

Rowing Ireland Board Bulletin

This Bulletin summarises the items discussed at Rowing Ireland Board Meetings held on: 22nd April 2017, 21st May 2017, and 1st July 2017.

Board Members:

E. Colclough (President) B. Leader (Secretary), D. Buckley (Treasurer)

	Vice President	Representative
Munster Branch	Lisa O'Callaghan	TJ Ryan
Ulster Branch	Brenda Ewing	Garth Young
Leinster	Leo Gibson	Carol Ann Smith
Connacht	Deirdre O'Hara	Neville Maxwell

No independent directors appointed.

Board Meeting; 22nd April 2017

1. Rowing Ireland Strategic Review document will be reviewed by the Board and a Strategy Review planning day will be arranged by end of August.
2. The Board can appoint two Independent Directors and it was decided to defer this decision until a skill assessment of the Board was completed.
3. Sub-Committee Chairs were appointed

Audit Committee	Paul Gallen
Safety Committee	Joe Cantillon
Domestic Events Committee	Brenda Ewing
Umpires Committee	TJ Ryan
High Performance Committee	Neville Maxwell
University Committee	Andrew Tubman
Schools Committee	Evan Molloy
Championships Committee	Seamus Scully
Recreational Committee	Gerry Farrell
Disciplinary Committee	Andy Wells
Para Committee	Martin Kilbane
Masters Committee	TBA
Remuneration	President, Secretary, Treasurer
FISA Irish Coastal	Kieran Kerr

Each Chair of the Sub-Committee will appoint members and will report to the CEO or Board as outlined in their Terms of Reference.

4. **High Performance:** it was agreed HP athletes would attend all 3 World Cups this year and European competitions. Rowing Ireland has 8 Carded athletes: Paul O'Donovan, Gary O'Donovan, Shane O'Driscoll, Mark O'Donovan, Sanita Puspure, Denise Walsh, Claire Lambe, and Sinead Jennings.
5. JL are contracted to provide Rowing Ireland kit for one year.

6. Dominic Casey and Sean Casey have both been appointed as HP coaches. Dominick will lead lightweight rowing and Sean will lead heavyweight rowing.
7. The new High Performance Director (when appointed) will work with both coaches and in addition work with clubs and volunteer coaches.
8. The Budget for 2017 was presented and agreed. Sport Ireland HP investment confirmed at €525k which is an increase of €125k on 2016.
9. The High Performance Committee is working with Sport Ireland and FISA to interview and secure a new High Performance Coach.
10. Past directors have resigned and new directors have been appointed to the company.
11. Following the AGM, the Rules and Constitution documents will be amended to reflect changes agreed at the AGM.
12. ICRF (Coastal Rowing) is no longer affiliated to Rowing Ireland. Individual clubs that comply with governance and compliance terms can affiliate as individual clubs.

Board Meeting: 21st May 2017

1. Terms of Reference for each sub-committee were reviewed and accepted.
2. Funding from Sport Northern Ireland has been delayed.
3. Rules updated and posted on RI website.
4. Constitution updated and returned to CRO.
5. Deirdre O'Hara was appointed Chair of the Facilities Workgroup. This committee will report to the Board in October.
6. FISA events: The Rowing Ireland logo will be displayed on the blades and kit. On winning at FISA events: Irish flag and anthem.
7. Financial expenditure for improvements to the Tracker system was agreed.
8. FISA Coastal Rowing: six coastal clubs have applied for restricted membership of Rowing Ireland.
9. The High Performance chair confirmed the new HPD will be Antonio Maurogiovanni. He is due to arrive in Ireland mid-August. He has been involved in 7 Olympic games (as athlete / coach) and is currently working with the Australian national team. His contract term is to the end of 2020.
10. Members of the Board attended Board Induction training which was presented by a representative from the Carmichael Centre. A Board Induction pack was prepared for each director which included Rowing Ireland Constitution, Audited Accounts, 2017 Budget, Sub-Committees Terms of Reference, Policies, Code of Conduct, Declaration of Understanding, Duties of board members, Conflict of Interest forms.
11. Board paperwork was signed by all directors in compliance with the governance code of Rowing Ireland.
12. Strategic Planning day was set for Saturday 26th August 2017.

Board Meeting; 1st July 2017

1. Sport Northern Ireland funding of £100,000 has been approved for one year definite for 'Sporting Winners investment'.
2. A Board member attended the OCI conference which was well supported by governing bodies of all sports. Ongoing work is taking place to adopt the constitution based on the Deloitte report. Financial information was presented and new sub-committees will be formed over the coming months.
3. President E. Colclough attended the Sport Ireland workshop on high performance funding. The speakers stressed the importance of attaining high standards and podium finishes. Rowing Ireland need to continue developing a pathway for athletes through the entire cycle from junior to senior. Rowing Ireland will submit a report to Sport Ireland by end of August 17.
4. President E. Colclough attended the Federation of Irish Sports Conference. A key focus of the FIS is to lobby government on behalf of NGB's, for example to attain tax relief for investments in sports similar to the ARTS sector. There are three key avenues to raise capital in the sports sector: Government funding, Commercial Sponsorship and Philanthropy.
5. E. Colclough attended the opening of the new slip in St. Michael's Rowing Club. This addition to the club was funded by government and club contribution and a generous private donation.
6. E. Colclough attended an Ulster Branch meeting where he was warmly welcomed. Ulster Branch is passionate about rowing and he listened to their aspirations for the development of rowing in Ulster. Ulster Branch will make a proposal to RI in relation to the operation of the branch.
7. Treasurers Report: Rowing Ireland remains within Budget year to date and the audit sub-committee was appointed. Chair: Paul Gallen. Directors: Dan Buckley (Treasurer) Carol Ann Smith, Leo Gibson.
8. The new High Performance Director will take up his position next month. The Chair of the HP sub-committee, Neville Maxwell, will appoint members to the committee over the coming weeks.
9. Reporting dates for sub-committees that report to the Board were agreed.
10. The HPD Antonio Maurogiovanni will present to the Board at the next full board meeting.
11. CEO acknowledged the excellent performance of our crews at both Senior and Junior Level at the European and World Cups.
12. FISA Coastal Rowing: Kieran Kerr was appointed as the Chair of this new sub-committee and terms of reference were agreed. The purpose of this committee is to promote and organise the sport of FISA Coastal Rowing in Ireland in a fair and safe manner.

13. Policies for Approval:

- a. **Anti-Doping.** It is imperative that athletes fully understand and co-operate with Anti-Doping rules and procedures. Failure to comply with these rules could have serious consequences for our sport.
- b. **Safety.** The safety policy was board approved and the Safety Manual is now available on the Rowing Ireland website. All clubs safety officers should refer to this Safety Manual for best practice guidelines.

14. Governance: Rowing Ireland is implementing the Governance Code as recommended by Sport Ireland. This process is ongoing and is due for completion by 2018.

15. Competition: Participation at events this year is up by approximately 20% which is a very healthy position for the sport of rowing. Growth of this magnitude will present challenges and the Domestic Events committee will consider the optimum way of structuring the event calendar to give an improved structure for athletes. It is critical that all events are supported and effectively managed.

16. International Competition: The collective performance of our HP athletes at international events has been inspirational. We acknowledge their achievements and congratulate the coaches and team. Details of each event are covered separately on the website.

17. Cork County Council has committed €20,000 for the Coupe. They will also host the dignitaries dinner.

18. Strategy Planning Day – August 26th 2017