

Dear Colleagues,

We have been speaking of these matters informally for 18 months, and I believe it is time to start formalizing our conversations, and begin making some concrete changes to the events we are offering at the District Championships. I will attempt to outline the matters at hand, which should clarify our thoughts.

**Objective:** Add events to the NW District Championships in the U-17 Category for both boys and girls, in both sweep and sculling disciplines.

**Background and Motivation:**

- Align the NW Championship event offering with current and future USRowing event offerings throughout the country. Please see the attached chart which indicates how prevalent these events are throughout the national regatta schedule.
- Align rowing's structure with that of other sports.
- Move to aligning USRowing events akin to what other developed rowing nations offer.
- Ensure higher quality racing opportunities for younger athletes.
- Alleviate oversubscription of popular championship events.
- Improve rates of athlete retention at all programs, both advanced and developing.
- Improve athlete development by batching athletes by age, rather than weight or experience for proper training and social dynamics.

**Adding events:**

o U-17 2x    o U-17 4x+ or 4x-    o U-17 4+

o U-17 8    o U-17 Novice 8+

**Subtracting events:**

o Youth 4x+    o 2nd Lt 4+    o 2nd Novice 8+

**Proposed course of action and timeframe:**

**Review data, and proposal.** I have charted the proposed event offerings, and attempted to briefly outline some of the possible ramifications in adding the events. They are shown in the document section on this website. Please feel free to email me other comments / thoughts. I will add them to the appropriate document and re-share with this group.

**November Regional Meeting:** In a short Breakout Session at our Regional Meeting, I'd like to have a quick discussion, and agree to meet again in January for a workshop. James Rawson may be able to open Regatta Central for us to make our entries for the 2017 Championship Regatta, so we can project out the schedule for the January Workshop and make any changes we need. If this is not available, we will have an alternative method to collect entries in order to project the schedule.

**January Workshop:** We can review the schedule of events, as determined by the number of entries in each event. We can then work to modify the schedule in person.

**February Regional Meeting:** We can ratify the proposed schedule in a formal sense, in preparation for racing at 2017 District Championships.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and comments.

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