

ROWING IRELAND

Points Working Group

A proposal for Change



ROWING
IRELAND

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Introduced in 2009

Intended to improve Recruitment and Retention

1. Removed upward only progression (Time Away deductions & Losing Points)
2. Crews categorised by Average Points per rower
3. Juniors moved beyond Club 2 level to encourage adult novices
4. Subject to periodic review

Reviewed in 2014

1. Reduced losing points
2. Improvements to tracker e.g. Draws/Grand League

Subsequent reviews delayed and then disrupted by Covid, etc.

Working group tabled and reviewed a ‘long list’ of overlapping suggestions and proposals.

Developed a short list of options:

1. An appropriate and pragmatic response to issues identified
2. A Framework for further constructive discussion and debate

Proposals seek to reinforce original intention of the points-based system

1. Create more space/time for new Adult rowers to gain competitive experience
2. Promote and encourage participation and progression up the competitive ladder
3. Retain flexibility for clubs and rowers when developing squads and crews

Issues Identified by Working Group

Poor Retention

1. Junior level. There remains a significant drop off post Junior level. Very few juniors progress to adult rowing. Of the 6-700 new juniors who register in a given year, typically only 30 or so remain registered after they pass J18.
2. Senior level. The drop off at adult level after one year is a cause for concern, barely one third of newly registered 19-26 year olds are choosing to register for a second season.
3. Collapse in the numbers of registered Novices

Lack of Progression

1. Build up of registered rowers at Club 2 and Club 1 level. Stats suggest that progression is not working as intended and that the current system may actually include perverse incentives to lose points and compete at the lowest level possible.
2. Very few rowers at Intermediate points level and little growth

Administrative Burden

1. Validating crews and tracking accuracy of results
2. Admin demands fall on volunteers (Regatta & Club Secretaries)

What Sort of Solutions Can be Considered?

Change how points are **Awarded**

Change how points are **Deducted**

Amend **Thresholds** for categories

1. Change maximum points per crew (average points per individual).
2. Introduce maximum points per individual.
3. Remove/add categories.
4. Change Novice definition.

Other potential changes

1. Greater use of **Age-based categories** (U21, U23) post J18.
2. Change categories in which Championship events are offered (Stage 2).
3. Introduce **qualification/seeding criteria** for Championship events e.g. via Grand League performance.

What else is to be considered?

Review Category Thresholds

1. Take account of proposed points changes under each option

Promote Age-based Pathways

1. Greater use of existing U23 Class at regattas.
2. Introduce U23 Championship events (Stage 2)

Other Championship Changes

1. Remove / add other Championship categories (Stage 2).
2. Introduce qualification / seeding criteria.
3. Ongoing discussion of timing / structure of Championship regattas (Future 2 to 3 years).

Roadshow Dates

1. Tuesday 16 September - Virtual (coincides with regular NI Branch monthly meeting)
2. Wednesday 24 September - Dublin, Commercial Rowing Club @ 8pm
3. Wednesday 01 October – University Of Galway @ 7.30pm
4. Wednesday 8 October – Limerick, Shannon Rowing Club @ 8pm
5. Thursday 9 October – Cork, Fermoy Rowing Club @ 7.30pm

Preliminary Schedule for implementation of change:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 - Road shows finish. | 09 Oct 2025. |
| 2 - Working Group review of findings | 12/13 Oct 2025 |
| 3 - Proposal prep for Board Approval & working group agreement. | 17 Oct 2025 |
| 4 - Paper prepared for board approval | 19 Oct 2025 |
| 5 - Board approval. | 23 Oct-06 Nov (TBC) |
| 6 - Notice of EGM to be issue as per article of the RI Constitution
requiring 21days notice. | 20 24 Oct – 7 Nov 2025 (TBC) |
| 7 - EGM for a special resolution. | 16 Nov -30 Nov 2025 (TBC) |

Options for Discussion

Option A – Minimal Changes

1. Extend Novice category to **Two** years, (currently 1 year).
2. Remove **Losing** points completely.
3. Limit J16-J18 registration points to **200** max , (currently 300)

Option B – As Option A plus:

1. Remove Winning points at regattas.
2. Retain Championship Winning points (200 points for any Championship win).

Option C – As Option B but:

1. Increase Championship Winning points (weighted by category)
2. Award weighted points for 2nd and 3rd place Championship finishes (subject to minimum entry sizes).
3. Introduce qualification / seeding criteria for championships in an effort to remove the need for time trials. Use results and times from grand league events.