

NZRA 2021 Rule Review - Suggested changes and areas for consultation						
Overview of issues and suggested changes						
Below is a summary of the changes that have been suggested as part of the NZRA 2021 Rule Review. <b>Note: these have been suggested by members of the rowing community and not by Rowing New Zealand.</b>						
A description of the issue is provided (i.e. why is there an issue with the current rule), as well as the exact wording of the current 2020 Rule						
Suggested wording for the 2021 Rules (in red or strike-out to show the difference) is provided where appropriate. Some areas require further discussion/consultation before specific wording can be provided.						
The below is also split into three sections. The first section includes changes that will likely be of interest to the entire rowing community; the second section will likely be of interest to regatta officials/regatta organisers; the third is a tidy up section.						
The current Rules are here: <a href="https://www.rowingnz.kiwi/Attachment?Action=Download&amp;Attachment_id=1034">https://www.rowingnz.kiwi/Attachment?Action=Download&amp;Attachment_id=1034</a>						
Associations will be able to provide feedback through their Rules Contact Person via Google Sheets (an example in PDF will be shared with rowing community) or by sending to <a href="mailto:review@rowingnz.kiwi">review@rowingnz.kiwi</a> to be incorporated						
This must be done by Sunday 14 March 2021, or earlier. Opportunities for discussion on these changes will be provided at some regattas in January and February (to be confirmed).						
After Sunday 14 March 2021, feedback from Associations will be incorporated and a second document will be published with hopefully final versions of the Rules to be considered. Suggested changes likely not to receive support from Associations will be removed						
Note: A small number of suggestions have been made regarding Rule 13: Classification According to Ability. These are not being covered here and will be handled by the Rule 13 classification committee so that Associations have direct input						
Ref	Rule Reference	Topic	Description of Issue	Current 2020 Rule	Possible/Suggested 2021 wording	Commentary
1	Rule 1.3	Definitions of Major and Local Regattas	The definitions of "Major Regatta" and "Local Regatta" are broad. Both regattas have the ability to add local clauses that effectively allow for the departure from the Rules of Racing. The question has been raised are these definitions for regattas fit for purpose.	Rule 1.3(b): "Major regatta - conducted at venues where facilities and rules are close to those of a Championship regatta, and may have local clauses added to the conditions to suit the time of the season and the ability of the crews." Rule 1.3(c): "Local Regatta - run by a Local Association in their area on a course that may not conform to national standards of fairness or length or straightness. Local Associations may hold their regattas at a Major Regatta Location, and still be considered a Local Regatta, and may have local clauses added to the conditions to suit the time of the Season and the ability of the crews." See also Appendix B (Regulations for Regattas)	Suggested rule change not provided at this stage - further feedback on how to address this issue is needed.	In essence there isn't much difference between a Major Regatta or Local Regatta. Is it worth even having this distinction? Should the ability to add local clauses be stricter/confined to certain areas to ensure consistency with NZRA Rules? There may be possible implications on training for race officials.
2	Rule 7	List of Events	Currently, the list of events at Nationals is confirmed at the AGM in the year after the Olympics. Appendix A of the Rules lists the Championship events, but not all events that we have at Nationals.	"The list of all events at the New Zealand Rowing Championships shall be confirmed by the NZRA annual general meeting held in the year following the Olympic Games regatta for the following four years. NZRA shall decide the order of events."	"The list of all events at the New Zealand Rowing Championships <b>is contained in Appendix A</b> . NZRA shall decide the order of events." <i>The entire list of events at the New Zealand Rowing Championships is also added to Appendix A.</i>	The outcome of this suggested change is that: The event list at Nationals becomes part of the Rules of Racing. A proposal to change the events would therefore require a 75% majority of Associations. The list would still only be able to be changed at a Rule Change AGM. However, the list of events could be changed under Article 25 or Article 26 of the Constitution. A key concern here needs to be that clubs have certainty.
3	Rule 7.2(a)(2)	Exhibition Events Medals	Currently, if you place 1st 2nd or 3rd in an exhibition event you do not get a proper Nationals medal. It has been suggested that you should be able to and that in practice these people are normally awarded medals anyway (just not the proper Nationals medal).	"...An exhibition event: 1. shall only be open to crews not contemplated under the existing Rules; 2. shall not be eligible for medals, awards or trophies; and 3. shall be in addition to, not part of, the list of events."	"...An exhibition event: 1. shall only be open to crews not contemplated under the existing Rules; <del>2. shall not be eligible for medals, awards or trophies; and</del> <del>3. shall be in addition to, not part of, the list of events.</del>	Note: Showcase Events at Nationals are currently Exhibition Events. Should a special definition be added? Note: Need to keep in mind the intention of Showcase Events etc.
4	Rule 9	Definition of Season	This issue has been raised because of the impact it has on Masters rowers. Currently, if a Masters Rower starts rowing in January, attends a regatta (and rows as a novice), they lose their novice status immediately after Maadi. So they cannot row as novice at NZ Masters which would be their first Masters Champs.	"A Season commences on the first day of September and ends immediately after NZSSRA's New Zealand championships the following year. The period between Seasons is an off-season."	Suggested rule change not provided at this stage - further feedback on how to address this issue is needed. Suggest this is also an area for the classification committee.	Changing the definition of Season does not necessarily solve the issue (i.e. if Season becomes 1 September to 31 August, NZ Masters Champs would need to be held in August which currently it is not). This would also go against what Associations have previously decided on this issue (The original thinking was that Masters should be able to start in the winter (after Maadi) and compete as novice masters at NZ Masters Champs, rather than compete against people who have already raced an entire club season (as club novices). Any change to the definition of novice is a Rule 13 matter and would need to be looked at by classification committee. Is this something that could better be addressed by looking at events on offer at NZ Masters Champs?

5	Rule 16	Qualification Requirements (Non-Resident Competitors)	It has been suggested that the date in Rule 16 be amended from 1 December to 1 January. I.e. non-resident competitors can compete provided they have met the requirements stipulated by 1 January instead of 1 December.	"Before a non-resident competitor can represent a New Zealand club at a Championship Regatta run under these rules the competitor shall be required to meet the following criteria: a) Be living in New Zealand before 1 December in the Season in which they wish to race. b) Submit a letter to confirm their membership from the club of affiliation to NZRA. c) Submit a rowing CV to NZRA for approval of classification before 1 December in the Season in which they wish to race. d) Have acquired a NZRA Competition Licence before 1st December in the Season in which they wish to race. e) In order to represent the club at Championship Regattas they shall have represented the club of affiliation at 2 or more regattas before the Championship Regatta they intend to enter."	"Before a non-resident competitor can represent a New Zealand club at a Championship Regatta run under these rules the competitor shall be required to meet the following criteria: a) Be living in New Zealand before <b>1 January</b> in the Season in which they wish to race. b) Submit a letter to confirm their membership from the club of affiliation to NZRA. c) Submit a rowing CV to NZRA for approval of classification before <b>1 January</b> in the Season in which they wish to race. d) Have acquired a NZRA Competition Licence before <b>1 January</b> in the Season in which they wish to race. e) In order to represent the club at Championship Regattas they shall have represented the club of affiliation at 2 or more regattas before the Championship Regatta they intend to enter."	A broader question is: Is this Rule actually needed/ fit for purpose?
6	Rule 16	Add definition of Non-Resident Competitor	A definition of Non-Resident Competitor should be added to provide clarity on Rule 16.	No definition of Non-Resident Competitor currently exists in the Rules	At the end of Rule 16 add: "A Non-Resident Competitor is a competitor who is not a New Zealand Resident or New Zealand Citizen"	This rule largely applies to overseas rowers who may wish to compete at Nationals but compete for a NZ rowing club (rather than compete for an overseas rowing club at an NZ regatta). The intent of the rule seems to apply to these people as opposed to New Zealanders who may be at university overseas but come back for the summer (for example). The latter group of people should be able to compete for their home club provided they have a current Competition Licence.
7	Rule 18	Composite Crews - allowing composite crews for all boat classes except singles	Currently you cannot enter small boat composites except in certain circumstances e.g. Can't in Senior 2x, Club 2x, Intermediate 2x, Novice 2x. It has been suggested that this should be allowed.	"Composite crews comprising of rowers from clubs from any one or more Local Association may be entered in any four, quadruple sculls, eights, octuple and U22 doubles and pairs events (except the Boss Rooster or Dame Four event) with the written approval from the Local Associations"	"Composite crews comprising of rowers from clubs from any one or more Local Association may be entered in any four, quadruple sculls, eights, octuple, <del>and U22</del> doubles and pairs events (except the Boss Rooster or Dame Four event) with the written approval from the Local Associations"	An argument against making this change is that clubs should be encouraged to find two people to race together as a non-composite crew. Another option is that we only extend this to Senior 2x.
8	Rule 18	Composite Crews - removing requirement for Local Associations to approve	Currently Local Associations need to approve composite crews in which rowers from their region are entered. It has been suggested that most Associations approve everything and therefore this requirement should be removed.	"Composite crews comprising of rowers from clubs from any one or more Local Association may be entered in any four, quadruple sculls, eights, octuple and U22 doubles and pairs events (except the Boss Rooster or Dame Four event) with the written approval from the Local Associations"	"Composite crews comprising of rowers from clubs from any one or more Local Association may be entered in any four, quadruple sculls, eights, octuple and U22 doubles and pairs events (except the Boss Rooster or Dame Four event) <del>with the written approval from the Local Associations</del> "	Another possible approach here is specifying that approvals are only required for Championship Regattas and that no such approval is required for other regattas.
9	Rule 22.2(3)	Coxswains - Minimum Weight. Suggestion to remove coxswain weighing competely.	It has been suggested that the minimum weight for a coxswain should be removed (consequently removing the need to weigh coxswains at all).	"The minimum weight for a coxswain is 55kg."	Rule would be removed: <del>"The minimum weight for a coxswain is 55kg."</del>	One argument against this is around fairness. If you dont have a minimum weight for coxswains, would people attempt to find the lightest people to cox so there is less weight in the boat (if in fact that makes much of a difference?). There is also a health and safety argument - would people encourage coxswains to lose weight to get as light as possible? This would be a considerable change and would be a departure from a process we are all used to - what do Associations think?
10	Rule 22.4(c)	Coxswains - Deadweight	It has been suggested that the maximum deadweight rule for coxswains (currently 20kg) should be removed to align with the NZSSRA Rules	"The deadweight shall not include any article of rowing or racing equipment. The maximum weight of deadweight allowed to be carried shall be 20kg."	"The deadweight shall not include any article of rowing or racing equipment. <del>The maximum weight of deadweight allowed to be carried shall be 20kg."</del>	There is a health and safety argument against this, e.g. that over 20kgs is too much for a coxswain to carry down to the boat etc.
11	Rule 22.5	Coxswains - Frequency of weighing	Currently in Rules coxswains weigh in once a day, not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race of the day. The suggestion has been made that coxswains should only need to weigh in once per regatta, no later than one hour before their first race.	"Coxswains shall be weighed in their racing uniform excluding life jacket on tested scales which indicate the weight of the coxswain to 0.1kg not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race on each day of competition. Failure to weigh in within this time will result in a race penalty for the coxswain and their crew for each race the coxswain has that day. The coxswain may still weigh in after this time and then no penalty will be applied for races taking place more than one hour after the coxswain weighs in. Failure to weigh in at all before a race shall result in exclusion from the race of the coxswain and their crew."	"Coxswains shall be weighed in their racing uniform excluding life jacket on tested scales which indicate the weight of the coxswain to 0.1kg not less than one hour <del>and not more than two hours</del> before their first race <del>of the regatta on each day of competition</del> . Failure to weigh in <del>within</del> by this time will result in a race penalty for the coxswain and their crew for each race the coxswain has <del>on their first day of racing that day</del> . The coxswain may still weigh in after this time and then no penalty will be applied for races taking place more than one hour after the coxswain weighs in. Failure to weigh in at all before a race shall result in exclusion from the race of the coxswain and their crew."	This change would reduce the number of times coxswains need to weigh in and arguably reduce stress for coaches and coxswains, and arguably the impact on fairness is negligible. Argument against this change is that it reduces fairness as coxswains may attempt to become lighter after weighing in (and could be coerced by others to do so).

12	Rule 22.5	Coxswains - Frequency of weighing. <i>Alternative Suggestion to the one above.</i>	It has been suggested that Rule 22.5 be amended so that an alternative weighing system can be used, namely the system that KRI has used at regattas this Season where coxswains weigh in before each race.	"Coxswains shall be weighed in their racing uniform excluding life jacket on tested scales which indicate the weight of the coxswain to 0.1kg not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race on each day of competition. Failure to weigh in within this time will result in a race penalty for the coxswain and their crew for each race the coxswain has that day. The coxswain may still weigh in after this time and then no penalty will be applied for races taking place more than one hour after the coxswain weighs in. Failure to weigh in at all before a race shall result in exclusion from the race of the coxswain and their crew."	"Coxswains shall be weighed in their racing uniform excluding life jacket on tested scales which indicate the weight of the coxswain to 0.1kg, <b>either: a) not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race on each day of competition; or b) not less than 30 minutes and not more than one hour before each race on each day of competition.</b> " <b>Where 22.5(a) is used</b> , failure to weigh in within this time will result in a race penalty for the coxswain and their crew for that race each race the coxswain has that day. The coxswain may still weigh in after this time and then no penalty will be applied for races taking place more than one hour after the coxswain weighs in. <b>Where 22.5(b) is used, failure to weigh in within this time will result in a race penalty for the coxswain and their crew for that race.</b> Failure to weigh in at all before a race shall result in exclusion from the race of the coxswain and their crew."	It has been suggested that this approach is the best one from a fairness perspective, as if you weigh in coxswains before each race you ensure that all coxswains are on weight for each race. Arguments against are that it is onerous and unnecessary. Additionally having an alternative system will mean that throughout the Season coxswains will be exposed to different weigh in systems, i. e. no consistency/uniformity in approach.
13	Rule 22.7	Coxswains - Life Jackets	It has been suggested that permanently inflated lifejackets can result in difficulty for a coxswain to escape the coxswain seat of a bow coxed boat, and that the prohibition of inflatable lifejackets should be removed.	"Coxswains shall wear a New Zealand Safety Standards approved life jacket rated for the weight of the coxswain. Inflatable lifejackets are prohibited."	"Coxswains shall wear a New Zealand Safety Standards approved life jacket rated for the weight of the coxswain. <b>Inflatable lifejackets are prohibited.</b> "	Suggestion has also been made that we shouldn't require coxswains to wear a lifejacket at all (note some other countries do not). Note however that under Rowing's current arrangement with Maritime coxswains must wear lifejackets.
14	Rule 22.8	Coxswains - who they can compete for at one regatta	At some regattas affiliated schools in a Club enter the regatta as the school rather than as the Club. It has been suggested that coxswains should be able to be shared amongst affiliated schools and the Club, provided they are in the same club.	"A coxswain may not compete for more than one club at any regatta but they can also compete for their RPC - however, application for dispensation may be made to the Race Committee."	Replace 22.8 with : <b>"A coxswain may not compete for more than one club at any regatta, except in the following circumstances: a) a coxswain may compete for their club and their RPC at a regatta; and b) A coxswain may compete for their club and one of their club's affiliated schools. An application for dispensation in other circumstances may be made to the Race Committee."</b>	
15	Rule 29.4	Coxswains Seat	In recent times there has been debate about the steering mechanisms of Hudson boats, and the view has been taken that Hudson boats have steering that hinders egress. It is suggested that this rule be amended.	"The steering mechanism shall not hinder egress by projecting into the coxswain's enclosure."	"The steering mechanism shall not hinder egress, <b>by projecting into the coxswain's enclosure.</b> "	See also Rule 29.2.
16	Rule 30	Boat Weighing	It has been suggested that the boat weighing requirements be removed from regattas. There is a view that relegating a crew to last place where they are underweight is a particularly harsh penalty where a boat may only be underweight by a small margin.	See Rules Review PDF for full Rule. Penalty at Rule 30.6: "6. Failure to make the minimum weight – If a boat is below the minimum weight, the member of the Control Commission shall record the result of weighing and proceed as follows: a) Test the scales with the gauged weights, observed by the crew representative; record the name of the crew and the event and the words "Test Weighing". Both the crew representative and the member of the Control Commission shall sign this as a correct record of the test. b) Weigh the boat concerned for the second time, record the weight and type of equipment items included in the weighing and the words "Second Boat Weighing". Both the crew representative and the member of the Control Commission shall sign this as a correct record of this weighing. c) Deliver the record to the Race Committee. d) Penalty for Underweight Boat – The penalty for having raced in an underweight boat shall be that the crew is relegated to last place in the particular race. If the crew races again in an underweight boat in a later round of the same event, then the penalty shall be the exclusion of the crew."	The entire Rule would be removed. Further feedback may be required before providing a suggested 2021 Rule (if penalty amended, for example).	Removing the rule would see us move away from FISA. Additionally, some have argued that the removal of this rule could see a 'race to the bottom' where wealthy schools try to buy lighter boats (the counter view here is that that won't make much difference at all to the speed of the boat). Given the concern is primarily related to the penalty, perhaps the penalty could be looked at and a less harsh alternative provided?
17	Rule 42	Closing of Entries	Currently under the Rules if only one crew is entered in an event the Organising Committee may cancel the event. Regatta organisers will often use regatta conditions so that they can do this if only two or three crews entered. Should the Rule itself be changed?	Rule 42.4: "If only one crew is entered in an event other than a processional race, the Organising Committee may cancel the event..."	Rule 42.4: "If only one, <b>two or three</b> crews <b>are</b> entered in an event other than a processional race, the Organising Committee may cancel the event..."	Note: The Rules state if an event is cancelled crews can get a refund on entry fees.

18	Rule 45.3 and Rule 45.5	Substitutions - requirement that only 50% of crew can be substituted	It has been suggested that up until an hour before the first race of a crew, you should be able to substitute 100% of the crew.	Rule 45.3: "At a Championship Regatta or Major Regatta after late entries have closed no substitution shall be approved for a crew where more than half the number of rowers will be substitutes unless it is a medical substitution for a single sculler made prior to racing." Rule 45.5: "Up to half the rowers of a crew as well as the coxswain may be substituted before the crew's first race in an event."	Rule 45.3: <del>"At a Championship Regatta or Major Regatta after late entries have closed no substitution shall be approved for a crew where more than half the number of rowers will be substitutes unless it is a medical substitution for a single sculler made prior to racing."</del> Rule 45.5: <del>"Up to half All the rowers of a crew as well as the coxswain may be substituted before the crew's first race in an event."</del>	
19	Rule 45.11	Substitutions in exceptional circumstances	This rule is rarely used but it has been suggested that crews should still be eligible for medals in such a situation e.g. immediate family bereavement etc. It has also been suggested that the Race Committee should be the decision-maker rather than Chief Umpire.	Rule 45.11: "In exceptional circumstances the Chief Umpire may authorise a substitution that is otherwise contrary to these rules provided the crew will no longer be eligible for medals, trophies or awards."	Rule 45.11: "In exceptional circumstances the <del>Chief Umpire</del> Race Committee may authorise a substitution that is otherwise contrary to these rules- <del>provided the crew will no longer be eligible for medals, trophies or awards."</del>	Do we need guidance on what constitutes 'exceptional circumstances'?
20	New Rule	Withdrawals/scratchings	A new Rule will need to be added at Section 8 to allow for Withdrawals/Scratchings. Wording here is taken from the NZSSRA Rules.		"Where it is necessary to scratch a crew from a race, advice must be given in writing, to Regatta Control by a senior member of the club, by the date and time nominated in the regatta conditions. The Race Committee may promote crews next in line should vacancies occur through scratchings."	At NZSSRA the AGM sets the penalty for scratchings - should this be consistent for NZRA? It has also been suggested that a monetary penalty be included for non-progression like at NZSSRA. Should this also be included?
21	Rule 49	Safety Information	Currently in the Rules the only reference to safety briefings is at Rule 39. It has been suggested that a more prescriptive process be added to the Rules, similar to the NZSSRA Safety System.	See Rule 39.1(f): "Each regatta conditions and event list may include... The date and time at which entries close and the date, time and place of the Team Managers Safety Briefing/Meeting." See also Rule 49 Safety Information: "The following safety information shall be provided by the Organising Committee: a) The circulation patterns to be followed during racing and training on and in the neighbourhood of the course and announce the times at which patterns apply. b) Any special points of danger on or near the course. c) Safety boat and first aid positions and how to summon help. d) Medical support arrangements. e) Location of emergency telephones."	Rule 49: "Each club attending the regatta shall appoint a safety officer. No later than one hour before the first race in a regatta, the Chief Umpire or his or her delegate shall hold a meeting for the safety officers, at which the safety provisions for the regatta shall be given. Attendance by clubs wishing to compete at the regatta will be compulsory. The club safety officer will be responsible for advising all competitors and other members of their club of the safety provisions in place. Clubs who have not been briefed with the safety provisions shall not be permitted to take part in the regatta. The following safety information shall be provided: a) The circulation patterns to be followed during racing and training on and in the neighbourhood of the course and announce the times at which patterns apply. b) Any special points of danger on or near the course. c) Safety boat and first aid positions and how to summon help. d) Medical support arrangements. e) Location of emergency telephones. f) The out of bounds areas adjacent to the racing course. On-water training may take place during the Regatta. Training will be detailed in the regatta conditions."	Wording may need to be amended particularly around training.
22	Rule 63	Coaching During Racing	It has been suggested that this Rule is never enforced and should be removed.	"1. It is prohibited to give any instructions, advice or directions to rowers or crews that are racing, verbally or with any electric, electronic or other technical device, either directly or indirectly. It is therefore prohibited to carry any equipment in a boat that can be used for communication except that equipment which the Organising Committee may install on each boat, such as a device for the purpose of transmitting real-time race information for the presentation and promotion of the event and the sport. 2. A crew receiving outside assistance in any form will be excluded from the event."	The Rule would be removed.	Suggest further discussion is required on this point. Has there ever been any debate on the meaning of "outside assistance"?
23	Rule 68.1	Medals	It has been suggested that a crew that finishes last should not be awarded a medal, or points.	Rule 68.1: "Medals at Championship Regattas will be awarded to the first, second and third crews from New Zealand. International crews will also receive a medal if placed first, second or third, but will not receive the title, trophies or any other award."	Rule 68.1: "Medals at Championship Regattas will be awarded, <del>where possible</del> , to the first, second and third crews from New Zealand. International crews will also receive a medal if placed first, second or third, but will not receive the title, trophies or any other award. <del>A crew will not receive a medal where they place last in their race."</del>	Should crews who get last still get a medal if they are "in the hunt" i.e. they are not that far behind other crews?

24	Rule 68.2	Medals	It has also been suggested that at Masters Champs you only get a medal if you place first (i.e. Gold). This is because, currently many medals are awarded under the status quo.	Rule 68.2: "Medals at Masters championship events will be awarded to first, second and third crews for single age category events. Where age categories are combined in the same event (e.g. E-G event) medals will be awarded as follows: a) Gold medals will be presented to each age category winner, except where a crew is beaten by an older age category crew (e.g. a F crew beats an E crew in an E-G event). b) Silver and bronze will be awarded to the second and third crews of the combined age category event except where the crew has qualified for a gold in rule 68.2.a above (therefore a minor medal may not be presented).	Rule 68.2: "Medals at Masters championship events will be awarded to first <del>place second and third crews</del> for single age category events. Where age categories are combined in the same event (e.g. E-G event) <del>Gold medals will be awarded as follows:—a) Gold medals will be</del> presented to each age category winner, except where a crew is beaten by an older age category crew (e.g. a F crew beats an E crew in an E-G event). <del>b) Silver and bronze will be awarded to the second and third crews of the combined age category event except where the crew has qualified for a gold in rule 68.2.a above (therefore a minor medal may not be presented).</del>	
<b>Section 8 - Disputes and Disciplinary Procedures</b>			<i>Suggestions have been provided regarding this section but a number of members of the rowing community have indicated that they wish to provide specific wording for the 2021 Rules for consideration (and have not yet had time to do so). As a result, and given this is such an important area (and there is almost unanimous consensus that changes need to be made here) specific wording is not provided at this stage but issues/themes that have been raised have come up. Specific wording will be provided at the second iteration document, and could be provided earlier if required (following further consultation).</i>			
25	Rule 69	Catch-all provision	Suggestion has been made that the wording "and Umpires" be removed.	"The Race Committee and Umpires may decide on any situation not covered in these Rules"	"The Race Committee <del>and Umpires</del> may decide on any situation not covered in these Rules"	Should individual umpires have this discretion?
26	Rules 71 and 75	Definitions for key terms	Definitions need to be provided for the following: Reprimand; Yellow Card; Relegation; Exclusion; Disqualification	These terms are currently not defined and should be.		Defining the terms will help to remove ambiguity. I.e. providing a definition for each of these words so we know exactly what they mean. Given Yellow Cards are referred to several times in the Rules, should this have its own Rule?
27	Rule 72	Appeals	This is the Rule which allows the appeal of decisions made at regattas to Rowing NZ. It has been suggested that another level of appeal be added before progressing to this one (i.e. a Decision of the Race Committee appealed to the Organising Committee, to take place at the relevant regatta, first).	"A club or individual may appeal against any decision of the Race Committee to the NZRA. Written 'Notice of Appeal' shall be received within three days of the regatta. A date for any appeal hearing will be set, to be not later than three weeks after the date of the regatta. The appeal will be heard by NZRA, which may consider both written and verbal evidence. The hearing shall be informal and closed, and parties shall represent themselves. 2. Possible Outcomes include: a) Endorsement or increase of the original fines; b) A ban from competition for individuals or the club for a period of time, in addition to, or instead of, any fines; c) Placing the penalty against the club rather than individuals, or vice-versa; d) Find in favour of the appellants. 3. The result of any appeal shall be reported to the Board and may subsequently be published. 4. Following a disciplinary appeal hearing by NZRA the appellant of the regatta involved may make an appeal to the Board of NZRA. 5. The hearing shall be at a place and time decided by the Chairman of the Board. 6. The hearing shall be informal and the parties shall represent themselves. 7. Possible outcomes shall be as for an appeal hearing as above, but the outcome shall be final and without further appeal. 8. The result of the appeal may be published."		Adding another step to the process could be onerous for regatta organisers and the regatta officials running the regatta. Further thought is required.

28	Rule 75	Disciplinary Measures	<p>This Rule has been identified as requiring a number of changes. Issues here include:</p> <p>1) whether the disciplinary measures listed are appropriate for each level (i.e. Race Official; Race Committee; Organising Committee; NZRA);</p> <p>2) Whether the process provided for at Rule 75.3(b) - (f) should apply in other situations (i.e whether a decision is made by Race Committee);</p> <p>3) Whether it is appropriate to have a distinction between Race Committee and Organising Committee in this Rule; and</p> <p>4) whether there needs to be a specific ability for Coaches to be reprimanded in some way.</p>	<p>There are four levels of disciplinary measures:</p> <p>1. In the jurisdiction of any Race Official: a) A verbal reprimand; b) A warning indicated by a Yellow Card; c) Exclusion from a race in which the rules have been infringed.</p> <p>2. In the jurisdiction of the Race Committee: a) A verbal reprimand; b) A warning indicated by a Yellow Card. c) Exclusion from a race in which the rules have been infringed; d) Relegation of the crew or an additional time penalty (in case of head races or time trials, to be added to the offending crews time); e) A disqualification of an individual competitor, a crew or a club from all races at the regatta (any prizes already won shall be returned and may be re-awarded to the crew finishing behind this crew, no entry monies are refundable); f) A monetary fine up to \$150 for each individual, or up to \$5000 for a club; g) Where a complaint is made against an official the Convenor of the Race Committee shall ascertain the facts and report, in writing, to NZRA.</p> <p>3. In the jurisdiction of the Organising Committee after deliberation with the Race Committee: a) A fixed penalty fine up to \$150 for each individual, or up to \$5000 for a club (<i>This level of action is to be used for serious situations where the Organising Committee feels that the situation warrants further action or for situations where other actions would be ineffective because the regatta is effectively over for the club involved.</i>) b) The Convenor of the Race Committee shall conduct an investigation of the incident that day, and prepare a short written summary and conclusion, before leaving the site of the regatta. c) The individual competitor, crew or club shall be told of the investigation, and the procedure explained. They shall be given the opportunity of providing a written rebuttal of the statement, and the opportunity to take a copy of the Chairman's summary. d) The statement shall be faxed or emailed to NZRA within two days. e) The fine shall be lodged with NZRA pending a possible appeal, but shall revert to the regatta unless there is a successful appeal. f) The individual or club cited in the summary may be banned from competition until the fine is paid.</p> <p>4. In the jurisdiction of the NZRA: a) A fine without limit and/or a ban from competition without limit, applicable to individuals or clubs. <i>This level of action is to be used for very serious situations, where the individual or club has attempted to cheat and or misrepresent or has repeated an offence treated under sub clause c above, or where NZRA believes that the offence warrants extraordinary action.</i> The facts and the penalty imposed may be published.</p>	<p>It has also been suggested that we could add some principles at this section to guide the application of the rules. Discussion around this area to date has produced a few themes, one of which is that whatever we come up with needs to be easy to understand (by officials, competitors and coaches etc.) and that while some discretion will of course be necessary, the rules should be clear about what happens and when.</p>
29		Addition of a record-keeping or reporting obligation on Race Officials/Umpires/ Race or Organising Committee when disciplinary measures used	It has also been suggested that a reporting or record-keeping obligation be imposed to ensure that their can be some oversight of disciplinary measures used		Ensuring that overly onerous obligations are imposed may be a concern.
<b>RULES SPECIFIC TO REGATTA ORGANISERS/OFFICIALS (LIKELY TO BE OF LESS INTEREST TO WIDER ROWING COMMUNITY)</b>					
30	Rules 33 - 34	Safeguarding Officer	FISA now has a new role of Safeguarding Officer for their Organising Committee. It has been suggested that we need to consider the same.	Suggested rule change not provided at this stage. Further discussions required.	
31	Rules 54 - 58; Rule 62	The Start	Various suggestions have been provided with the Start. This needs to be discussed further with Regatta Organisers and Officials.	Suggested rule change not provided at this stage. Further discussions required.	

32	New Rule 86	Zonal Umpiring / Stationary or Static Umpiring	We currently do not have a framework for Zonal Umpiring. Suggested wording included here comes from FISA Rules.		<p>"1. The Race Committee may decide, if it is safe to do so, that at [specify which regattas] umpiring of some races shall be carried out from boats which are stationary or which do not follow the whole race or by umpires stationed on the land adjacent to the course and shall issue instructions and guidance accordingly.</p> <p>2. In providing such instructions and guidance the Race Committee shall designate the points along the course at which the umpires shall be positioned and shall give instructions as are necessary, including for contingency or other situations. Zonal umpires, when stationed in boats, may move to the centre of the course after the race has passed to confirm that all crews are within their lanes and shall then return to their designated position. If the Umpire considers that any crew is about to interfere with another crew the umpire may follow the race for such distance as they consider necessary.</p> <p>3. Where zonal umpiring is in force, the provisions of this Rule shall refer to each of the umpires responsible for their respective zone of the race, both within their zone and outside where appropriate. The extent to which zonal umpires carry out their duties shall be subject to their location and consequent ability to oversee the race."</p>	We should specify in what circumstances/at what regattas Zonal Umpiring should be used. There would only need to be specific circumstances in which this is used.
<b>TIDY UP RULES</b>						
33	Other Tidy Ups - all Rules		Suggested minor wording changes (e.g. ensuring correct definitions are used, spelling/grammar is correct etc) will also be made ahead of the 2021 AGM. These will not be contentious changes and will be included in the second iteration document sent out in March 2021 (once feedback on the above has been received). This may also include consequential changes that need to happen as a result of any of the above suggestions being implemented		Wording to be provided in second iteration document.	