



08-12-2020

Doubles Rowing During Covid-19 Policy

Dear Members:

As you know, since reopening on June 15, ARC has been utilizing a single-boat only model, with the exception of members of the same household, who have been permitted to row in doubles. We previously determined not to allow two or more rowers in the same boat, despite New York State's [Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation During the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency](#), which permitted rowing in team boats beginning July 6, 2020.

Consistent with our promise to continue to evaluate this decision on an ongoing basis, and taking into consideration stable infection rates in our region as well as the stated desire of many members to row in larger boats, we have decided to provide members the option to row in boats with other athletes who are not members of the same household. During this initial phase of multi-athlete boats, only doubles will be permitted. We will continue to evaluate whether conditions warrant the use of larger boats in the future. Participation is entirely voluntary, and any athlete may choose to continue to row in single boats only. Because neither social distancing nor the use of face coverings while rowing are practicable in multi-athlete boats, rowing in doubles increases the risk of exposure to Covid-19. Each member must elect whether they want to remain in a single or whether they would like the opportunity to row in a double, and should carefully weigh the risks in making this decision. Each member (or the parent/guardian of each member who is a minor) should read and sign the attached Informed Consent, Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability to indicate their decision and acknowledge the risks associated with participation in ARC programs and events. This form must be signed and returned before any athlete will be permitted to row in a double..

Coaches will group athletes together for doubles-rowing based on training objectives, and then each athlete (and their parents) will have an opportunity to accept or reject the pairing. If you accept your pairing, the athlete with whom you were paired becomes your training partner, and you may be assigned to row in a double with that training partner at any future practice or for scrimmage competitions. If you reject your pairing, you may continue to row in a single. (Reassignment to a different training partner may be made at coaches' discretion, but is not guaranteed). Any athlete who has consented to doubles rowing may decide at any time that they are no longer comfortable doing so, and may return to singles-only rowing at any time.

Being permitted to row in a boat with one or more teammates is a privilege, especially during a pandemic. With that privilege comes an increased level of responsibility. Since you will be in close proximity to your training partner without masks while training, any risks that you take outside of practice will also put your training partner at risk. Team members must be able to trust one another to act responsibly -- including limiting social interaction outside of practice, observing social distancing, and wearing face coverings when social distancing is not possible. Failure to act responsibly both in and out of practice will result in the privilege being revoked and a return to singles-only rowing. Whether you consent to multi-athlete boats or elect to remain in a single, you must not attend any ARC program or event if you or a household member is exhibiting symptoms of illness.

Sincerely,
ARC Strategic Planning Committee