



2018 Rowing BC Conference BC Competition Review Preparation Materials Hilton Vancouver Metrotown | November 17-18, 2018

This package has been created to further explain the Competition Review project taking place during the 2018 Rowing BC Conference, and provide materials that will be an important part of informing those discussions.

History of Project

Rowing BC began a competition review process in 2015 with the establishment of the Regatta Review Working Group. This group examined the current regatta landscape and made recommendations about how to make meaningful adjustments to the regatta system so that there was stronger alignment with the Long Term Athlete Development principles.

In 2017, the working group was replaced by the Rowing BC Regatta Committee to respond to the changes being implemented by RCA with regard to the regatta sanctioning process, and to ensure that Rowing BC's sanctioning process was sustainable. The competition review process was visited during the 2017 Rowing BC AGM, and remains a priority for Rowing BC and its member clubs and associations.

Rowing BC is in a position to move forward on this project in a meaningful way. One stream of the 2018 Rowing BC Conference at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown November 17-18, 2018 will be focused on building and maintaining healthy events, including the competition review. The competition review sessions will be facilitated by Dr. Jennifer Walinga, a professional facilitator and member of the 1992 Olympic Gold Medal winning Canadian Rowing Team.

Competition Structure Challenges and Opportunities

- **Overarching Challenges**
 - Island vs. Mainland vs. Interior distribution of events
 - Financial constraints of attending events (rising travel and entry fee costs)
 - Differing/competing regional interests
 - Regatta viability/sustainability
 - Misalignment of yearly training cycle with available events
 - Coach, umpire and athlete capacity/welfare

Competition Stream Challenges and Opportunities

- University Athletes
 - Inconsistencies between competition structure and high performance athlete pathway
 - Lack of overarching provincial pathway (i.e. Universities instead create individual partnerships to meet their needs)
 - Discrepancy in ability and/or resources from each university team

- Junior/High School Athletes
 - Exaggeratedly unclear differentiation of regatta purpose (i.e. clubs/schools instead create individual partnerships to meet their needs)
 - Lack of pathway from local to regional to provincial competition, and beyond
 - Differing needs for School vs. Club racing
 - Lack of connection between RCA LTAD Pathway and boat classes offered/prioritized at events

- Masters Athletes
 - Broad distribution of participation leading to diluted competition
 - Absence of regional or provincial team representation at Canadian Masters, FISA Masters, World Masters Games etc.
 - Few established yearly training plan/pathway connected to regattas

- Recreational/For Fun/Corporate Challenge Participants
 - Limited opportunities outside of the club environment
 - Differing / competing requirements from club to club to engage in recreational/for fun/corporate challenge opportunities
 - Sanctioning of events creating a barrier to new event creation

Current Regatta Landscape

View the [current regatta landscape spreadsheet here](#).

Potential New Directions

These potential new directions were created as possible starting points to address some of the challenges described above. Additional discussion on these, and additional ideas, will take place at the Rowing BC Conference November 17-18, 2018.

- Graded Regattas - to create clarity around expectations regatta delivery and target audience
- Endorsed Regatta Circuit - to address the challenge of creating meaningful competition
- Rowing BC hosted Provincial Championships - to provide BC participants with a provincially-based performance goal
- Annually-selected Provincial Teams - to ensure continuation of performance funding, and provide additional performance opportunities to BC athletes
- Friday Night Challenge - to create additional opportunities for recreational/for fun engagement outside of the club environment
- Multi-Stream Regattas - to address coach and umpire fatigue and the increasing costs of travel by combining multiple purposes into a single event
- Indoor Rowing - to promote opportunities for engagement in rowing in a different way
- Coastal Rowing - to promote opportunities for engagement in rowing in a different way
- Regatta Calendar Adjustment - to enhance alignment of events with RCA LTAD pathway

What to Expect from the Competition Review at the 2018 Rowing BC Conference

The Competition Review will take the form of facilitated interactive sessions. All participants are encouraged to bring their ideas, yearly training plans and any other reference materials that will support productive discussion. During the session, groups will form to collaboratively problem solve the challenges, generate creative solutions, and plan implementation of these new ideas. From the discussions on Saturday, the sessions aim to create 1, 3, and 5 year plans to guide the next steps forward. This is a large topic. Issues that are out of scope will be captured and addressed at another time.

The Competition Review sessions will be facilitated by Dr. Jennifer Walinga.

Jennifer has been an educator for 30 years, and was a member of Canada's Commonwealth, World and Olympic gold medal rowing teams (1983 to 1992). Dr. Jennifer Walinga draws on her personal, professional, and educational experiences when facilitating problem solving and leadership processes in organizations. Walinga blends organizational, educational, and sport theories in designing communication, change and performance interventions in organizations. She is a mother of three and an active member of the athletic and educational communities in Victoria. After retiring from elite sport, Walinga taught English for several years in the Toronto area. Walinga began teaching with Royal Roads in 2001 with the Centre for Applied Leadership and Management and Schools of Leadership and Business. She has been faculty in the School of Communication and Culture since 2008. She is also principal of the consulting firm, Integrated Focus, which offers training programs for individuals, teams, departments and organizations. Walinga earned her Bachelor of Liberal Studies at Brock University (1987) and

her Bachelor of Education at the University of Western Ontario (1988) and Diploma in ESL at York University (1989). After teaching English for 20 years, she combined her passion for communication and athletics in pursuing her Master of Arts in Leadership from Royal Roads (2001), where she researched the impact of experiential training programs on organizational performance. She earned her PhD in Organizational Studies from the University of Victoria (2007), where she developed a problem solving intervention called Integrated Focus. Walinga won Royal Roads' 2010 Kelly Outstanding Teaching Award.

Providing Your Input In Advance of the Conference

Rowing BC wants to ensure that the areas of challenge and opportunity that launch the discussion at the conference accurately represent how members of the rowing community feel. If you feel there is anything missing or needing adjustment after reviewing this package, please share your thoughts with Rowing BC by completing the [response form here](#) or by arranging a time for a phone call by emailing david.calder@rowingbc.ca. Feedback collected through the response form will be compiled and shared with conference attendees for use during the conference.