



3 September 2020

Dear SASRU Member schools

An online meeting of the SASRU Executive took place on Wednesday, 2 September 2020. In attendance were Andre Oosthuysen (President), Gill Jeffrey (Deputy President), the regional reps (Adrian Higgins, Bevan Stephens, Bill Godfrey and Darryn Roff), Paul Carstensen (Administrator), Nadine de Reuck (Secretary) and Sean Kerr (RowSA President). Ed Goodier was also in attendance to provide input regarding the 2020 Boatrace.

The following decisions were made:

(1) In terms of the legislation currently available, a suspension on school sport remains in place. For schools, regulations issued by the Department of Education supersede those issued by the Department of Sport and Recreation. Neither SASRU nor RowSA, therefore, have the authority to give member schools permission to resume training on land or on water. Likewise, In terms of legislation currently available, inter school competition remains suspended.

It must be made absolutely clear, therefore, that schools who have or who are planning to return to training of any sort do so of their own volition and assume all of the legal responsibilities and potential risks involved.

Schools who (despite these guidelines) commence training are strongly encouraged to ensure that they are fully aware of and compliant with the recommended COVID-19 protocols that have been put in place by RowSA. These have once again been shared by Adrian Higgins and will be circulated digitally to all member schools to facilitate forward planning.

(2) Working with the information currently at our disposal, the decision was made to cancel the 2020 Schools Boat race.

A number of factors influenced this decision but the overriding concerns were the ban on inter school competition which is anticipated to remain in place for 2020 and the social distancing restrictions which will greatly increase accommodation and transport costs for traveling schools. These increased costs can ill be borne by both rowing parents and schools during these difficult economic times. The challenges that state schools are currently facing in terms of the shifts in their end of year calendar and the time frames required to apply for and be granted permission to tour/travel were also a contributing factor.

The decision is a disappointing one but is in line with the thinking of the vast majority of Gauteng school heads who were polled and who have indicated that they were not in favour of the event taking place and would not permit their rowers and coaches to participate.

Ed Goodier and the regional reps will work on a proposal to host a virtual event, possibly towards the end of October. Details will follow as soon as possible.

(3) Efforts are currently underway to ensure that the weed at Roodeplaat is cleared in time for an envisaged return to water training and competition in January 2021. There is little likelihood that Gauteng Champs will take place towards the end of October but it is hoped that the 2021 SA Schools Champs will be hosted at Roodeplaat as usual. Schools shared their willingness to assist RowSA in whatever way possible.

The RowSA AGM is planned for October 2020.

Kind regards

**ANDRE OOSTHYSEN**  
**SASRU PRESIDENT**

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