



26th November 2022

Dear Secretary,

Re: Rowing Ireland Offshore Annual Delegate Meeting

Please be advised that the Annual Delegate Meeting for the Offshore Division of Rowing Ireland will take place in the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise at 10:00 on Sunday 11th December 2022.

The order of business will be as follows:

- (a) Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Committee for the past year.
- (b) Receive and consider the income and expense statement for the past year.
- (c) Elect an Hon Secretary and four committee members.
- (d) Rule Change proposals.
- (e) Agree a calendar of offshore events for 2023.
- (f) Agree a venue and date for the 2024 Irish Offshore Rowing Championships.
- (g) Consider the report from the Offshore Safety Advisor.
- (h) Any other business ruled in order by the Chair.

12-12:120pm Congregate with the Coastal ADM for the election of Coastal/Offshore seat on the board.

Hon Secretary – Rowing Ireland Offshore Division

Annual Delegate Meeting

Attendance Details

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

Each club is entitled to one representative who will be the official voting delegate.

The club secretary must nominate the voting candidate no later than 12:00 on Friday 9th December by sending an e-mail to offshore@rowingireland.ie

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

Only paid-up clubs which have completed the affiliation process by submitting the affiliation questionnaire 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 and 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 offshore@rowingireland.ie or coastal@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 end of the Offshore ADM and the beginning of the Coastal ADM at 12pm a brief joint session will be held with Coastal ADM. The purpose of this will be to elect the Coastal/Offshore board member.

Offshore Rowing Committee Report 2021/22

The ADM November committee elected for 2021/22 consisted of:

Chairperson: Margaurite Deasy (Ring RC), appointed by the Board of Rowing Ireland.

Hon Secretary: Andrew Hurley (Bantry RC),

Ex Officio: Kieran Kerr (St Michael's RC),

James Boomer (Olderfleet RC),

Luke Keaney (Donegal Bay RC), resigned 17/12/21.

Kieran Murphy (Portmagee RC), resigned 17/12/21.

Cormac Kelly (Arklow RC), resigned 07/11/22.

Co-opted in December 2021.

Robert Dunne (Wicklow RC)

Teresa Keaney (Loughros RC).

Committee Annual Report 2022

Offshore rowing was one of the few sports to keep going through the previous year in spite of Covid lockdowns and the subsequent restrictions on training and competing. Straight off a number of clubs came forward to host regattas which was the first year out of covid. With Beach Sprints - sprinting into the scene, it was indeed an extremely busy year.

The following webinars were held early in the year.

- Offshore Safety Webinar hosted by Robert Dunne
- Rigging Clinic hosted by James Boomer, Joe Cantillon and Pete Wells.

Immediately preparations had to be put in place for the Domestic Regatta's, Ranking event, Irish Offshore Rowing Championships, the Beach Sprints Qualifier, the World Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships and the Inaugural Home International Beach Sprints, and European Rowing Coastal & beach Sprint Championships.

There were a number of significant regattas during the year.

Duneen Beach Sprints Qualifier

This was the second beach sprint regatta held in Ireland and it was the qualifying event for the Inaugural Home International Regatta in St. Andrews, fife, Scotland, the World Rowing Coastal Beach Sprint Championships in Wales, and the Inaugural European Rowing Coastal Beach Sprint Championships in San Sebastian, Spain. The event, which was run in sunny conditions, with an extra treat of a pod of pilot whales. It was a tremendous success thanks to the magnificent organisation by Rosscarbery Rowing Club. This showcased the attraction of beach sprints and won many new converts to this aspect of offshore rowing. The entry of 57 crews was good for the second event and we would like to thank Kanghua Boats for providing the boats. The committee would encourage clubs to host additional beach sprint events during the season. Should the numbers in beach sprints continue, it is likely the committee will recommend that a beach sprint championship be introduced. This would have to be separate to such qualification events as a championship should allow club units compete whereas the qualification or trial event will hopefully have the fastest rowers in the country coming together to form Irish crews.

Loughros Point Ranking Regatta

The Ranking event was run in Portnoo by Loughros Point RC and doubled up as the ranking and qualification for the World Rowing Coastal Championships and National Crews for the Inaugural European Rowing Coastal Championships.

The set up was great on the day and a lot of effort was put into the event. Beach starts and finishes were utilised in the expectation that these would be used at the Worlds. As it transpired only beach starts were used at the worlds. From the experienced gained, there were several non-attendance related crews seeking ranking after the event which is not enticing for a host club to run a ranking. While this was a low entry the committee feel that an alternative ranking method could be considered going forward through the domestic regattas. It is possible that the location, which was far from the majority of clubs was an issue. The committee will therefore be looking to see what level of entries the 2023 event attracts if a host club comes forward. The downside of not having a ranking is, it deprives the offshore committee of using it as a trial event for the championships the following year. Thanks to Loughros for hosting this and we would ask all clubs to support the Irish Offshore Rowing championships in 2023.

2022 Swift Racing Irish Offshore Rowing Championships

The 2022 Irish Offshore Rowing Championships took place in Wicklow on the 9th & 10th of September hosted by Wicklow and Arklow RC. A storm rolling in saw the expertise of Arklow's Eamon Kavanagh come in to his own giving the OC regular briefings and choices to rearrange races quickly to ensure the racing could take place. The weather reports were quite accurate, and the last few races saw the predicted torrential rain, and rising wind and waves roll in.

Pool boats were available from Swift Racing who continued to build their relationship with Rowing Ireland by sponsoring the event. It was noticeable over the course of the regatta that the standard of racing continues to increase. We also saw several Olympians participating once again with a number of overseas crews. After speaking with clubs on the day there was strong feedback that the Championships should only be for Irish Clubs. A number of clubs submitted proposals reflecting this. There was also feedback advocating the number of composites reduced to two.

The committee had decided in 2020 that in future years the ranking event should be held at the Championship venue for the following year. As such it acts as a test event for the Championships and

allows the committee to identify any potential issues in time for them to be remedied. The regatta which was jointly hosted by Arklow RC and Wicklow RC was a great success. It is still noticeable how young the sport is with evolution every year in various areas. The sport will continue to evolve in the years to come. The results of the Championships for the six years are in the Irish Rowing Archives and can be accessed at www.irishrowingarchives.com

Home International Beach Sprint Regatta- St. Andrews, Fife, Edinburgh, Scotland.

This was the first ever Home International for Beach sprints hosted by Scotland in a stunning setting in St. Andrews University. An Irish Team of 6 crews from Ring, Donegal Bay, St Michaels Rowing Club, Kilorglin, and Kilmacsimon rowed competitively on the day with some crews narrowly missing out, it was the athlete from SMRC, Cormac Benson who claimed the Gold flawlessly on the day. It was apparent how well the crews were invested in this new discipline, experience, and quick to make lifelong friends with their Teammates and opponents. It was a memorable day and huge congrats to all the crews who did the green jersey proud. The Beach Sprint data base can be found [here](#).

World Rowing Coastal Championships- Saundersfoot, Wales.

It was a first for some, to see rain bounce off a beach, which kicked off the first race in Saundersfoot. Some of our brave seasoned Coastal rowers were tossed out of their boats in some races. Some singles rowers just got back in and rowed on and still made finals which is a testament to how experienced some of our rowers have become. There were mixed reviews about the venue and course lengths. A game of inches was the first solid result placing Sionna Healy in 4th position on the day to Maria Berg of Sweden bringing her up one place from last year in 5th in Portugal, while Clubmate Xena Jordan came in 5th. Following on from that Kealan Mannix (Rosscarbery) in the CM1X brought him home in another a 4th place. This shows that the Home-grown athletes in Ireland are to be recognised for their continuous improvement which is an exciting thought on the future. The CW4X+ crew of Orla Hayes, Karen Hickey, Eileen Whooley, Ella Cialis, Cox Jack Calnan from Castletownshend RC have been knocking on the podium over the last few years. Persistent paid off fighting around a collision to bring them to the finish line in bronze position.

Next up Monika Dukarska (Killorglin) and Rhiannon O'Donoghue (Killorglin) rowed strongly to take the Silver in the CW2X in style. In one of the last races of the day the Cmix2x crew of Monika Dukarska (Killorglin) and Patrick Boomer (Loughros) rowed superbly together to claim the 2nd Bronze on the day. Rowing Ireland was deemed the third Nation of the Championships. Congratulations to all athletes who medalled, who had a PB, made an A Final, won a B Final and made a B Final.

The 2023 venue in Sabaudia, Italy was withdrawn so World Rowing are now considering an alternative after a recent bidding process took place.

World Rowing Beach Sprint Championships-Saundersfoot, Wales

A weekend later to the Endurance, the Beach Sprint Championships was held with 17 athletes taking to the water. The Crews were extremely competitive, and it was Monika Dukarska in the CW1X to make it to the Final 6 which the boat is now qualified for the World Beach Sprint Games in Bali in August 2023. Monika is the first Irish Female athlete to make it to the final 6 but one is left wondering what could have unfolded in the current conditions there on the day.

European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships- San Sebastian, Spain.

In stunning San Sebastian our crews took to their respective categories in the Club Events, National events, and Beach Sprint Events in quite a compact schedule. There was a particular tight race where the Irish Camp held their breaths with the Cmix2x crew of Miriam Sheehan and Patrick Boomer who were in line to medal but it wasn't to be after their boat was impeded on a turn. Unfortunately, it was not to be with crashes and Oar breakages. Picking ourselves up a great race unfolded by the Cmix2x crew of Ronan Byrne and Natalie Long taking the bronze. In the Beach Sprints Kealan Mannix made the final four in the CM1X making him the first Irish Athlete to make it to a semi-final.

Last but not least on the international events

A big shout out to our Boat Handlers who worked tirelessly and efficiently with all the Beach Sprint Crews over all the Events. Great Boat Handlers are worth their weight in Gold. Huge Thanks to the Team, David Duggan, Tom Stafford, Alan O'Donovan, Tony Mannix, Eoin Kearney, and Donnagh Verling and our Social Media and commentary Niamh Hayes, Teresa Keaney and Sharon Hurley.

Background on International Workload

With the qualification event for the upcoming three International Beach Sprints events, which had to cover the Home International Beach Sprints and the European Coastal Rowing Beach Sprint.

Following a laboured process of putting a ranking policy in place for board approval and another for the national crews for the ERCC.

After the qualification event, a team of seventeen qualified to compete in the CW1x, CM1x, CJMix2x, CJW1x, CJM1x, CJM2x, CJW2x CMix2x and CMix4x at the World Rowing Coastal and beach Sprint Championships consisting of 17 Athletes. A Team of 6 crews consisting of 8 athletes for the Home International beach Sprints in CW1x, CM1x, CJMix2x, CJW1x, CJM1x, CMix2x and a Team of 5 crews consisting of 6 athletes for the European Rowing Coastal Championships in CW1x, CM1x, CJW1x, CJM1x, CMix2x. The Endurance consisted of CW1X, CM1X, and two CMix2x crews for the ERCC.

Just to put a perspective on the preparation for these events from a Team Managers point of view, there was an incredible amount of paperwork to be completed for each athlete consisting of social media and Code of Conduct Policies, passport processing, Safeguarding, Garda vetting, parental permissions, athletes' commitment agreements, WADA Consent, Medical ECG's, Team Gear for 37 Beach Sprint & national crew athletes and 10 Boat Handlers. Accommodation, meals and some travel logistics for the Home Internationals, and international entries in to four events.

Looking forward to 2023.

At its 2020 Extraordinary Congress World Rowing agreed to replace the current Lightweight double events in the Olympics with CM1X, CW1X & CMix2X events for Paris 2024. World Rowing and the International Olympic Committee have recently confirmed their intention of introducing coastal for Los Angeles in 2028 with an announcement next year and with the Olympic cycle starting in 2024. Plans to create a Rowing Ireland working group for a beach Sprints strategy, beach sprints policy and selection committee are being prepared. The committee believe the latter is critical as with evolution, the method of selecting crews needs to adapt and any decisions must be in the best interests of the sport.

In addition to a Home International, World Rowing Coastal Beach Sprints, European Rowing Beach Sprints Championship in 2022, there is also the possibility of a Coupe de la Jeunesse Beach Sprint event for national teams in 2023. This is another great addition to the Offshore Calendar.

Coach Education Course is back up and running to its members. It has however recently recommenced running Level 1 courses and in process of L2 so we would urge clubs to avail of the courses.

The Committee has struggled trying to keep pace with a sport that sometimes feels it is growing and changing on a weekly basis. To do so it needs committee members who are on the committee to roll up their sleeves and not simply be “representatives”. We look forward to a number of new committee members next year but would ask any candidates to commit to being the “sleeves rolled up” type of committee member.

**Rowing Ireland Offshore 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 Offshore Rowing Committee 2022/23

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

Chairperson: Robert Dunne (Wicklow RC) pending board approval.

Hon Secretary

Andrew Hurley (Bantry RC) Proposed by: Bantry RC Seconded by: Ring RC

Committee (4 positions)

Sharon Hurley (Ring RC) Proposed by: Ring RC Seconded by: Courtmacsherry RC

Finbarr Breslin (Kincasslagh RC) Proposed by Kincasslagh RC Seconded by Loughros RC

Teresa Keaney (Loughros RC) Proposed by Loughros RC Seconded by City of Derry RC

Monika Dukarska (Kilorglin RC) Proposed by Kilorglin RC Seconded by: Portmagee RC

Rhiannon O'Donoghue (Kilorglin) Proposed by Portmagee RC Seconded by Donegal RC

Luke Keaney (Donegal Bay RC) Proposed by: Donegal Bay RC Seconded by: Arklow RC

Shay Dunne (Wicklow RC) Proposed by Wicklow RC Seconded by Edermine Ferry RC

Proposed Offshore Rule Changes

Proposal 1

7G.4.5 Offshore Rowing Committee [Existing Rule]

7G.4.5 Committee members may serve a maximum of five terms in any seven year period. The Chair will remain as an additional member of the Committee for one year after leaving office even if this results in him/her serving more than five years in a seven year period.

7G.4.5 Offshore Rowing Committee [New Version]

7G.4.5 The Chair will remain as an additional member of the Committee for one year after leaving.

Proposed by the Offshore Rowing Committee

Reason: There are two rules governing participation on the Offshore Committee. The Offshore Committee utilises the Rowing Ireland four-year rule in relation to the maximum term that a chair may serve. This has worked well, and it is proposed that this be retained. It is however felt that the five in seven-year rule could result in a loss of continuity going forward. The rule was initially put in place to ensure there was turnover on the committee. The fact that 15 different individuals have served on the committee to date demonstrates that there is a healthy turnover rate. Removal of the five in seven rule will bring the committee in line with other Rowing Ireland Committees.

Proposal 2

7C.3 Club Eligibility [Existing Rule]

The Championships shall be contested annually and are open only to the following:

- a Clubs affiliated to Rowing Ireland
- b Clubs which are a member of an association which is affiliated to FISA

7C.3 Club Eligibility [New version]

The Championships shall be contested annually and are open only to the following:
Clubs affiliated to Rowing Ireland on the 1st March in the year of competition.

Proposed by the Offshore Rowing Committee

Reason: The strong feedback following the 2022 Championship Regatta was that the Irish Championships should be to find the best Irish crews.

Proposal 3

7R.7 Composite crews [Existing Rule]

Crews may contain members from more than one club. Rower must wear their own club colours. Composite crews must be declared at the time of entry.

7R.7 Composite crews [New version]

Crews may contain members **from a maximum of two clubs**.

Rowers must wear their own club colours. Composite crews must be declared at the time of entry. Unlimited composites are however permitted in any event designated by the Offshore Committee as an international trial.

Proposed by the Offshore Rowing Committee

Reason: The feedback from clubs following the 2022 season was that “super-composites” are damaging to club crews.

Proposal 4

7S.10 Boat Handlers [Existing Rule]

There shall be up to two boat handlers per boat. The boat handlers shall be provided by the clubs. The role of the boat handler is to support the departure and arrival of the crew from and to the beach. The boat handlers for each crew should wear matched uniforms and in a colour which is different from the crew (alternatively the boat handlers may wear a coloured bib). In rougher conditions and at the discretion of the President of the Jury the number of boat handlers may be increased. Boat handlers may not board the boat at any time but may assist the crew in any other way, including rudder fixing, etc. When the boat returns to the beach the boat handlers may “catch” the boat to slow its progress when it reaches the beach and a crew member disembarks to run to the finish line.

a. The boat handlers shall at all times remain in shallow water not above their shoulder height. The boat handlers shall comply with any instructions of the race officials and shall at all times be subject to the rules of racing. The boats should be held reasonably in line and shall be positioned so that the centres of boats are in a line with the buoys in their lane. All rowers (except the runner of each crew) must be standing in the water next to their boat and shall not start boarding their boat until the start signal is given. The Judge at the Start, with the advice of the Aligner, shall determine whether the boats are reasonably in line and shall take such action as necessary to ensure this.

b. One nominated crew member from each crew shall be a runner. (The runner at the start may be different from the runner at the finish but in both cases must be a member of the crew.) The runners shall stand behind the start line which shall be clearly marked on the beach. The remaining crew members (except for solo (C1x) shall be standing in the water holding their boats. No crew members shall start to board their boats before the start signal has been given. When the start signal is given the runners shall run to their boats to join the other crew members. The other crew members may start to board their boats as soon as the start signal is given.

c. The boat handlers will support the crews in holding the best pointing for the boat for the crew members to board and depart.

7S.10 Boat Handlers [New version]

There shall be up to two boat handlers per boat. The boat handlers shall be provided by the clubs. The role of the boat handler is to support the departure and arrival of the crew from and to the beach. The boat handlers for each crew should wear matched uniforms and in a colour which is different from the crew (alternatively the boat handlers may wear

a coloured bib). In rougher conditions and at the discretion of the President of the Jury the number of boat handlers may be increased. Boat handlers may not board the boat at any time but may assist the crew in any other way, including rudder fixing, etc. When the boat returns to the beach the boat handlers may “catch” the boat to slow its progress when it reaches the beach and a crew member disembarks to run to the finish line.

a. **At the start of the race**, the boat handlers shall at all times remain in shallow water not above their shoulder height. The boat handlers shall comply with any instructions of the race officials and shall at all times be subject to the rules of racing. The boats should be held reasonably in line and shall be positioned so that the centres of boats are in a line with the buoys in their lane. All rowers (except the runner of each crew) must be standing in the water next to their boat and shall not start boarding their boat until the start signal is given. The Judge at the Start, with the advice of the Aligner, shall determine whether the boats are reasonably in line and shall take such action as necessary to ensure this.

b. One nominated crew member from each crew shall be a runner. (The runner at the start may be different from the runner at the finish but in both cases must be a member of the crew.) The runners shall stand behind the start line which shall be clearly marked on the beach. The remaining crew members (except for solo (C1x)) shall be standing in the water holding their boats. No crew members shall start to board their boats before the start signal has been given. When the start signal is given the runners shall run to their boats to join the other crew members. The other crew members may start to board their boats as soon as the start signal is given.

c. **Immediately the boats have launched, the boat handlers shall return to, and remain on the shore. They may continue to provide steering assistance but may only use their bodies to do so.**

d. The boat handlers will support the crews in holding the best pointing for the boat for the crew members to board and depart.

Proposed by the Offshore Rowing Committee

Reason: Boat handlers remaining in the water in the path of a fast-returning boat represents a significant safety risk as highlighted at the WRBSF this year. In addition, this change brings us into line with World Rowing who have banned the use of steering aids by boat handlers.

Proposal 5

7E.13 The Starting Procedure - Beach Starts [Existing Rule]

- The boats shall be lined up on the beach near the water’s edge.
- The Starter shall direct the crews to float and hold their boats approximately 8 m apart at the edge of the water. In a normal beach start, all crew members shall be holding their boat standing in the water next to their boats and can only start to board their boat after the start signal has been given.
- The Starter shall then order the crews to get ready and bring their boats into line. The Judge at the Start shall be the sole judge of whether the boats are in line.
- If a running start is used, one nominated crew member from each crew shall be a runner. The runners will start behind a set running start line located on the beach and when the start signal is given, shall run to their boat to join other crew members. The remaining crew members shall be holding their boats and standing in the water next to their boats and can only start to board their boat after the start signal has been given.

- Boat holders may be used for the solo and other boats at the discretion of the Starter.
- It is the responsibility of each crew to ensure that it does not interfere with other boats. Where such interference occurs or is going to occur, each crew must take appropriate avoiding action, but shall follow the instruction of the Starter or Umpire whenever such instructions are given. A crew causing interference may be penalised by the Starter or the Umpire.
- The Starter may be assisted by other umpires under the authority of the Starter. The position of the Starter shall be such that the Starter has a clear view of the running start line (in case of running starts) and all boats and the starting signals are clearly visible to all race competitors. A clearly distinguishing jacket should be worn by the Starter.
- The Starter shall inform the crews when there is five minutes, four minutes and three minutes remaining before the start time.
- There shall be a Judge at the Start who shall be positioned in such location as to be able to properly carry out his responsibilities. In the case of a running start, the President of the Jury may allocate two Judges at the Start for this purpose.
- The Judge at the Start shall be responsible to identify any nominated runner who crosses the set running start line before the start signal is given (in the case of a running start) and any crew whose member(s) start to board their boat before the start signal is given.

7E.13 The Starting Procedure – Beach Starts [New Version]

- The boats shall be lined up on the beach near the water's edge.
- The Starter shall direct the crews to float and hold their boats approximately 8 m apart at the edge of the water. In a normal beach start, all crew members shall be holding their boat standing in the water next to their boats and can only start to board their boat after the start signal has been given.
- The Starter shall then order the crews to get ready and bring their boats into line. The Judge at the Start shall be the sole judge of whether the boats are in line.
- If a running start is used, one nominated crew member from each crew shall be a runner. The runners will start behind a set running start line located on the beach and when the start signal is given, shall run to their boat to join other crew members. The remaining crew members shall be holding their boats and standing in the water next to their boats and can only start to board their boat after the start signal has been given.
- It is the responsibility of each crew to ensure that it does not interfere with other boats. Where such interference occurs or is going to occur, each crew must take appropriate avoiding action, but shall follow the instruction of the Starter or Umpire whenever such instructions are given. A crew causing interference may be penalised by the Starter or the Umpire.
- The Starter may be assisted by other umpires under the authority of the Starter. The position of the Starter shall be such that the Starter has a clear view of the running start line (in case of running starts) and all boats and the starting signals are clearly visible to all race competitors. A clearly distinguishing jacket should be worn by the Starter.
- The Starter shall inform the crews when there is five minutes, four minutes and three minutes remaining before the start time.
- There shall be a Judge at the Start who shall be positioned in such location as to be able to properly carry out his responsibilities. In the case of a running start, the President of the Jury may allocate two Judges at the Start for this purpose.
- The Judge at the Start shall be responsible to identify any nominated runner who crosses the set running start line before the start signal is given (in the case of a running start) and any crew whose member(s) start to board their boat before the start signal is

given.

There shall be up to two boat handlers per boat. The boat handlers shall be provided by the clubs. The role of the boat handler is to support the departure and arrival of the crew from and to the beach. The boat handlers for each crew should wear matched uniforms and in a colour which is different from the crew (alternatively the boat handlers may wear a coloured bib). In rougher conditions and at the discretion of the President of the Jury the number of boat handlers may be increased. Boat handlers may not board the boat at any time but may assist the crew in any other way, including rudder fixing, etc. When the boat returns to the beach the boat handlers may “catch” the boat to slow its progress when it reaches the beach and a crew member disembarks to run to the finish line.

a. At the start of the race, the boat handlers shall at all times remain in shallow water not above their shoulder height. The boat handlers shall comply with any instructions of the race officials and shall at all times be subject to the rules of racing. The boats should be held reasonably in line and shall be positioned so that the centres of boats are in a line with the buoys in their lane. All rowers (except the runner of each crew) must be standing in the water next to their boat and shall not start boarding their boat until the start signal is given. The Judge at the Start, with the advice of the Aligner, shall determine whether the boats are reasonably in line and shall take such action as necessary to ensure this.

b. One nominated crew member from each crew shall be a runner. (The runner at the start may be different from the runner at the finish but in both cases must be a member of the crew.) The runners shall stand behind the start line which shall be clearly marked on the beach. The remaining crew members (except for solo (C1x)) shall be standing in the water holding their boats. No crew members shall start to board their boats before the start signal has been given. When the start signal is given the runners shall run to their boats to join the other crew members. The other crew members may start to board their boats as soon as the start signal is given.

c. Immediately the boats have launched, the boat handlers shall return to, and remain on the shore. They may continue to provide steering assistance but may only use their bodies to do so.

d. The boat handlers will support the crews in holding the best pointing for the boat for the crew members to board and depart.

Proposed by the Offshore Rowing Committee

Reason: Allows for at least two boat holders in all cases. Boat handlers remaining in the water in the path of a fast returning boat represents a significant safety risk as highlighted at the WRBSF this year. In addition this change brings us into line with World Rowing who have banned the use of steering aids by boat handlers.

Proposal 6

7R.11 Club Colours [Existing Rule]

Club colours should be registered with Rowing Ireland. Rowers and coxswains must wear their club colours while racing

7R.11 Club Colours [New Version]

Club colours should be registered with Rowing Ireland. Rowers and coxswains must

wear their club colours while racing. Irish one-pieces may only be worn at international events when representing the national team. The club of any sculler or crew will be automatically liable to a €50 per person fine on each occasion that an Irish one-piece is worn at any domestic or international event if not representing the national team.

Proposed by the Offshore Rowing Committee

Reason: Both domestic and World Rowing rules state that you must wear your club colours whilst racing.

Proposal 7

7R.22 Restriction on participation at Regattas [Existing Rule]

Clubs may only participate in offshore races organised by Rowing Ireland or its clubs. Clubs must request, and receive permission, from the Offshore Rowing Committee to participate in any other offshore rowing event. Participation at non-authorized events will render the club ineligible to compete in the Irish Offshore Championships in that season.

7R.22 Restriction on participation at Regattas [New Version]

Clubs may only participate in offshore races organised by Rowing Ireland or its clubs. Clubs must request, and receive permission, from the Offshore Rowing Committee to participate in any other offshore rowing event. Participation at non-authorized events will render the club ineligible to compete in the Irish Offshore Championships or to represent Rowing Ireland at any international coastal event in that season.

Proposed by the Offshore Rowing Committee

Reason: To ensure that only athletes and clubs who are fully committed to recognising Rowing Ireland as the NGB for rowing in Ireland compete at these events.

Proposal 8

1. A National Junior Offshore Championship may be offered in a given year. The Offshore Committee shall have the right to award the hosting of this event to an affiliated club or clubs.

Proposed by Portmagee Rowing Club

Offshore Committee Comments

The consensus was to hold off on this for a year. No specific events are included in the proposal therefore only JM4X+ and JW4X+ can be offered. In addition it is the clubs at an ADM that allocate championships.

Proposal 9

A National Masters Offshore Championship may be offered in a given year. The Offshore Committee shall have the right to award the hosting of this event to an affiliated club or clubs.

Proposed by Portmagee Rowing Club

Offshore Committee Comments

The consensus was to hold off on this for a year. No specific events are included in the proposal as it stands, and it is the clubs at an EDM that allocate championships.

Proposal 10

Amend the definition for Juniors as per 7R.2 (Age Categories).

Arklow RC propose that eligibility for Junior Grades existing in Offshore should be defined as in Flatwater, specifically 2.19.5. The age limit for each age grade would be as follows:

- o Junior 18: A competitor who is under the age of nineteen years on 31 August of the year of competition.
- o Junior 16: A competitor who is under the age of seventeen years on 31 August of the year of competition.
- o Junior 14: A competitor who is under the age of fifteen years on 31 August of the year of competition.

Reasoning: We feel these definitions are more in line with international definitions and also, in flatwater rowing in Ireland. In recent years more flatwater clubs have tried both Offshore and Beach Sprints and there should be consistency in the age categories.

Offshore Committee Comments

We are currently in line with the World Rowing age definition. Changing this would mean some athletes rowing junior under our rules would not be eligible to compete at junior (U19) at World Rowing events.

Proposal 11

Amend Rule 7R.22.

Arklow RC propose changing the wording of the rule by replacing the word “races” with “regattas”. The new wording would read “Clubs may only participate in offshore regattas organised by Rowing Ireland or its clubs...”

Reasoning: “Offshore Regattas” are defined in Rule 7E.1 while “Offshore races” are not defined anywhere in the rules.

Offshore Committee Comments

Regarding 2, this definition is deliberately wide in order to capture heads etc. Should it be changed to “Regattas”, there is a danger that other organisations could refer to races as time trials or challenges in order to circumvent the rule.

Proposal 12

Introduce a masters 40+ category race at National Championships.

Motion by Castletownshend

Offshore Committee Comments.

Clarify CJM4X+ & CJW4X+

Proposal 13

National Championship races shall be open only to athletes who have participated in a minimum of one other offshore regatta event during the year.

Motion by Castletownshend

Offshore Committee Comments.

The Offshore Committee believe we should be encouraging rather than attempting to restrict participation by all RI clubs. Would Castletownshend consider withdrawing or changing to “in a minimum of one other Rowing Ireland event during the year”.

Motion 1

All Correspondence with clubs and club members will be through the club secretary via e-mail only.

From Donegal Bay Rowing Club

Offshore Committee Comments

Motion 1 is contrary to Part 1 of the rules of Rowing Ireland and cannot be accepted.
[Correspondence with clubs is dealt with in Section 1.3 of the rules and cannot be overridden by a motion. It is the policy of Rowing Ireland that where a member is selected for the national team, the team manager will deal directly with the athlete and or their Guardian if underage]

Motion 2

Training camps organised by the Team Manager will be cognisant of a geographical spread of athletes.

From Donegal Bay Rowing Club

Offshore Committee Comments

The geographical spread of athletes as well as the availability of boats are both taken into consideration when arranging training camps.

2023 Offshore Ranking/2024 Offshore Championship Hosting

No bidder to date.

2023 Beach Sprints Hosting

Option A- Brittas Bay- Hosted by Wicklow Rowing Club

Beach Sprints Questionnaire	Host Answers
Name of proposed beach?	Brittas Bay Beach Wicklow
How many entrances access to this beach?	3 separate entrances approx 1 km apart
Is the beech fine sand?	Yes fine sand
Permit required to run during bathing Season?	YES, and Council are amiable
Is there public or private parking?	Public Parking for 340 cars also private parking for a further 150 vehicles
Public Toilet Facilities or Portaloos ?	Public council run toilets with washing facilities including public taps for feet
Boat Trailer parking?	Yes, ample trailer parking
How many Safety boats can you supply?	Three
Can a Safety boats land on beach if needed?	Yes with ease
Ambulance access and parking?	Yes Parking for ambulance beside beach path which is approx 40 mtrs from the beach
Will both lanes be fair?	Yes it is a very long straight beach with multiple locations to set up the course fairly
Is there Electricity available?	Yes at the toilets can easily be extended to the beach
Catering Facilities?	Yes there are 4 licenced resident food outlets
Road access?	Brittas bay is 3k directly off the M11 at Jack Whites pub junction
To be included with Questionnaire	
Google Map of the area with:	incl in Map
Proposed Lanes	incl in Map
Beach access	*incl in Map
Car parking	*incl in Map
Trailer parking	*incl in Map
Video link View	Video Link



Aerial View

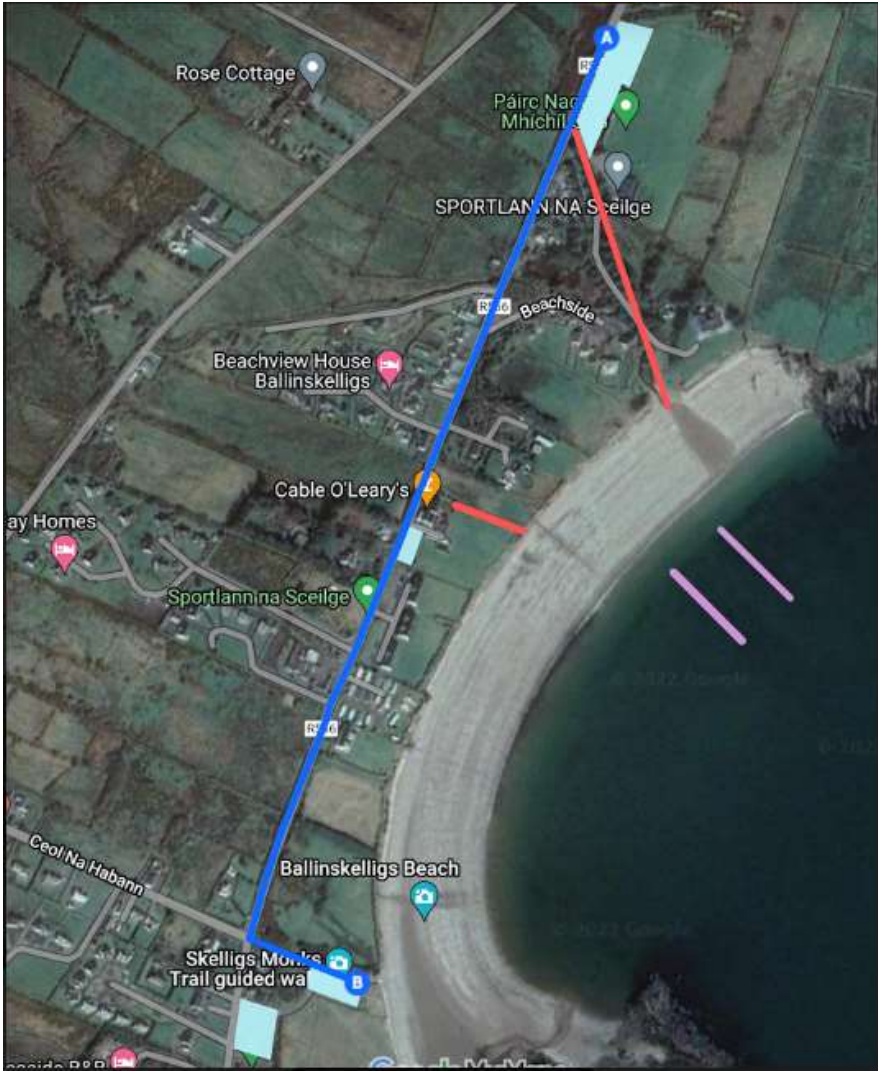


Beach Entrance



Option B- Ballinskelligs Beach hosted by Portmagee Rowing Club

Beach Sprints Questionnaire	Host Answers
Name of proposed beach?	Ballinskelligs Beach
How many entrances access to this beach?	3
Is the beech fine sand?	Yes
Permit required to run during bathing Season?	No
Is there public or private parking?	Public
Public Toilet Facilities or Portaloos?	Both
Boat Trailer parking?	Yes
How many Safety boats can you supply?	4
Can a Safety boats land on beach if needed?	Yes
Ambulance access and parking?	Yes
Will both lanes be fair?	Yes
Is there Electricity available?	Yes
To be included with Questionnaire	
Google Map of the area with:	
Proposed Lanes	
Beach access	
Car parking	
Trailer parking	



DRAFT 2023 Offshore Rowing Calendar

DATE	Regatta	LOCATION	Notes
25th March	Courtmacsherry Offshore Regatta	Courtmacsherry	
1st April	Kilmacsimon HOR	Kilmacsimon	
			15th/16th Grand League-Flat Water
22nd April	Rosscarbery HOR	Drinagh Lake	
29th April	Ring RC Coastal & Offshore HOR	Drinagh Lake	
20th May	Olderfleet Offshore Regatta	Glenarm Marina, Co. Antrim	
27-28 May	Beach Sprints Wicklow	Brittas Bay- Wicklow	See ADM Pack
10-11 Jun			Grand League Regatta-Flat Water
17-18 Jun			Exams
24-25 Jun			Grand League Regatta-Flat Water
01-02 Jul	Potential Ranking [Ranking 2022]		
14-16 Jul			Flatwater Champs
23-23 Jul	Portmagee Offshore Regatta (2 day)	Ballinskelligs Beach- Endurance & Beach Sprints	See ADM Pack
29-30 Jul	Irish Offshore Rowing Championships 2022	Loughros Rowing Club, Portnoo, Ardara, Donegal	
29-Jul	Kenmare Offshore Regatta	Kenmare, Co. Kerry	
6/7 Aug	Castletownbere Offshore Regatta	Castletownbere RC	
19th Aug	Bantry Offshore Regatta	Bantry Aerodome, Co. Cork	Will move dates to avoid a clash
19-20 Aug			Fixed Seat (Irish Coastal Rowing Champs)
5-15 Aug	Beach Sprint Games	Bali, Indonesia	
31-03/Sept	European Rowing Coastal & Beach Sprints	TBA	
16-Sep	Home Internationals Beach Sprints	TBA	
23-24 Sept	Coupe de la Jeunesse Beach Sprints	Italy	
01-Oct	World Rowing Coastal & Beach Sprints Championships	TBA	
08-Oct	World Rowing Coastal & Beach Sprints Championships	TBA	

A Finalised Calendar will be resent to clubs when completed

Offshore Safety Advisor Report 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 95 % 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.

This programme is going to continue for 2023 with multiple webinars so there will be plenty of times and dates to suit all clubs. I would like you our clubs to suggest an aspect of safety where you would like more detail or clarity and I will work on that for one of the webinars.

Offshore Regattas 2022

There were a number of domestic offshore events in 2022 all had observers reports and I am glad to say there were no major safety issues highlighted but there were marked differences in the number and types of safety checks carried out. These varied from club to club so I will be working on ensuring there is a standardised safety approach from all clubs. Well done to all those clubs who ran events and all participants for their safety compliance. 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. There have been no reports registered on the IROW-safe online system of any safety issues at the offshore regattas or while training but that is not to say that there have not been issues just that they have not been reported.

I would again urge Clubs or their members to use the online IROW-safe reporting portal on the Rowing Ireland website to report any accidents , Incidents or near misses because without this information we cannot learn how to avoid re-occurrences or defend the sport from restrictions that may be placed on it, The rowing community is a small one and we are aware of incidences that have involved the emergency services but nothing has been reported so how can we learn from it and try prevent it from happening again. Remember the IROWsafe reporting system is anonymous and does not seek to establish blame .

Off Season

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 paperwork 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.

As you all may be aware the Rowing Ireland Affiliation process has evolved to include a self- assessment safety audit which has been included in an effort, to create a safety checklist so a club can assess its level of compliance and see what areas need work. Please ensure that you fill in this form as accurately as possible as there will be random follow up visits by the Safety advisory committee members to verify their content and assist in areas where required. Notice will be given to clubs in advance of any such visit.

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 Offshore Safety Advisor

December 2022