

Irish Rowing Championships 2021 – AGM/Fixtures Meeting Proposal

Objective: To agree a framework for running the Irish Rowing Championships in 2021 given the restrictions that might be in place at the time as a result of Covid-19.

Resilience and Recovery 2020-21: The government “Living with Covid-19” is the current framework that we are operating under for the next 6-9 months. While there could be positive or negative developments following the expiration of the existing plan, we are working on the assumption that the current number of 200 participants continues or increases. In relation to regattas the following is a summary of what the government framework permits:

Regattas	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Participants	200	200	200	-	-
Spectators	200	100	-	-	-
Travel	No restriction	No restriction	Allowed to travel to attend Senior Championships only	-	-

There are some important points to note here:

Northern Ireland: There are different restriction in Northern Ireland. As it is not proposed running the Championships in Northern Ireland, such restrictions are not considered here.

Participants: The 200 number above was not included in the Living with Covid document and as a result Sport Ireland have been requested to clarify the number of permitted participants by a number of sport federations. Sport Ireland themselves are asking for clarification from Government but in the interim have advised that the previous 200 should be used. It is important to note that this number includes officials.

Large Stadia: There are provisions for special rules to be developed for large purpose build stadia which would permit larger number to participate. Rowing Ireland will request that our facilities be considered but there is no clarity on when this might occur.

Local Opposition: it is possible that depending on the severity of the virus at any particular time, we may face opposition to the hosting of a Championship(s) from local interest groups in some areas.

Provincial meetings were held in each branch at the end of October, to discuss options for running Championships in 2021. At the end of each discussion, attendees were asked which Championship option they would prefer. The results are as follows:

	Ulster	Leinster/ Connaught	Munster	Total
Option A 200A 4 weekends of Saturday and Sunday racing. [A different grade and gender would be catered for at each regatta ie All Men’s Intermediate on one day]	4	6	2	12
Or				
Option B 200B 2 weekends of Friday, Saturday and Sunday racing. [Optimized to allow athletes compete in whatever events they wish to compete in]	9	8	9	26

Option C 500A 4 separate one day regattas. [A different grade and gender would be catered for at each regatta ie All Men's Intermediate on one day]	0	0	4	4
Or				
Option D 500B 1 weekend Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Optimized to allow athletes compete in whatever events they wish to compete in]	12	8	5	25

Outcome: Based on the results above, we are asking the clubs to agree on Option B and Option D for running Championships in 2021. The situation for both Options will have to be closely monitored as restrictions are eased/tightened. **Given that the restrictions will be constantly changing over the coming months, we propose to provisionally set date(s) and venues in March for when these Championships can take place as we are more likely to have some knowledge of what restrictions will be prevailing. These dates may need to be adjusted as a result of restrictions, but we envisage giving 6 weeks' notice to clubs, if that situation arises.**

In addition, we are proposing that for 2021 only, the closing date be the Wednesday fortnight before the event to allow the Championship Committee to plan for actual numbers at the event.

At the Provincial meetings the issues relating to the 2020 Junior 18s and Novices were discussed. Solutions to these based on the feedback are included in Board proposals.

In summary, we are asking the clubs to agree the following to allow Championships to be held in 2021:

1. Delegate the authority to set the date and venue to the Board and Championship Committee
2. Agree Option B and Option D for running the event
- 3. Allow dates to be altered if necessary, giving 6 weeks' notice to clubs**
4. Increase the closing date for entries to the Wednesday fortnight before the event
5. A vote will also take place to permit us offer Junior 19 events for 2021 only
6. A vote will also take place to allow us include 2020 novices in the novice grade in 2021.

Irish Rowing Championship Committee

2nd December 2020