USRowing Event/Registered Regatta Planning Guidelines

Post-COVID-19

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(Substantive changes are highlighted in yellow.)

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content is provided for general informational purposes only. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about your return to training and competition.

The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, USRowing makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. The guidelines in this document are subject and subordinate to federal, state and local laws, rules, ordinances and regulations that apply to your event location (“Applicable Laws”). USRowing does not condone or recommend disregarding or engaging in conduct not in conformity with Applicable Laws. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the guidelines in this document and any Applicable Laws, the Applicable Laws shall control.

USRowing Guidelines for Event/Registered Regatta Planning

USRowing is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of our members. With that in mind, the purpose of this document is to provide local organizing committees and event planners with information they can use to help develop protocols to resume regattas and events in the context of COVID-19.

As this document is meant to guide both large and small regattas in varied locations with differing resources, it should be used to help each local organizing committee or event planner develop a plan that is specific to their situation. Many of the recommendations rely upon rules and regulations set forth by public health authorities, which will be different across the country. These recommendations should be adapted to match the local prevalence of COVID-19 in their area.

Additionally, it is every LOC and event planner’s responsibility to make sure SafeSport requirements, general rowing safety protocols and Registered Regatta requirements (if
applicable) are in place. Failure to provide a safe rowing environment are grounds for suspension or revocation of organizational membership and decertification of a regatta.

General Guidelines:

- All regattas must follow state and/or local rules and regulations set forth by the public health authorities including group size. When regulations differ between state and local authorities, organizations should follow the guidelines of the overriding authority for their location. Please check your state and local ordinances to confirm the overriding authority. Each organization’s protocols and policies should be clear as to whether state or local serves as the overriding authority.

- All LOCs and event planners must develop a risk mitigation plan, including a medical plan (see below), specific to COVID-19 for their specific venue/regatta. In consultation with the Chief Health Officer and the Chief Referee, the Regatta Director should sign off on the risk mitigation plan and ensure that it is being executed properly. The mitigation plan must be posted on the event website a minimum of seven days prior to the event and be available for review on site at the venue.

- Regattas must appoint a Chief Health Officer (e.g. doctor, registered nurse, local public health official, local emergency services director, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, etc.) for the event who has decision-making authority to cancel the event based upon public health risk. The Chief Health Officer should sign off on the medical plan and ensure that it is being executed properly. The Chief Health Officer should be independent of the Regatta Director.

- Only singles (1x) should be allowed to race at regattas in order to maintain proper physical/social distancing when physical/social distancing is recommended.

- At this time, it is recommended that no team boats should be allowed until physical/social distancing guidelines are lifted due to the possibility of the transmission of the disease through respiratory signature. A respiratory signature is the footprint we leave in the air every time we expel air from our lungs through our nose and/or mouth. This can be anything from simply exhaling to talking, laughing, sneezing or coughing.

In addition to physical/social distancing, masks should always be worn at the venue. Masks may be removed once on the water in a single but should be put back on when returning to the dock. Masks should be worn in addition to physical/social distancing.

- As every state, region and city will be different in their recovery, regattas should limit participants to their local areas to help prevent the spread of disease and avoid introducing the disease from another area. Event organizers should use maps provided by the states to help determine their region and “hot spots” for disease transmission.

- Events should be limited to one-day events, limiting the need for overnight stays. Limit participation to crews from organizations who can safely drive to and from the event on the same day (roughly 120-140-mile radius or a two-hour drive.) In addition, participants should be limited to those who come from areas that meet the WHO recommendations regarding infection rates (50 new cases per 100k) listed above.
• Events should limit spectators as much as possible and follow state and local guidance on whether to allow spectators. If spectators are permitted, individuals should minimize in-person contact with people not residing in the same household. Individuals should practice physical/social distancing, wear face masks, wash or sanitize hands frequently and avoid sharing utensils or other common objects.

Financial Impact of Cancellation
• It is likely that events will frequently need to be cancelled due to recurrent outbreaks of COVID-19, making event planning less predictable. Event organizers should consider if the financial impact of an event cancellation close to the time of the event will have a significant negative financial impact on the event organizer, associated organizations, athletes, officials, or spectators.
• Event organizers should also consider whether the financial risk can be mitigated through means such as event insurance, establishing financial impact timelines for cancellation, rescheduling the event for a later date, or negotiating a contract that limits negative financial impact (e.g., no guaranteed hotel blocks, no guaranteed minimum catering costs, etc.).

Event Date/Location
When choosing an Event Date, consider the following:
What are the state and/or local rules and regulations set forth by the public health authorities, including group size and physical/social distancing requirements, and what are the available public health resources in the local area? Which entity (state or local) serves as the overriding authority?
• Have athletes had enough time to adequately prepare for the event in order to decrease their chance of injury and compete at the appropriate level?
• Is the venue prepared to and capable of meeting additional safety and sanitation requirements by the scheduled date? These include:
  - Develop, train, and implement increased daily sanitization protocols for common surfaces, restrooms, equipment, and facilities.
  - Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available throughout the venue and facilities.
  - The following CDC links provide further guidance on cleaning and disinfecting your venue/facilities and sanitation protocols.
    - Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility
    - Considerations for Youth Sports
    - CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President’s Plan for Opening America Up Again (pages 45-48)

When choosing an Event Location, consider the following:
• Choose an area with limited or no active COVID-19 transmission.
• Limit participants to the local area to help prevent the spread of the disease. Remember that when people travel from outside the region, they are introducing the risk of the region
from which they came and increasing the risk to the region to which they are returning.
Limit participation to crews from organizations who can safely drive to and from the
event on the same day (roughly 120-140-mile radius or a two-hour drive.)
• Events should be limited to one-day events, limiting the need for overnight stays.
• In addition to the infrastructure and available resources normally expected to run a
Registered Regatta (e.g., venue security, transportation, lodging, restaurants, etc.), does
the area have the necessary public health resources to support running a regatta at this
time?
• If lodging is required, are there enough rooms available to practice proper physical/social
distancing?
• Does the venue have separate access/egress routes for athletes, coaches, event staff,
spectators, etc.?
• Does the venue have enough dock space and trailer space to properly social distance
when physical/social distancing is required?
• Does the venue provide for an appropriate medical setup and is there a way to isolate a
person with a suspected infection?
• Under the current COVID-19 circumstances, does the regatta have the required number
of referees to ensure the safety and fairness of the regatta?
• Do the regatta organizers provide appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) when
needed to ensure the safety of referees and other volunteers?
• Is there signage and other means of communication that provides information on what to
do if an individual begins to feel sick or there is suspicion of possible COVID-19
infection at the venue?

Event Planning
• Regattas must appoint a Chief Health Officer (e.g. doctor, registered nurse, local
public health official, local emergency services director, nurse practitioner, physician
assistant, etc.) for the event who has decision-making authority to cancel the event
based upon public health risk. The Chief Health Officer should sign off on the
medical plan and ensure that it is being executed properly. The Chief Health Officer
should be independent of the Regatta Director.
• All LOCs and event planners must develop a risk mitigation plan, including a medical
plan (see below), specific to COVID-19 for their specific venue/regatta. In
consultation with the Chief Health Officer and the Chief Referee, the Regatta Director
should sign off on the risk mitigation plan and ensure that it is being executed
properly. The mitigation plan must be posted on the event website a minimum of
seven days prior to the event and be available for review on site at the venue.
• Events must have a risk mitigation plan in place in order to be approved as a
Registered Regatta. The risk mitigation plan must be sent to USRowing at least one
month prior to the regatta date for initial review.
• Use the following World Health Organization resources to help assess the risk of your
event and develop your risk mitigation plan.
Key Planning Recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the Context of the Current COVID-19 Outbreak

Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19

WHO mass gatherings COVID-19 risk assessment tool for sporting events

Mass gatherings COVID-19 decision tree

- Obtain approval for the event from local government authorities in accordance with Applicable Laws.
- Work closely with county and state public health authorities to obtain the most accurate information regarding the local COVID-19 situation, facilitate sharing of information, ensure coordination of public health resources, and ensure proper public health policies and procedures are in place.
- Develop a medical plan with particular attention to COVID-19 factors.
- Determine who will be allowed at the event.
  - Group people into Tiers from essential to non-essential and decide which Tiers will be allowed at the event.
    - Tier 1 (Essential): Athletes, coaches, officials, event staff, medical staff, security, anti-doping officials, essential volunteers (stakeboat holders, safety/referee launch drivers, etc.)
    - Tier 2 (Preferred): Media, remaining volunteers, recovery staff (e.g., massage therapists)
    - Tier 3 (Non-essential): Spectators, vendors

Criteria for Attending/Participating in the Event

- Limit attendees/participants to the local area (people who can safely drive to and from the event on the same day - roughly 120-140-mile radius or a two-hour drive) to help prevent the spread of the disease and avoid introducing the disease from another area. Event organizers should use maps provided by the states to help determine their region and “hot spots” for disease transmission.
- Events should be limited to one-day events, limiting the need for overnight stays.
- If an athlete has had a case of documented COVID-19 infection, they need to be medically cleared by their physician to participate in the competition. It is the competing organization’s responsibility to ensure that its athletes have been cleared to compete.
- Attendees/participants who have had contact with anyone who has had COVID-19 within 14 days of the event need to have met with their physician to assess viability of safe participation.
- Encourage individuals at high risk for severe illness not to attend the event.
  - Risk factors include:
    - > 65 years of age
    - Moderate to severe asthma
    - Chronic lung disease
    - Serious heart conditions
• Immunocompromised
• Severe obesity
• Diabetes
• Liver disease
• Living in a nursing home or long-term care facility

**Event Medical Plan**
The event medical plan should pay particular attention to COVID-19 factors. This plan should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Identify local healthcare resources (e.g., urgent care facilities, emergency rooms, ambulance services)
  - Notify them of the event time and location
  - Develop the event’s medical plan with their input
  - Create a flyer with the name, address and contact number for local healthcare resources that can be given to athletes, coaches, event staff, officials, media and spectators.
- Establish the medical team leadership structure.
- Determine the required number and type of medical personnel.
- Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of medical team members.
- Ensure all event medical personnel has completed COVID-19 education.
- Determine how to address a potential case of COVID-19 at the venue.
- Determine necessary medical supplies and infrastructure to address a potential case of COVID-19.
  - Appropriate PPE supplies for staff (medical, cleaning crews, referees, volunteers, etc.)
  - On-site medical facility or medical transport
  - Isolation protocols
  - Communication protocols

**Prevention Measures**
- Event organizers should be able to control access to high-traffic areas of the venue.
- Provide pre-event communications guidance on the criteria for attending/participating in the event (listed above) to all those planning to attend.
- Promote self-monitoring for signs and symptoms both before and during the event through a variety of communications platforms including email, website, social media, handouts, posters, announcements, texts, etc.
- Encourage those with symptoms to remain at home.
- Provide policies or screening procedures for those permitted access to the venue.
- Consider screening anyone attending/participating in the venue for signs and
symptoms (including temperature checks) of COVID-19.

- Have event staff observe individuals at the venue for signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If an individual is identified with these signs and symptoms, follow your established medical plan for addressing a potential case of COVID-19.
- Develop procedures that ensure physical/social distancing at the venue including entrances, exits, lightweight weigh-in areas, docks, boatyard, and spectator seating areas.
- Team tent areas should not be allowed unless proper physical/social distancing can be maintained within the tent and between team tents. Buffet-style food service should be prohibited in team tents or in concession areas.
- Provide hand sanitizer in multiple targeted locations throughout the venue (i.e., near areas/items frequently touched by multiple people).
- Public drinking fountains should be closed.
- Each individual should provide their own water, hydration and food.
- Athletes should use their own towel and hygiene products.
- Provide facial tissue throughout the venue with adjacent trash receptacles.
- Establish a frequent cleaning schedule for high-touch areas using disinfectant before, during, and after the event.
- Athletes should use and handle their own equipment. If this is not possible, equipment must be cleaned before and after each use.
- Weigh-in scales should be cleaned before and after each use.
- Staff performing cleaning should wear appropriate PPE to prevent contact with potentially contaminated surfaces/items and protect from toxicity associated with cleaning products.
- Create a notification process for all event athletes, coaches, event staff, media, spectators and vendors if the organizers/medical personnel learn of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the event.

Insurance Guidance from Assured Partners

“Exclusion of Loss Due to Virus or Bacteria Endorsement CP 01 40 07 06
This endorsement makes an explicit statement regarding a risk that is not covered under your Commercial Property insurance. It points out that there is no coverage under such insurance for loss or damage caused by or resulting from any virus, bacterium or other microorganism that induces or can induce physical distress, illness or disease.” **

What Does this Exclusion Mean for Return to Rowing?
During this unprecedented time, much uncertainty surrounds the above policy language. Philadelphia Insurance Company is ultimately the final arbiter on the application of this policy language to any individual situation. However, it is important for Rowing members to be aware
of this policy language, as well as the policy’s other terms and conditions, when making decisions about operating in a COVID-19 environment. At a minimum, there is significant uncertainty about all of the insurance-related implications of COVID-19 and members should proceed cautiously.

Mitigation Advisories
All club board members should be assessing their federal, state, and local mandates daily for updates to any social-distancing protocol. Upon reopening, there should be evident precautionary measures put in place. Signs stressing the importance of maintaining social distance, hand sanitizer stations, masks and gloves while on-premise before launching, and strong disinfectant procedures upon return of used oars are just a few possible recommendations. See our website for important COVID information at https://www.assuredpartners.com/Coronavirus-Resources

Will My USRowing Coverage be Negated Due to COVID?
If your organization is currently a member in good standing, all verbiage within the master policy is still in force upon return to rowing. This includes coverage for member club premises and member club operations including, but not limited to, camps/clinics, on-water practices, events and activities otherwise not excluded. The same applies for registered regattas. If you are a USRowing-sanctioned regatta in good standing, all verbiage within the master policy is in force for the regatta.

Please Note: Failure to abide by federal, state, and local mandates including, but not limited to, physical/social distancing protocols may lead to possible gray areas within the verbiage of your policy. If practices take place prior to your state’s green light reopening phase or a regatta is held contrary to federal, state and local guidelines, it may potentially impact the USRowing General Liability insurance.

Policy Lines
Your club’s General Liability insurance through USRowing is just one of the many coverage options that may exist for your club. We recommend taking the time to check the status of your Equipment, Directors and Officers, Property, and Auto as well. These are separate, stand-alone policies that can be reviewed with an Assured Partners Account Executive upon request.

**As per the Philadelphia Insurance Company policy #PHPK2078245 Insured USRowing et al**