



26th November 2022

Dear Secretary,

Re: Rowing Ireland Coastal Annual Delegate Meeting

Please be advised that the Annual Delegate Meeting for the Coastal Division of Rowing Ireland will be held at 12:00 noon on Sunday 11th December 2022 in the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

The order of business will be as follows:

- (a) Elect the Coastal/Offshore Board member – Joint session with Offshore ADM (further details on page 3)
- (b) Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Committee for the past year
- (c) Receive and consider the Income and Expense statement for the past year
- (d) Elect Hon Secretary and six committee members
- (e) Agree the venue and date for the Irish Coastal Rowing Championships
- (f) Consider proposed Rule Changes
- (g) Consider the report from the Coastal Safety Advisor
- (h) Any other business ruled in order by the Chair

Marie Kinsella

Hon Secretary – Rowing Ireland Coastal Division

Annual Delegate Meeting

Attendance Details

The Annual Delegate Meeting will take place in the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise. Please note the following:

Each club must register their voting delegate by sending their name to the Coastal Secretary coastal@rowingireland.ie by 8.00 pm on Friday 9th December.

Please note that if the same delegate is attending the Offshore ADM, they must register separately for that meeting.

Only paid-up clubs, which have completed the affiliation process in full, will be eligible to attend the meeting.

Election of Coastal/Offshore Board Member

At the recent Rowing Ireland AGM a new Constitution was adopted for the organisation. There were several changes, amongst them the addition of a Board member to represent the Coastal & Offshore community on the Rowing Ireland Board from the 2023 AGM.

Nominations (one position) for election to the Board of Rowing Ireland can be made by affiliated clubs. These must be notified to coastal@rowingireland.ie or offshore@rowingireland.ie. All candidates for election must be proposed by a paid-up affiliated club and seconded by another such club. **Last date for nominations: 4th December 2022**

An updated ADM pack will be published in advance of the ADM including the names of the nominated individuals.

At the beginning of the Coastal ADM a brief joint session will be held with the Offshore ADM. The purpose of this will be to elect the Coastal/Offshore Board member.

Coastal Rowing Committee Report 2022

The Committee for 2022 season consisted of Robert Dunne (Wicklow RC), David Hussey (Portmagee RC), Marie Kinsella (Edermine Ferry RC), Ted McSweeney (Rushbrooke RC), Aoife Murphy (Portmagee RC), Bernie O'Donovan (Galley Flash RC), Shane Russell (Whitegate RC) and Danny Hayes (Galley Flash RC).

The committee first met in January to agree each person's role for the year ahead:

Danny Hayes – Chair (appointed by the board)

Marie Kinsella – Secretary

Ted McSweeney – Vice-Chair

Shane Russell – Regatta Director

Bernie O'Donovan – Merchandise

Aoife Murphy – PRO

David Hussey – Coach Education

Robert Dunne – Safety

The main activity of the Committee during the year was the organisation of a successful Championship regatta. A specific Championship Committee was established for this purpose. The committee was chaired by Ted McSweeney and had representatives from the hosts and the Coastal Committee. The Committee met on several occasions virtually and on site in Schull. Having several representatives from the host association (South West Rowing) ensured that the hosts and Coastal Committee were working with common objectives and clarity as to what each group was responsible for delivering. Shane Russell continued in his role as Regatta Director for the Championships.

The Coastal Championships were held in Schull in glorious weather on 13/14th August. The course was laid to a very high standard and credit goes to the course layers lead by Damian Cogan for doing an outstanding job before and during the Championship weekend. Thanks also to Bridget Meagher (Schull RC) for providing the regatta office, Cork County Council, Civil Defence, Schull Harbour Sailing Club, Schull Sailing Centre, Schull Church of Ireland, Schull Community Council, Schull Watersports Centre and many others who all contributed to making the weekend a huge success.

The 2022 season has been about rebuilding Coastal Rowing which was badly affected by the Covid pandemic. Thankfully the sport has rebounded, with over twice as many entries competing in 2022 compared to 2021, with the underage categories leading the comeback. The high standard of rowing combined with fantastic racing conditions on the water to ensure that timing records were broken across most categories.

Following positive feedback from clubs after the 2021 Championships, some innovations continued at this year's Championships. These included more frequent prize-giving's and completion of categories in a single day (heats in the morning/finals in the afternoon). Another innovation was adopted this year with the addition of a traffic light starting system which improved the race starting procedure.

Many thanks go to South West Rowing for hosting a superb regatta and to all the volunteers who worked so hard before, during and after the event. Finally, congratulations go to Whitegate Rowing

Club on retaining their Club of the Championships title for a third Championships in a row and to Passage West on completing the Senior double, the first time this has been achieved since 2018.

The results of the Championships for the past five years are in the Irish Rowing Archives and can be accessed at www.irishrowingarchives.com

A Coastal Safety webinar was held in February as part of Rowing Ireland Safety Week. Robert Dunne, who also sits on the Rowing Ireland Safety Advisory Committee, hosted the webinar. In addition, he attended the Coastal Championships where he acted as event Safety Advisor. Robert has continually made himself available to advise clubs on best practice in relation to safety.

This year saw Coach education courses move to a hybrid model, with some parts online and in-person for the practical sessions. Strong participation continues to be shown in the Introductory and Level 1 courses by Coastal Clubs. It is hoped to launch the Coastal module for the Level 1 course in early 2023.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the hard work that clubs have done to rebuild following the pandemic. There was a huge level of enthusiasm this year, particularly at underage level and it is very heartening to see clubs embracing huge numbers of new rowers. It bodes well for 2023 and beyond.

Rowing Ireland Coastal Committee
November 2022

Income & Expense Statement

Full details of the Rowing Ireland finances for the last fully audited year can be found in the [2021 Annual Report](#).

Nominations for the Coastal Rowing Committee

At the close of nominations on 20th November, the following were the nominations received.

Hon Secretary

Marie Kinsella (Edermine Ferry) Proposed by: Edermine Ferry RC Seconded by: St. Kearns R.C.

Committee (6 positions)

Bernice Cullen(Dunne) (Wicklow) Proposed by: Wicklow R.C. Seconded by: Arklow R.C

Tracey Dunne (Kilmacsimon) Proposed by: Kilmacsimon S&R.C. Seconded by: Galley Flash R.C.

Fionáin Hussey (Portmagee) Proposed by: Portmagee R.C. Seconded by: Galley Flash R.C.

Ted McSweeney (Rushbrooke) Proposed by: Rushbrooke R.C. Seconded by: Whitegate R.C.

Bernie O'Donovan (Galley Flash) Proposed by: Rushbrooke R.C. Seconded by: Wicklow R.C.

Stephen O'Leary (Courtmacsherry) Proposed by: Courtmacsherry R.C. Seconded by: Galley Flash R.C.

Shane Russell (Whitegate) Proposed by: Whitegate R.C. Seconded by: Rushbrooke R.C.

Proposed Coastal Rule Changes

Proposal 1

Alter Rule 6.4.1

Currently: 6.4.1 The Committee shall consist of eight members as follows: (a) Chair nominated by the Board of Rowing Ireland (b) Secretary elected at the ADM (c) Committee of six elected at the ADM

Proposed: 6.4.1 The Committee shall consist of **seven** members as follows: (a) Chair nominated by the Board of Rowing Ireland (b) Secretary elected at the ADM (c) Committee of **five** elected at the ADM.

This rule change will become effective for the 2023 ADM.

Proposed by the Coastal Committee

Reason: For the effective operation of the committee, a slightly reduced size of committee would be sufficient.

Proposal 2

New rule: Participation at non Rowing Ireland events

Clubs and their members may only participate in coastal rowing races organised by Rowing Ireland, its clubs, or a clubs own association rowing events. Clubs must request, and receive permission, from the Coastal Committee to participate in any other coastal rowing race. Participation at non-authorized events will render the club ineligible to compete in the Irish Coastal Rowing Championships in that season, or in the following season if the infringement occurs after the Irish Coastal Rowing Championships in a given year. Clubs may submit events to be included on the exempted events list subject to the approval of the Coastal Committee.

Proposed by the Coastal Committee

Reason: Confirm that RI is the NGB for all forms of rowing in Ireland and that only the above events will be attended by RI member clubs.

Proposal 3

A date for the Irish Coastal Rowing Championship not be set until a venue has been selected.

Proposed by Rushbrooke RC

Reason: This gives a greater opportunity to work around other events in the area and best suitable tide selection.

Proposal 4

6.6.1 Race Categories & Distance

The distance of Junior & Senior Mens & Ladies Traditional races, to change to 1600m with multi-turns.

Proposed by Edermine Ferry RC

Reason: The purpose behind this proposal change is to allow closer competition for all traditional boats. Where traditional larger boats like East Coast Skiffs & Kerry Longboats etc. gain on the straight, the smaller boats like the Slaney Cots, are shorter, smaller & therefore slower, gain on the turns. This makes Traditional Racing a fairer handicap for all boats involved.

Proposal 5

Alter Rule 6.7.16

Currently: 6.7.16 Substitutions Every crew is entitled to substitute up to half the number of its oarsmen/women, and the coxswain, provided that the replacements are members of the same club (or clubs in the case of composite crew), and that each of them is qualified to row in that crew. An electronic substitution must be performed or a completed substitution form must be presented to the Regatta Director at least one hour before the crew's first race. After a crew has rowed a heat, a substitution may only be made in the case of a serious illness, certified by a doctor or medic. Exceptions may be granted for family emergencies and is at the discretion of the Regatta Director.

Proposed: 6.7.16 Substitutions Every crew is entitled to substitute up to half the number of its oarsmen/women, and the coxswain, provided that the replacements are members of the same club (or clubs in the case of composite crew), and that each of them is qualified to row in that crew. **A substitution may be made using a rower from another club only in the case of a serious illness, certified by a doctor or medic.** An electronic substitution must be performed or a completed substitution form must be presented to the Regatta Director at least one hour before the crew's first race.

Proposed by Passage West RC

Reason: After a crew has rowed a heat, a substitution may only be made in the case of a serious illness, certified by a doctor or medic. Exceptions may be granted for family emergencies and is at the discretion of the Regatta Director.

Dates & Venues for the Irish Coastal Rowing Championships

2023 Irish Coastal Rowing Championships

The weekend of 19/20 August previously agreed at the 2021 ADM.

The following expression of interest has been received:

Host: Rosscarbery RC

Venue: National Rowing Centre

2024 Irish Coastal Rowing Championships

Host: TBC

Venue: TBC

The weekend 17/18 August 2024 is suggested by the Committee

Safety Advisor Report for 2022

In early 2022 we held 2 safety webinars over 2 weeks to make sure we could cater for all clubs to take part I am glad to say we had much better response this year with approximately 90 % of clubs attending which was a great improvement from the previous year's 35%. I asked last year for a better attendance rate and we certainly got it so I thank you all very much for that.

I have always believed that the coastal rowing community has a very strong safety ethos and in my time as Safety Advisor you have confirmed that through your actions over the years. However like most things today it is not enough that certain people in the club have this knowledge and are relied on to know what to do. Every member should know exactly what is expected of them when they are in the club or on the water especially what to do in an emergency situation. This knowledge must be passed on to all members as safety is everyone's responsibility. I strongly urge all clubs to ensure you have good written safety procedures in place and that the Club committee ensure that all members have read and understood them. This should be verifiable and good records of training should be maintained and accessible to all.

Unfortunately, despite a clubs best efforts accidents will happen even if just minor and there needs to be a paper trail to prove the club had taken all the necessary actions to mitigate the risks.

Coastal Regattas 2022

Coastal regattas resumed normal service this year after the restrictions of the previous 2 years and it was a great thing to see. Although not back to the levels of 2019 in some areas, a lot have returned to the sport but a considerable amount of people have not, they have found new outlets over the past 2 years. I would urge clubs to make sure they fill the gaps left by some of these people as a lot of experience and knowledge could be lost especially when it comes to long established safety practices and procedures. I have had no reports of any safety issues at the coastal regattas so keep up the good work.

Coastal Championships

The Irish Coastal Rowing Championships took place at Schull this year in very sunny and hot conditions. The standard safety checks were carried out on boats and equipment. There was full compliance by clubs with all aspects of safety and I am glad to say there were no accidents or injury reported but we did have an incidence of weakness which was due to the heat. This was dealt with swiftly by the safety and medical crews and the person made a fast recovery. I would have expected more incidents with the heat but obviously people took the advice to keep well hydrated and use plenty of sunscreen which was emphasised at the pre-race safety briefings.

Last year I recommended that the medical crew stay at the race venue for a minimum of 30 minutes after the days racing has finished to make sure that there are no late onset issues arising for example an asthma attack, etc. I am glad to say this has worked well.

Off Season During the winter period

I would urge all clubs to use the time to review and update their club safety paperwork especially Club Safety Inductions. These are one of the best tools to use to get the safety message across to all members not just the new ones.

There is no point in having fantastic policies, safety statements and other paper work if no one looks at them Use your inductions to get your members familiar with them. Make sure they are accessible to all either in paper or electronic form or both.

Code of practice for the safe operation of recreational craft

I have 100 copies of the Code to give out at the ADM I would ask clubs to take a couple of copies each and make them available to your club members

It is a very important document that details all the relevant legislation for recreational craft which covers our sport. At present the code is under review by the department of transport and the Rowing Ireland safety advisory committee has been asked to make submissions to the updated version which should be published late in 2023. This may be a difficult process as the sport has come under scrutiny after last year's MCIB report. However, we will work with the department to ensure that we get the best outcome for our sport.

Robert Dunne

Rowing Ireland Coastal Safety Advisor

November 2022