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Wynberg

ROWING SOUTH AFRICA



Street P.O. Box 2563
Parklands

Registration No. 079-580-NPO

2090
2121 Email: fow@rowsa.co.za
Website: www.rowsa.co.za

Tel: (011) 440 0965

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Dear Rowing Community

RE: SASRU and JUNIOR TOURS 2017

As we approach the final part of the 2017 season, this communication seeks to provide a clarity of the various bodies and their roles in South African Rowing as well as to clearly outline the processes to be followed for 2017.

National bodies and roles.

Our national rowing federation is Rowing South Africa (RowSA). RowSA is ultimately responsible for all rowing matters in the country and is the body that is recognised by our government and by FISA as having authority in all matters to do with our sport. RowSA is comprised of various constituent members who represent the athletes, the officials, the provinces etc.

The constituent members that have a direct involvement with Junior Rowing in the country are the South African Schools' Rowing Union, the Junior International Commission and the provincial structures. SASRU is responsible for school rowing in the country and administers the sport at a school level in accordance with school and educational policies. SASRU determines the events and categories for school regattas and hosts the annual Schools' Championships as well as the Schools' Boat Race.

The provincial structures are responsible for rowing in their provinces and will establish and manage the regattas and facilities in their provinces as well as the development and transformation requirements and policies of RowSA. Some provinces are further structured to have a specific schools' provincial body as in Gauteng but other provinces simply include school, club and provincial matters under one umbrella. Provincial structures also have the role of implementing the policies of RowSA, SASRU and JIC.

The Junior International Commission (JIC) is responsible for the administration and management of all national squads at a junior level. This includes the policies applicable, the selection of squads and coaches, the management of training and preparation, selection of events, management of tours and the award of Junior National Colours. The JIC also has a role to support junior rowing at a provincial level and to assist in the furthering of the broader RowSA transformation and development policies.

Selection to a Junior National Squad.

The process to be followed for an athlete or coach who wishes to be considered for selection to a Junior National Squad is relatively simple. All selection takes place through the provincial structures and athletes must adhere to the following procedure:

1. All athletes or coaches wishing to be considered for selection to a Junior National Squad must register on the national website through the online form provided. All athletes and coaches must hold South African citizenship. Registration for 2017 has closed but late registrations will be considered if application is made to the chair of the JIC.

2. Athletes will be able to qualify for provincial trials through one of three methods:
 - a. They must meet the national qualification time on one of the two 2000-meter ergometer assessments;
 - b. win a gold medal in one of the selection boat classes, or be within 2% of the gold medal time, at the SASRU Championships
 - c. or receive a wild card nomination from their provincial selection committee. Wild cards may only be applied for by the club coach and will only be considered if the athlete is close to the national standard and can demonstrate consistent results during the season both on the water and on the ergometer. Wild card applications must be sent to the Provincial Selection Panel one week before the SASRU Championship.
3. Athletes who have qualified to trial will be invited to attend provincial trials organised by their provinces at which provincial crews will be selected to prepare for participation at the national trials. The province is ultimately responsible for placing athletes into boat class (as prescribed by the JIC) combinations (up-to the province) as they feel best.
4. Once selected the provincial crews will continue to train under the provincial structure with provincial coaches up-to and including the national trials.
5. In May, a national selection regatta (national trials) will be held at Roodeplaat dam where all the respective provincial crews (selected via their provincial trials) will be invited to race against one another to determine the fastest provincial crew in the prescribed boat classes
 - a. The fastest crew will also need to meet a prognostic standard and if they do so, they will be selected to join the Junior National Squad.
6. Once selected, all crews transfer from provincial authority to national authority and the JIC takes over the management of all crews. The JIC will appoint the individual crew coaches but preference will generally be given to the provincial coach who qualified the crew.

This year the Junior World Championships will be staged in Trakai, Lithuania. The tour is scheduled to depart on the 28th July and return on the 7th August 2017, the finals will be raced on the 6th August.

Qualification takes place through the provinces with the national body only stepping in after the national selection regatta in May. The national bodies will, however, always be available to assist the provinces. Please note that prior to the national selection regatta on May 11, all communication pertaining to junior selection must be routed through your provincial structure. This includes all ergometer test data and information relating to wild card applications. Should you have any queries or wish to know the details regarding national qualification standards on the ergometer, prognostic requirements or selection boat classes, please contact your provincial chair or selection panel as detailed at the end of this communication.

Selection to the SASRU Development Squad.

The SASRU Development Squad is aimed at providing the top athletes at Under 16 level an opportunity to continue their season for a short period after the SASRU Championship, gain exposure to a squad environment and enjoy an opportunity to tour overseas for an enriching rowing cultural experience combined with exposure to foreign racing conditions and standards.

Due to the cost of touring overseas and the need to balance the lives of our school children, the decision has been taken to only include Under 16's in this squad as of this year. Attention is paid to contain the costs of this tour for example we attempt to borrow boats wherever possible. The priority is a quality experience for tour members at an affordable price.

To maintain the quality of the tour it has become necessary to address the numbers of the tour party as it is simply not logistically possible to source equipment of a suitable standard for large numbers or to pay the required individual attention to athletes.

The JIC administers the selection process, the tour planning, management and the preparation phase of the tour. SASRU retains the over-all authority for the squad as it is a Schools' tour and SASRU will therefore ratify all final coach and management appointments.

To qualify for selection to the SASRU Development Squad the following process is followed:

1. All Under 16 athletes nationally must complete a 2000meter assessment and submit their results directly to tdedlow@kes.co.za. Results of this assessment must be submitted by no later than 17h00 on 28 February 2017.
2. All gold medal winners in all schools' boat classes at Under 16 level at the SASRU Championship qualify for selection to the squad.
3. Where athletes win multiple events, they will qualify in the biggest boat class that they have won. In the event of the same athletes winning more than one boat class, the smaller boat classes will simply not be included for that specific year's tour.
4. No silver medallists will be considered for selection.
5. Should a school qualifying for the squad decline the invitation to tour, SASRU may elect to consider offering the tour to the silver medallist in that boat class. This decision will include discussion of the time differential, the season's performance and will be made entirely at the discretion of the JIC and SASRU.
6. No wild cards are applicable for the SASRU Development Squad.
7. The SASRU Development Squad will, in accordance with RowSA's broader transformation policies and objectives (gender included), include a minimum of 25% Black athletes. The chair of the JIC and the Junior National Head Coach will be responsible for the selection of Black athletes.

This year's squad will travel to England to compete at the Wallingford and Bedford regattas as well as visit Oxford and Henley amongst other sites of cultural and rowing interest. The tour is scheduled to depart on 27th April and return on the 7th May 2017.

If you believe that your child may be a part of this tour, please ensure that you start to apply for passports and unabridged birth certificates as soon as possible. We have a limited period between selection and departure and travel documentation can become problematic should you not attend to it early enough. We estimate the cost of this year's tour to be somewhere between 45 and 50-thousand-rand dependent on final numbers and exchange rate at time of payments. Should you feel that your child may be a part of this squad, please be aware of the expected costs and ensure that you start to address this matter now.

Policy making and decision taking in rowing.

Prior to the start of each season policies and decisions are discussed at RowSA, SASRU and JIC level. On each of these bodies there is an elected provincial representative who is responsible for communicating with all the members of his or her province. These representatives are elected by their own provinces.

We publish drafts of all policies and decisions and request comment and discussion from all committee or body members. The provincial representative is meant to circulate these drafts within their provinces, collate and discuss the responses and then present the consensus from their province. Every opinion is important to us and we all need to be cognisant of the roles played by all members of our community. Please engage with your provincial heads should be unhappy about anything or have a suggestion to improve our systems or structures. Please also accept that once you have done so decisions or policies may still be contrary to your beliefs as we work on democratic principles and often vote on important decisions. In this instance we need to support the decision made and not undermine it. We will always have the option of tabling it for discussion at the next meeting or presenting it in a different format.

Rowing is currently enjoying phenomenal success and an elevated profile nationally and internationally. This can only benefit the sport long term. Our sense of community is imperative in ensuring that this continues and the growth and empowerment of our provinces is crucial in this area. Please engage with your provincial heads, hold them accountable for representing you and together let's continue to grow our sport and our children.

Province	Chair	Selection Panel
Gauteng	Edward Goodier (egoodier@kes.co.za)	Lee-Ann Perssee leepersse@gmail.com Darryn Roff roffd@stbenedicts.co.za Ed Goodier EGoodier@kes.co.za
Eastern Cape	Chris Holliday / Bill Godfrey C.Holliday@sacschool.com billgodfrey.rowcoach@gmail.com	
Western Cape	Bevan Stephens b.stephens@somcol.co.za	
Kwazulu Natal	Adrian Higgins Adrianfh.mobile@gmail.com	

Yours sincerely



Trevor Dedlow
Chair – Junior IC