



Under 19 Rowing “Fair and Meaningful Competition” Working Group Terms of Reference

Effective date	May 1st, 2024
Date last reviewed	-
Scheduled review date	-
Replaces and/or amends	-
Approved by and date	RCA Board of Directors, April 28, 2024
Archived date	-
Appendix(-ces) to these Terms of Reference	-

1. Purpose

The U19 “Fair and Meaningful Competition” Rowing Working Group (The Working Group) is established by the Rowing Canada Aviron Board of Directors following their consideration of the findings and recommendations provided by the U19 Lightweight Rowing Working Group. The primary purpose of this Working Group is to ensure the safety and equitable participation of U19 athletes in rowing competitions while discontinuing U19 lightweight rowing and developing alternative approaches that promote fair and meaningful participation and competition.

2. Mandate

The Working Group will review the findings and recommendations from the U19 Lightweight Rowing Working Group. It will explore the consequences in discontinuing U19 lightweight rowing, propose alternative approaches, and develop an implementation plan with timelines. Thorough research will explore suitable category options considering athlete safety, fairness, and competitiveness. Collaboration with stakeholders such as coaches, athletes, umpires, event organizers and technical officials will ensure alignment with the rowing community’s needs for consideration by the RCA Board of Directors.

3. Key Duties

The Working Group will:

- Conduct a thorough review and assessment of the U19 Lightweight Rowing Working Group’s report and recommendations.
- Research and evaluate alternative categories for U19 athletes, considering factors such as age, skill level and rowing experience.

- Engage in open dialogue and consultation with stakeholders to gather diverse perspectives and insights on proposed changes to U19 rowing categories.
- Develop a detailed implementation plan that outlines the steps, timeline, and resources required to transition away from U19 lightweight rowing and introduce new categories.
- Provide ongoing communication and updates to the rowing community regarding the progress and outcomes of the Working Group's efforts.
- Collaborate with relevant RCA committees (Safety and Events, Umpires, Coach development), working groups (Rules of Racing), and RCA Staff as needed to address specific aspects of the mandate or to ensure alignment with broader organizational goals.
- Continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of implemented changes on athlete participation, safety, fairness and overall satisfaction with the sport of rowing.

4. **Composition**

A national call of expressions of interest for the Working Group will be conducted, with the appointment of the Chairperson being made from those identified, subject to approval by the RCA Board of Directors.

The Working Group shall consist of between seven (7) and nine (9) individuals with no more than 60% of one gender and the composition being as follows:

- One (1) Chairperson
- At minimum two (2) individuals with professional subject matter expertise
- At minimum three (3) individuals from member organizations (club, provincial or special association)
- At minimum one (1) individual nominated by RCA High Performance
- Other qualified individuals with relevant experience as approved by the CEO.

Should a vacancy occur on the Working Group, for whatever reason, the Chairperson may recommend to the CEO a qualified person to fill that vacancy for the remainder of the vacant position's term. The Board of Directors may remove any member of the Working Group.

5. **Terms**

The Term of the Working Group is 3 years. The term of the Working Group may be extended by the Board of Directors if required.

6. **Meetings and Resources**

The Working Group will meet by video conference. Meetings will be as called as required by the Chairperson. The Working Group will receive the necessary administrative support and resources from RCA to fulfill its mandate.

7. **Reporting**

The Working Group will report to the Board of Directors through the RCA CEO following each meeting, or as requested by the CEO or RCA Board. The Working Group will make its initial recommendations to the Board through the CEO in writing no later than November 1st, 2025 with further recommendations following subject to the mutual agreement of the Working Group and the RCA Board.