be by notice in writing specifying:

86.4.2.1 The name of the association/club/school and crew bringing the appeal.

86.4.2.2 The decision appealed against.

86.4.2.3 The grounds being relied on for the appeal

86.4.3 The appeal must be accompanied by a fee of \$200 or equivalent which fee shall be refunded if the appeal is allowed.

86.4.4 The RA Board shall consider the appeal and may:

86.4.4.1 Reject the Appeal;

86.4.4.2 Allow the appeal and provide such relief as was available to the Board of the Jury as it considers just and appropriate.

86.4.4.3 If the decision of the RA Board on the appeal changes the final result of the event, the official result shall be changed accordingly

86.5 Decisions of the RA Board under this rule are final.

RULE 87 BLANK

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RULE 88 EXCEPTIONAL CASES

Should it be necessary to make decisions in exceptional cases (e.g., postponement of a session of

aces or suspension of the regatta), the President of the Jury shall appoint and preside over a body to make such decisions, which shall include the Technical Delegate.

Disputes between the Organising Committee, Associations, Clubs or Schools

- 1) A dispute between the Organising Committee, associations, clubs or schools at an RA Regatta may be referred to the RA Board for resolution.
- 2) This dispute referral process is to enable such a dispute to be resolved swiftly and with the minimum of inconvenience or expense to the parties.
- 3) This referral may be made by any one of the parties in dispute. The referral shall be in writing and made as soon as possible after the conclusion of the regatta.
- 4) It may be inappropriate for the RA Board to decide on certain disputes. Accordingly, the RA Board may, in its absolute discretion, decline to accept the referral without providing an explanation.
- 5) If the RA Board agrees to accept the referral, it shall proceed to determine the dispute by due process and with respect to the fundamental rights of the parties in dispute.
- 6) The decision of the RA Board on the dispute shall be considered final and binding on the parties

RULE 89 THE REGATTA REPORT

The Jury shall carry out its duties until the end of the regatta. The Chair of the organising committee and the President of the Jury shall each write a regatta report which shall include comments on the running of the races and on any incidents and disputes arising. In the case of the President of the Jury, and on the conduct of the whole event in the case of the Chair of the organising committee. This report shall be received at RA not later than 30 days after the regatta.

SECTION 11. THE JURY

RULE 90 THE JURY

The Jury shall be comprised of a group of accredited RA Umpires and shall be responsible for ensuring that the regatta is run in accordance with these Rules of racing, related By-Laws and Event Regulations.

RULE 91 JURY'S PRIMARY CONCERN

The safety of rowers must be the prime concern of the Jury at all times during the regatta. In the case of unsafe conditions, the President of the Jury is empowered to take any necessary decisions and communicate any required changes to the Starter and the Umpires on the course. If time allows, the President of the Jury shall consult the Technical Delegate and the organising committee before taking such decisions. The President of the Jury shall ensure proper coordination between the Jury and the Technical Delegate, Organising Committee, in particular with the Safety Officer, Paramedic, and with the Medical Officer.

By-Law to Rule 91 – Collaboration with the Organising Committee

The proper running of a regatta requires close collaboration between the organising committee, Technical Delegate and the Jury. The members of the Jury shall, within the scope of their duties, maintain a constant check on the various items of technical equipment on the course.

RULE 92 PRESIDENT OF THE JURY

The President of the Jury shall allot duties to each member of the Jury and shall supervise their activities. They shall take the chair at meetings and ensure proper co-ordination with the Technical Delegate and the Organising Committee. The President of the Jury shall chair the Board of the Jury under Rule 93.

RULE 93 BLANK

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RULE 94 THE BOARD OF THE JURY

The Board of the Jury shall consist of the President of the Jury and two other members of the Jury, designated by the President of the Jury on a daily basis prior to the start of each session of racing. The names of the Board of the Jury shall be displayed on the notice boards in the boathouse area each day. This Board shall decide on any protests made according to Rule 83.

The President of the Jury shall also nominate three substitutes. In the case of a protest, no-one directly involved in the dispute (e.g. the umpire or the starter) shall constitute part of the Board which decides that protest. In such a case, the President of the Jury shall call upon one or more of the substitutes.

RULE 95 RA UMPIRES

Any Umpire who has held a Member Association licence for at least three years may become a RA Umpire, provided that:

1. They have normal sight and hearing; and
2. They pass the examination held by the RA Umpires Committee.

The RA Umpires' licence is valid for a period of four years.

When the holder participates in an Umpires seminar organised by RA, the licence is automatically extended for the next four years. Where such seminars are organised at the request of a Member Association, the association must pay the travel and accommodation expenses of the experts who attend. An Umpire whose licence has expired who wishes to act as an umpire shall take and pass a fresh examination.

By-Law to Rule 96 – RA Umpire's Licence

These By-Laws are found in Appendix 4 to the Rules of Racing

SECTION 12. DUTIES OF THE UMPIRES

RULE 96 CONTROL COMMISSION

The Control Commission shall ensure that the composition of the crews is correct and that their equipment is in order.

By-Law to Rule 96 – Duties of the Control Commission

By-Laws to Rule 96 are found in Appendix 13 to the Rules of Racing

RULE 97 THE STARTER AND THE JUDGE AT THE START

The Starter and the Judge at the Start shall ensure that the correct starting procedure is followed.

By-Laws to RULE 97 — Duties of the Starter and Judge at the Start

By-Laws to Rule 97 are found in Appendix 13 to the Rules of Racing

RULE 98 THE UMPIRE

- 98.1 The Umpire shall ensure the proper conduct of the race and the safety of the rowers. In particular, they shall endeavour to ensure that no crew gains any advantage or suffers any disadvantage from its opponents or from outside interference.
- 98.2 Where the Umpire considers that a crew has been significantly impeded, they shall endeavour to ensure that its chance is restored to it. They shall impose appropriate sanctions on crews at fault whether or not prior warning or notification has been given to those crews. The Umpire shall not give any steering indications to crews, except as may be required to assist with the avoidance of accidents and to prevent crews from being interfered with by their opponents.
- 98.3 If necessary, the Umpire may stop the race, impose any necessary sanctions and order the race to be re-rowed from the start, either immediately or later. In the latter case, they shall decide on the new starting time in consultation with the President of the Jury and they shall inform the crews concerned.
- 98.4 The Umpire may also allow the race to continue and exclude crews after the race has finished. They may confine any re-row to such crews as they shall designate. However, when the Umpire considers that the impediment has not affected the result of the race, or considers the effect of the impediment was not significant, they may decline to order a re-row of the race or of the crews involved in the incident.
- 98.5 Zonal Umpiring – RA may decide that at an RA event, advised through the Technical Delegate, umpiring of some races shall be carried out from boats which are stationary or which do not follow the whole race or by umpires stationed on the land adjacent to the course, and shall issue instructions and guidelines accordingly.
- 98.5.1 Where the weather or other conditions are such that zonal umpiring is about to put the safety of crews at risk the President of the Jury may decide to revert to dynamic umpiring for the remainder of that racing session.

By-Laws to RULE 99 — Duties of the Umpire

By-Laws to Rule 99 are found in Appendix 13 to the Rules of Racing

RULE 99 JUDGES AT THE FINISH

The Judges at the Finish shall determine the order in which the bows of the boats cross the finish line. They shall ascertain that the race was in order. They shall be responsible for validating the results.

By-Laws to RULE 100 — Duties of the Judge at the Finish

By-Laws to Rule 100 are found in Appendix 13 to the Rules of Racing

PART VII MEDICAL PROVISIONS

RULE 100 BLANK

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PART VIII ANTI-DOPING RULES

RULE 101 ANTI-DOPING

Doping is strictly prohibited.

The fight against doping in rowing is regulated by the World Anti-Doping Code, which the RA Board has formally adopted as RA rules and that the RA Board has the power to clarify and/or supplement, by appropriate By-Laws.

In rowing, for those who infringe doping provisions, a sanction may be imposed extending to, in a relevant case, a life ban from all competition. The version of the World Anti-Doping code, its By-Laws and the RA Anti-Doping By-Laws valid at the time of the violation shall apply.

By-Laws to RULE 102 — Anti-Doping

These By-Laws are found in Appendix 5 to the Rules of Racing, being the RA Anti-Doping Policy, which can be found at <https://rowingaustralia.com.au/policies>