



COMMITTEE ON DUES AND FEES REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

RCA SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2025

RCA Committee on Dues and Fees Meeting Participants:

RCA Committee on Dues and Fees:

- British Columbia - **Judy Smith**
- British Columbia - **Audrey Tsai**
- Ontario - **Dave Boyd**
- Prairie Region - **Russell Hart**
- Quebec - **Daphné Bisson (Chair)**
- Atlantic Region - **Daphne Dumont**
- RCA President (ex-officio)- **Carol Purcer**
- RCA Treasurer (ex-officio) - **Derek Ventnor**

RCA Staff Support

- **Jennifer Fitzpatrick** - RCA Interim CEO/ 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, Daphné Bisson, was duly elected at the first meeting on October 8, 2024. The procedures, timetable and information that would be needed by the committee, was determined.

The Committee met again on October 27 to review and discuss a comprehensive portfolio of financial information, participant activity data and other relevant information. On November 7, the Committee met again 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 2024/2025 Participant Fees were set at \$27.50 per person, Regatta Seat Fees \$4.00 per event, Club Dues \$460, Provincial Rowing Association Dues \$800, and Special Rowing Associations and Associate Organizations \$575. This represented an ~ 4% increase over the previous year.

Member and Participant Activity was reviewed. Participant activity increased in 2023/2024 when compared to the previous year and now exceeds pre-pandemic levels. The majority of participants register in the first six-months of the financial year (April 1st to Sept 30th) and the 2024/25 half-year total is already at 11,680. During April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024, 5,181 participants with RCA numbers competed in RCA sanctioned regattas showing a 9.57% decrease from 2022-2023. Seat data shows an increase in the number of races per competitor for those who chose to race.

- Summaries of historical financial operating statements were reviewed (back to 2020), and an updated year-end projection for the current year 2024/25. Over the past several months RCA has undertaken many cost reduction strategies to address budget constraints and a deficit of ~ \$30,000 is currently presented for the 2024/2025 year.
- A detailed source of funds chart was also provided, outlining the various sources of funding. Most of the organization's funding comes from Sport Canada. Typically, RCA membership Dues and Fees 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 Community Sport for All.
- While the Bylaws require Fees and Dues to be reviewed and proposed annually, for the past four years the committee has considered 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. Similar to last year's committee, the committee did have a robust discussion about the financial pressures that have been felt the last several months at all levels (local, provincial, national) and concluded that "real" costs have increased much more than just the annual rate of inflation (i.e. travel, accommodation, etc.) and that we have not yet "caught up" with the shortfalls created from years of no increases. Given the current economic environment, the Committee unanimously agreed that an increase of 7% was reasonable for the ensuing fiscal year. This increase will mitigate the impact of the current projected shortfall. However it is important to note that due to anticipated increases in costs for the upcoming year the onus will be on Rowing Canada to complete additional work to avoid additional shortfalls.

- Following the community webinar on November 21, 2024, the committee discussed the consideration of increasing the seat fee by \$1.00, due to a suggestion that was made during the webinar. Based on recent competition trends, the committee determined this would impact primarily U19 rowers so it was decided to not proceed with that suggestion.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Dues and Fees Committee recommends an increase of approximately* 7% to the Base Participant Fee (\$27.50 to \$29.40) and Seat Fee (\$4.00 to \$4.30) which, while insufficient to fully keep up with increasing costs, is intended to limit their impact in the short term.

The Dues and Fees Committee also recommends an increase of approximately* 7% in Club Membership Dues (\$460 to \$490), Special Association/Associate Organization Dues (\$575 to \$615) and Provincial Rowing Association Dues (\$800 to \$855).

* rounded for simplified planning and accounting purposes

Motion:

That the 2024 RCA Committee on Dues and Fees recommends making an increase of approximately 7% to all Dues and Fees for the fiscal year beginning on April 1, 2025, which will give the following new fees and dues: Participant Fee \$29.40, Seat Fees \$4.30, Club Dues \$490, Special Association/Associate Organization Dues \$615, and Provincial Rowing Association Dues \$855.

Moved by: Russell Hart

Seconded by: Daphne Dumont

The committee was reminded that Core Funding from Sport Canada has not increased since the early 2000s and operating costs have increased each 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 the development of a long-term financial strategy is a priority for 2025 to ensure long-term sustainability and all fee structures will need to be considered through this process.

Daphné Bisson
Chair, RCA Committee on Dues and Fees
November 12, 2024