

LDS/SBH in a Covid-19/socially distanced world.

Initial thoughts.
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We are now getting to the stage where we need to start thinking about what effect Covid-19 may have on the Sculling Series competitions. At present it is impossible to know what the situation will be like in 3 months time but we do have to start making best-guess plans. We undoubtedly need to consider all of our existing documentation and risk assessments in light of the situation.

Below is an area/task based breakdown of likely considerations. At this stage these have not been reviewed by the LDS team (blame Richard not them!). It is likely incomplete and may in cases by wide of the mark.

We fully expect British Rowing to provide advice/guidelines as we get nearer to resuming racing along with changing government rules and guidance too.

Events Offered

- Dependent on government/British Rowing Regulations.
- Possible we may need to limit things to smaller boats or accept less entries.
- May need to do a greater number of smaller divisions.
- If we have to restrict entries we need to consider how to do this in a fair manner.
- It may also be that British Rowing are restricting competition to local clubs so we may not be able to travel as far and wide as normal – if so then would have to consider impact on availability of officials!

Entries/Draw

- Already done socially distanced.
- No procedural changes anticipated.

Number Packs

- Can be prepared single person.
- Do we need to consider cross contamination both for packer, club co-ordinator and crews?
- Could potentially fit bow-slot numbers when boating/de-boating – but will slow things down.
- Paper number important for 2nd chance crew identification/marshalling.

Control/Weigh-in

- Substitutions primarily done online – can already do that.
- Handing out numbers – control → club → competitors. How can we reduce risks here? See number packs above.

Clubhouse

- Toilets – likely we will need these given the amounts of time on the water etc.
- Changing – for the most part cars/vehicles could be used. But may need alternative in cold/wet weather.
- Showers – likely only needed for capsized/medical need etc. Others encouraged to go straight home and shower there.

- Shelter – encourage shelter in cars & other vehicles.
- Masks, handwash/sanitising etc. inside?

Boating Area

- Maximise distance between crews. Do we need larger boating/parking areas?
- What about sharing of boats/equipment between divisions (LDS/SBH).
- Can we spread out arrival/departure times – ask crews to leave ASAP after racing?
- Will clubs use trailers or will (smaller) boats travel separately?

Control Commission

- Weigh-in – should we suspend this? If we keep it could we weigh in outside?
- What boat checks should we do? Clubs are responsible for preparing their own boats.
- Key checks likely – bow balls, heel restraints, buoyancy.

Landing Stages

- Who helps crews get onto/off the water?
- Do we need to clean/sanitise the area?
- How do we manage queues – need to social distance whilst queuing.

Marshalling

- Ask land based marshals to work alone where possible. If they work in a team when team should be socially distanced.
- Think about radio, megaphone, clipboard use/re-use during the day.
- If boat based we need two in a boat. Need to consider how to do that in a socially distanced manner.
- Travel to far end of the course (by car?) may require more vehicles.

Racing/Rescue

- For the most part racing should be socially distant (assuming those within a crew are already deemed to be socially distant).
- Rescue teams need to consider how they work. Definitely need advice from British Rowing and rescue teams on this.

Umpiring/Race Monitor

- Most umpiring considerations are similar to those concerning marshalling.
- Note that the average age of our umpires is around 60 so some may be shielding. National policy is that there is no obligation for umpires to make themselves available. If there are not enough umpires available then that is a sign that we should not be holding the competition.
- Any umpiring discussions should likely take place via radio, phone or outside in a socially distanced group.

Timekeeping

- Team can work at each location in a distanced manner. We may need to fence off the start and finish areas to ensure that spectators don't gather and crowd things out.
- Need to clean equipment between divisions.
- Could get away with smaller teams but would prefer to keep standard team sizes to minimise chances of errors/delays.
- Consider transport issues.

Results

- Checking results usually takes two people. We could do this virtually (it is all online anyway). But it does really require some interaction to check issues and ensure that the correct penalties are applied.
- Whatever happens we should limit access to the place where results are being collated.
- Results are available electronically immediately when published. Just need to ensure we have the website/social media teams ready to disseminate it.
- Maybe we should not bother with paper copies of the results. Providing them provides virus transmission paths and also encourages people to gather around a noticeboard/wall.

Prizes

- A mass prizegiving seems like an unnecessary risk. Much better to give prizes out individually or maybe distribute via clubs etc.

Catering

- Will need to follow government guidance.
- Maybe we should not provide catering – but this would impact on club incomes.
- If catering is offered maybe serve via an outside door/window. Not sure this would be practical at all venues.
- Would need to put effort into managing queues for this.

First Aid/Rescue

- Need to take relevant guidance into account.

Transport

- Consider parking arrangements. Will there be more vehicles due to requirements to NOT rideshare.
- What about minibus/coaches – these are often used to provide shelter for club members.
- We may need to restrict on-site car parking to make more room for boats to be spaced out.

Venue Specifics

- Not considered at the moment. These items need considering in conjunction with the local teams.