



Rowing BC Competition Review Report

January 2019

Background

For several years Rowing BC has been gathering information from stakeholders about the competition system related to rowing in the province. Stakeholder engagement has been focused on gathering the information required to empower the rowing community in BC, led by Rowing BC, to make appropriate changes to the current competition system with the goal to better align BC competitions with athlete training and periodization. The Competition Review is aimed at reducing disruptions to athlete training programs and supporting healthier athlete development. A secondary benefit of the review is an increase in regatta participation based on a stronger alignment to athlete needs.

This initiative addresses all three of Rowing BC's Strategic Plan Directions. Read Rowing BC's Strategic Plan [here](#).

Current Landscape

Rowing BC brought stakeholders together during the 2018 Rowing BC Conference to discuss BC competitions in 5 separate and professionally facilitated sessions. Each of the first four sessions focused on a particular competition stream; novice, high school/junior, university and masters. The fifth and final session focused on summarizing the sessions and establishing a way forward and next steps.

Participants involved in the stakeholder engagement indicated a strong desire for a small group of coaches, representing each of the following competition streams: Masters, High Schools, Juniors and Universities, to work with Rowing BC to establish tangible recommendations of possible changes to the competition system. Rowing BC is calling this small group the Rowing BC Competition Review Taskforce (CRT).

CRT Mandate

Rowing BC drafted Terms of Reference (TOR) for the CRT following the feedback from stakeholders at the 2018 Rowing BC Conference. These TOR were discussed and approved by the Rowing BC Board of Directors on January 12, 2019. The Rowing BC CRT TOR can be found [here](#).



CRT Timeline

The CRT will conduct its meetings via teleconference and will host its first meeting in early February 2019. The CRT will meet as required to complete its work in the timeline laid out. Meetings will be established by the Chairperson with assistance from Rowing BC Staff.

Recommendations for changes to the competition system for the year starting April 1, 2019 will be presented to Rowing BC by March 15, 2019. Rowing BC will disseminate the recommendations in an appropriate manner upon receipt. First year recommendations must keep in mind the relatively tight timeline for implementation.

Further recommendations for changes to the competition system beyond the first year will be presented to Rowing BC by August 30, 2019. Rowing BC will disseminate the recommendations in an appropriate manner upon receipt. This will allow Rowing BC and invested stakeholders enough time to review the recommendations and engage in a facilitated conversation during the 2019 Rowing BC AGM.

The Rowing BC CRT will also make recommendations to the Rowing BC Board of Directors about whether or not the mandate and TOR for the CRT should be adapted and extended by November 1, 2019.

CRT Composition

In an attempt to support the tight timeline laid out by the Rowing BC CRT TOR, Rowing BC has taken the initiative to approach four members of the rowing community in BC to serve on the CRT, representing each of the four competition streams. These four individuals all agreed to serve on the taskforce and are:

- Biesenthal, Laryssa - Brentwood College School (High School)
- Edwards, Drew - Delta Deas Rowing Club (Junior Club)
- McLeod, Connor - Gorge Narrows Rowing Club (Masters)
- Pearce, Mike – UBC (University)

Two of Rowing BC's Values are *Transparency* and *Inclusivity*. As such Rowing BC will continue to engage with any other community member who wishes to be part of the competition review. If you are interested in this process please email David Calder, Executive Director of Rowing BC at david.calder@rowingbc.ca.



The competition review process is an important initiative that Rowing BC is prioritizing for 2019. As such Rowing BC is heavily resourcing the CRT, in accordance to the TOR, with three board members and three staff members.

Board Members:

- Langerfeld, York (Taskforce Chair)
- Wilkinson, Susan
- Davis, Kris

Staff Members:

- Calder, David
- Lonne, Sonja
- George, Martin

Conclusion

Based on the direction that stakeholders provided Rowing BC over the past several years and culminating at the 2018 Rowing BC Conference, the Rowing BC Competition Review Taskforce will provide recommendations to Rowing BC and the broader rowing community in BC regarding the best ways for BC to improve the competition system. The aim of this work is to offer a healthy athlete-centred competition system.