



**COMMITTEE ON DUES AND FEES  
REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP  
RCA SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 28, 2024**

RCA Committee on Dues and Fees Meeting Participants:

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Daphne Dumont, Atlantic Region  
Robert Paterson, (Chair) Quebec  
Doug Diet, Ontario  
Walter Benko Ontario  
Richard Galway, Prairies Region  
Kate Rutherford, British Columbia

**EX-OFFICIO:**

Carol Purcer President  
Derek Ventnor, Provincial Director, Treasurer

**RCA STAFF SUPPORT:**

Terry Dillon CEO  
Sid Murdoch Secretary  
Jen Fitzpatrick, Director of Partnerships and Sport Development

**Background to the Recommendations**

The RCA Committee on Dues and Fees was convened according to Section 8.1 and 8.2 of the RCA Bylaws. The Chair, Richard Galway, was duly elected at the first meeting on September 19, 2023. The procedures, timetable and information that would be needed by the committee, was determined.

The Committee met again on October 31<sup>st</sup> to review and discuss a comprehensive portfolio of financial information, participant activity data and other relevant information. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Committee met again and it was noted that the Chair, Richard Galway, would not be able to attend the meeting or continue in the role as Chair. As a result, the Committee elected Robert Paterson as Chair for the remainder of the term and continued the discussion and formulated its recommendations to the RCA Board as outlined below.

The Committee is satisfied that it received full disclosure of relevant and appropriate financial information and other information that it requested to support its decision making.

In making its recommendation to the RCA Board, the Committee on Dues and Fees considered the following:

- Following last year's recommendation, the 2023/2024 Participation Fees were set at \$26.25 per person, Regatta Seat Fees \$3.85 per event, Club Dues \$440, Provincial Rowing Association Dues \$765, and Special Rowing Associations and Associate Organizations \$545. This represented a 5% inflation increase over the previous year.

Member and Participant Activity was reviewed. There is still some way to go but it is gratifying that significant bounce back from the depths of the COVID-19 experience continues. Both participant and competition activity increased in 2022/2023 when compared to 2021/2022 and remains marginally lower than pre-pandemic levels. Fiscal 2019/2020 is considered the last fiscal year, prior to 2023/2024, that was not impacted by the pandemic in a meaningful way. The majority of participants register in the first six-months of the financial year (April 1st to Sept 30<sup>th</sup>) and the 2023/24 half-year total (11,280) is approaching that for the full 2019-2020 year (11,861). The number of seat fees paid in 2022/2023 (38,141) are considerably higher than in 2021/2022 (12,580) however remain lower than 2019/2020 numbers (52,568). The number of individuals who competed in 2022-2023 (5,729) is higher than in 2021/2022 (3,321) and is approaching a similar number of competitors in 2019/2020 (5,877).

- Summaries of historical financial operating statements were reviewed (back to 2019), including a revised year-end projection for the current year 2023/24. A detailed source of funds was also provided, outlining the various sources of funding. Most of the organization's funding comes from Sport Canada and the Canadian Olympic Committee. Typically, Fees and Dues represent 20-30% of the total investment in National Sport Development and Operations funding. That variation results from funding received "ad-hoc" for specific, direct-funded initiatives such as Safe Sport or Community Sport for All.
- While the Bylaws require Fees and Dues to be reviewed and proposed annually, for the past three years the committee has repeated the recommendation that increases be added each year reflective of the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a matter of course (barring unforeseen circumstances), in order to avoid larger increases in the future. This year, the committee did have a robust discussion about the inflationary pressures that have been felt the last several months at all levels (club, provincial, national) and that "real" costs have increased much more than just the annual rate of inflation (i.e. travel, accommodation, etc.) Given the current economic environment, the Committee unanimously agreed that an increase in line with the current CPI (YoY at September 30, 2023) was very reasonable for the ensuing fiscal year. While seeking to maintain support for our organization's initiatives this does then place the onus on Rowing Canada's board to manage any shortfall.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Dues and Fees Committee recommends an upward increase of approximately\* 4% to the Base Participant Fee (\$26.25 to \$27.50) and Seat Fee (\$3.85 to \$4.00) which, while insufficient to fully keep up with increasing costs, is intended to limit its impact in the short term.

The Dues and Fees Committee also recommends an increase of approximately\* 4% in Club Membership Dues (\$440 to \$460), Special Association/Associate Organization Dues (\$545 to \$575) and Provincial Rowing Association Dues (\$765 to \$800).

\* rounded for simplified planning and accounting purposes

**Motion:**

*That the 2023 RCA Committee on Dues and Fees recommends making an increase of approximately 4% to all Dues and Fees for the fiscal year beginning on April 1,2024, which will give the following new fees and dues: Participant Fee \$27.50, Seat Fees \$4.00, Club Dues \$460, Special Association/Associate Organization Dues \$575, and Provincial Rowing Association Dues \$800.*

*Moved by: Walter Benko*

*Seconded by: Daphne Dumont*

The Dues and Fees Committee also wishes to bring the following statement and recommendation to the attention of the membership:

The committee was advised that Core Funding from Sport Canada has not increased since the early 2000s and operating costs have increased each and every year. In addition, the post-pandemic financial reality has been that many operating costs have increased well over the annualized CPI rate. In short, our sources of funding are not keeping up with increasing costs. This not only limits RCA's ability to expand programming and initiatives, but revenues are not keeping up with basic operating costs.

To this end, the committee was advised by the RCA Treasurer that a long-term financial strategy needs to be considered to ensure long-term sustainability and all fee structures will need to be considered through this process. The committee is supportive of this initiative.

Robert Paterson  
Chair, RCA Committee on Dues and Fees  
November 20, 2023