



Dear Rowing Community

Following announcement regarding South Africa's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, made on 15 March 2020 by the Honorable President Cyril Ramaphosa, Rowing South Africa (RowSA) has aligned itself with the National State of Disaster as pronounced by the State President and have taken a decision to postpone with immediate effect all rowing events in the country at all levels for 30 days because of the outbreak of the Corona Virus, also known as COVID-19.

We have incorporated guidance and responses from our macro bodies like SASCOC, Department of Art, Culture and Sport and a decision by University Sport South Africa (USSA) before formalizing our own decisions over the events that we govern or co-govern. We have given consideration to being an outdoor sport and individually spread across our venues.

All events that contravene the National Containment Strategy are summarily cancelled until further notice. These include any regattas, training camps or meetings that may expose members to unnecessary contact or travel, or that will result in a gathering (including spectators) of more than 100 people.

Regatta's that are directly impacted include

- USSA-R Sprints
- Gauteng Champs
- possibly The South African National Championship.

We ask clubs to please hold off on making any arrangements for The South African National Championship. We will communicate a decision on this by 31 March 2020 but at this stage it is unlikely to take place. Another consideration is the National Selection Regatta which we will also communicate further on in due course.

It is recommended that families, coaches and athletes are sensible and avoid visiting public spaces – this includes gyms which are open to the public at large. While difficult to manage, avoid physical contact with anyone over this period.

RowSA does not believe it can be prescriptive about rowing clubs remaining open. However, we strongly encourage that large club training sessions cease and that any social activity before or after sessions are not allowed to take place. Please stagger sessions where possible and keep on water training groups i.e. those in the boathouse, to a minimum.

RowSA is aware that there are various squads in training for potential selection for overseas competition. We understand there are athletes who are training for selection purposes and encourage athletes to continue training under the following guidelines

- We advise against completing training sessions at public gyms or privately in groups larger than 3 people.

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- We recommend that the number of individuals travelling to and from training venues in one vehicle be alone or only with a parent (where required).
- We request that owners/managers of ergo facilities provide sanitizing materials for ergos and insist that athletes using ergos clean the machine before and after use.
 - Where anyone is found not to be following this request that the users access be revoked and that individual no longer be allowed to train at that facility.
- Oar handles to be sanitized before and after each rowing session and where possible oars should not be shared. Oars should be carried by the individual using that oar.
- We recommend showers be taken immediately after training sessions and that hand-sanitization is followed rigorously and frequently during sessions.

All squad members are requested to note that tours may be cancelled either at a local level or by the hosting committees. Squad administrators are requested to bear this possibility in mind and to limit the expenses incurred by squad members for training purposes.

With regards to junior squads involving children who are registered at schools - administrators and coaches are requested to familiarize themselves with the directives of the Department of Education as well as the National Containment Strategy. Parents and athletes are advised that any athlete who chooses to train in a squad environment does so at own risk. Any athlete electing to train individually or who withdraws from a squad for health concerns does so without prejudice.

The SASRU tour to England is cancelled. The SASRU squad administrators will communicate alternative plans for the squad that fall within the requirements of both the Department of Education and the National Containment Strategy.

Our Senior National Team remain isolated and are being closely monitored on camp.

Under the ongoing guidance of the government on the virus, RowSA will review and give more information after the 15th of April on the way forward, depending on the status of the virus in the country at the time. RowSA will then make a decision on whether cancelled events should be considered for alternative dates.

RowSA has the best interest and well-being of the athletes, officials, spectators, supporters and our communities who are all our top priority at the center of any decisions taken or recommendations given. RowSA encourages its constituent members to assist in maintaining the calm and order that our country needs in order to get through this difficult time. We join with all other sports federations in wishing our population well.

Sean Kerr
President
17 March 2020