



## JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Rowing Australia Board Room  
6pm, January 20<sup>th</sup> 2026

### Attendees

Board: Kent Peters, Tobias Wehr Candler, Hugo Ellwood (Director of Finance), Catherine Garrington, Virginia Hayward, Peter Wright

Staff: Sarah Davoren (Executive Officer)

Apologies: Jaime Fernandez, Kathryn Ross

Meeting Opened 6:06pm with an acknowledgement of country.

### 1. Register of Interests

Tobias Wehr-Candler noted he is no longer working at Omni Executive and will commence a new role at Deloitte from February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Catherine Garrington noted that the Australian Sports Commission have asked her to participate in a video around coaching officials during one of the upcoming ACT Regattas. She also noted that she would be providing mentoring services to Rowing Queensland at their upcoming State Championships, with all expenses and an honorarium paid.

### 2. Acceptance of Minutes

#### *a. Minutes from the November Meeting*

Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record with no amendments.

#### *b. Outstanding Actions*

Taken as noted.

### 3. Director of Finance Report (Hugo Ellwood)

Hugo Ellwood noted a loss for December, with a small loss for the Year to Date, though a profit is currently forecasted for the year. Overall expenditure for the year has increased compared to last year. The HP and Pathways Program showed a slight loss for the month, though are tracking ahead of budget. Hugo Ellwood commented that there was a delay in some expenses being invoiced which did reflect in the program being ahead of budget. A small loss for the year is forecasted. Cash position remains strong.

Sarah Davoren and Catherine Garrington updated the board on the Industry Partnership Program expenses and plan for the upcoming year.

Catherine Garrington queried whether the income from the Golden Oar had been received and if so whether the umpire honorariums could be process

**ACTION:** Sarah Davoren to email umpires around payments for the Golden Oar.

Minutes approved February 17<sup>th</sup> 2026



#### **4. Operations Report (Sarah Davoren)**

Taken as read.

The EO informed the board that in the previous week, the ACT Academy of Sport had confirmed the donation of boats and oars previously listed on their asset register to Rowing ACT. The board commended the EO and Lead Coach on their work for this transfer.

The EO updated the board on an internship with UC to occur over the coming months, as well as the extension of a casual contract for a regatta assistant to the end of the 2025/26 season.

The board also noted the temporary closure of Volunteer of the Regatta Supporters, Café Farmers Daughter and noted that they were comfortable with Café Farmers Daughter continuing as of the Volunteer of the Regatta Program supporters once they have reopened.

The board congratulated several individuals named as award winners during November and December 2025, including:

- Stuart John – Volunteer of the Year, Rowing Australia Rower of the Year
- Caroline Pijpers – Service to Rowing, Rowing Australia Rower of the Year
- Catherine Garrington – Highly Commended, Inclusion Award, Volunteering ACT Awards
- Digital Optimisation of Regattas – Ministers Award for Innovation, CBR Sports Awards

The board also noted the number of athletes invited to the NTC and U23 Camps in December and upcoming training camps, with congratulations to all athletes.

Catherine Garrington noted it was pleasing to see a casual coach has been made available to the Performance Pathways Program and that they would potentially be available to cover throughout 2026.

#### **5. Councillor Update – Rowing Australia Strategic Forum (Tobias Wehr-Candler)**

Taken as read. Tobias Wehr-Candler noted that following raised concerns around the Rowing Australia Constitutional Changes, a meeting with council will be held in the coming weeks to discuss the changes.

Tobias Wehr-Candler noted that during the Strategic Forum in December, Rowing Australia's Primary Medical Officer, Dr Larissa Trease provided information on Heart Health and Sudden Cardiac Arrest and the need for AED's to support survival chances. The board noted that whilst all regattas during the regatta season have a paramedic onsite, the winter time trials do not, and as such considered whether RACT should investigate the purchase of an AED for the winter season or partner with organisations such as Lifebeat to support the placement of publicly accessible ones. The board also discussed establishing an audit for clubs and schools around where accessible AEDS can be located around Lake Burley Griffin.



**ACTION:** The Executive Officer to research AED costs and prepare for the board to consider

**ACTION:** The Executive Officer to prepare a survey for clubs on AED's within clubs.

## **6. Safety Sub-Committee Report** (Catherine Garrington)

Taken as read. Catherine Garrington commented on the positive attendance and discussion at the last Safety Officers Meeting in December.

Incidents reported since the last meeting were:

13/01 – Near miss reported by club boats with unidentified schoolboy eights between Black Mountain Peninsula and Yarralumla Bay. Eights were on incorrect side of the lake, accompanied by coach boats.

05/01 – Collision reported between club double and school single at the finish line of the Yarramundi Reach course. Single capsized when pushed off the double, two coaches present who assisted. No damage to people or boats reported.

16/12 – Email received from club regarding school crew conducting sprint training on the Golden Oar sprint course in contradiction to the published traffic flow.

12/12 – Near miss reported by one club single in Lane 7 traveling to the finish line and avoided a club double stationary in the same lane. No collision reported.

12/12 – Near miss reported by a second club single traveling to the finish line when a school quad stopped midcourse and turned into their lane, possibly avoiding a further crew. No collision reported.

12/12 – Near miss reported by a third club single in Lane 5 traveling to the finish line when a school quad stopped mid-course. No collision reported.

## **7. Items for Decision**

### *a. Casual Vacancy*

Following Alice Arch's decision to resign from the RACT Board on 24<sup>th</sup> November, the board was asked to consider individuals to fill the casual vacancy. The board considered the skills matrix and the gender balance as recommended by the Sports Governance Standards.

**DECISION:** The board will deliberate on suitable candidates and look to make a decision at the February meeting.

### *b. Start Platform Upgrades*

Following ongoing consideration to upgrading the start platforms to mitigate the risks of capsizing the board discussed different options and the implications on the platforms for the different options. The board determined further information around the potential options was required.



**ACTION:** The EO will discuss with the NCA what type of permanent moorings are permitted on the regatta course, as well as the effect of adding additional buoyancy on the potential transportation of the platforms.

*c. Risk Management Policy*

The board considered the revision to the risk management policy, as well as the addition of the strategic risk register to the policy.

**DECISION:** The board endorses the revised risk management policy as presented and the adoption of the policy and resulting strategic risk register.

It was noted that the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee have changed their title to the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee.

*d. Interstate Team Squad*

The board considered the squad and coach recommendations from the selectors following the final selection activity the previous weekend. The board commented on the strong nominations for the 2026 Interstate Regatta and that it was pleasing to see such high interest in representing the ACT.

Kent Peters asked the selectors and coaches to confirm all nominees were willing to travel to Tasmania to compete.

**DECISION:** The board endorsed the recommendations of selections for all crews as noted.

Virginia Hayward asked whether suitable uniforms had been prepared for the teams, of which the EO confirmed and asked the board to consider whether there should be any support offered to the Interstate Team for travel. It was noted that whilst this had not previously occurred, this could be considered by the board in future.

Tobias Wehr-Candler queried whether a manager should be appointed for the Interstate Team, with the EO commenting that a position description would need to be determined.

**ACTION:** The EO will work with the Lead Coach and Tobias Wehr-Candler to finalise a position description for a Team Manager.

## **8. Items for Discussion**

*a. RevolutioniseSport Agreement*

Following ongoing discussions around the transition to a new membership platform, the board was presented with an agreement for the usage of the software for discussion. The board determined that whilst RACT still intends to move forward utilising the platform, no decision or agreement can be made without understanding the positions of other states, noting this should be a national platform.

*b. National Sporting Organisations Affiliation Fee – 2026 / 27*



The board discussed the upcoming increases noted for the National Sporting Organisations Affiliation Fee as circulated by Rowing Australia, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026. Noting a reasonable increase to RACT's payment to Rowing Australia compared to previous years, the board discussed the appropriate measures to ensure the necessary amount was recouped without impacting the daily operations for Rowing ACT, as well as the appropriate measures to make the payment to Rowing Australia

#### **9. Items for Noting**

##### **a. Special Purpose Working Group**

The board noted the chair of the Special Purpose Working Group has resigned due to work commitments and as such a new chair would need to be considered.

**ACTION:** The EO will circulate an update to members of the Special Purpose Working Group, with the board to consider an appropriate chair for the group.

#### **10. Other Business**

- a. Virginia Hayward noted that with the EO, the Strategic Priorities for the upcoming year had been drafted and would be included for decision at the February Board Meeting, in addition to a revised board calendar.
- b. Tobias Wehr-Candler queried the status of open integrity matters, with Kent Peters updating the board on open matters.
- c. Peter Wright queried whether there needed to be any focus on facilities for RACT, with the board commenting this should be an ongoing focus but not one to prioritise.
- d. Peter Wright queried whether there were any opportunities to expand Indoor Rowing opportunities off the back of the success of the erg relay at the Golden Oar. Sarah Davoren and Catherine Garrington commented on current events and the opportunity to expand these events with the addition of an intern who will focus on developing an indoor rowing series.

Sarah Davoren departed 8:30pm

#### **In camera session**

Required

Meeting closed 8:35pm

Minutes approved February 17<sup>th</sup> 2026