



CORA COVID RESPONSE REPORT (AGM) 2020

OVERVIEW

The COVID pandemic of 2020 prompted cancellation of sports activities worldwide. The CORA Board acted upon whatever information became available regarding the impacts of COVID to provide information in a timely manner to CORA clubs / members across Canada.

ONGOING EVENT POSTPONEMENTS / CANCELLATIONS

The final in-person CORA sanctioned event of 2020 was the False Creek PNWORCA / CORA Winter Series Race in early March. When international / provincial / regional travel restrictions and gathering limitations were mandated in mid-March, initially, in British Columbia, with gathering restrictions of 250 persons and later 50 persons, CORA deferred to its member host clubs to decide whether they could host proposed races in compliance with applicable Provincial Health Orders and regulations. Gradually, over the initial weeks and months of the pandemic, optimistic host clubs postponed events while other cancelled them. The CORA Board responded through outreach to member clubs on scheduled events and communicating event postponements and cancellations via the CORA Event Schedule and a frequently updated website posting noting member clubs that had curtailed operations. As the impact of COVID forced the cancellation of IVF Hilo 2020 World Sprints and IVF Samoa 2021 World Distance, the CORA Board posted news for Canadian paddlers who had committed to these international events.

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/cora-statement-regarding-covid-19-update-march-16-2020/>

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/2020-sprints-cancelled-by-ivf-2021-distance-selection-starts-now/>

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/ivf/>

HEALTH RESOURCES WEB-PAGE

The CORA Board provided a website page dedicated to *Resources and Procedures under COVID mitigation in Canada* that provided COVID-19 Public Health Links and Reopen Plans for every Canadian province / territory, as well as province specific guidance such as BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), BC Return To Sport, WorkSafe BC, Red Cross, BC Provincial Government Liability Protection, and Dragonboat BC announcements.

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/canadian-outrigger-racing-association/resources/health-resources/>

SAFETY PLANS

The CORA Board directed member clubs to Safety Plan templates that had been provided by provincial health and safety authorities to assist with reopening club operations in accordance with federal / provincial / regional / municipal regulations.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

At the end of June 2020, the CORA Board was informed that its insurance underwriter, Merkel Canada Limited, unilaterally invoked a Contagion Exclusion Endorsement to CORA's insurance policy.

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/2330-2/>

The CORA Board communicated measures by the British Columbia government to extend COVID-19 liability coverage to amateur sport organizations through the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act* (CRMA).

<https://www.viasport.ca/news/province-takes-action-support-return-sport>

ONGOING COMMUNICATIONS

The CORA Board continued to post information related to the impact of COVID on paddle sports through the website and social media as it became available. The CORA Board posted guidelines and links to provincial announcements (largely in British Columbia) to keep the membership informed as to the current state of paddle sports activities during the early stages in March / April, the emergence from lockdown in May, the Phase 2: Return to Sport in June / July, and the Phase 3: Progressively Loosen stage in August / September.

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/august-2020-cora-covid-update-for-outrigger-clubs-and-paddlers/>

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/july-2020-cora-covid-update-for-outrigger-clubs-and-paddlers/>

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/return-to-sport-guidelines-for-cora-clubs-and-paddlers-under-covid-mitigation-in-canada/>

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/cora-statement-regarding-covid-19/>

COHORT CREW BOAT TRAINING

The Province of British Columbia announced the Return to Sport Phase 3: Progressively Loosen guidelines late August. This new guidance introduced the concept of a "cohort" whereby a fixed number of individuals could form a "bubble" for training purposes, could expand paddle sports activities beyond the Phase 2 solo / tandem paddling constraints. This announcement was issued shortly before the September CORA Monthly Board Meeting, at which the Board assigned the task of developing a guidance document for CORA clubs / members on the roll-out of "cohort" crew boat training. This document was issued in late September:

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/bc-return-to-sport-guidelines-for-crew-outrigger-now-available/>

PROACTIVE BUDGET PLANNING 2020 / 2021

When it became apparent that there was high likelihood of a 2020 CORA individual membership shortfall and that many member clubs might not be able to resume operations during 2020, the CORA Board asked the CORA Treasurer to consider the impact of the 2020 pandemic on not only the 2020 Budget, but the impact on the 2021 CORA Budget as well. The CORA Treasurer kept an eye on the 2020 CORA Budget and put forward a 2021 CORA Budget taking into consideration the financial impacts of reduced membership in 2021 due to a shortened 2021 season.

IVF SPRINTS / DISTANCE

The IVF Hilo 2020 World Sprints was cancelled in late March. The CORA Treasurer quickly responded by issuing refunds to all Canadian paddlers who had made deposits related to the IVF Hilo 2020 World Sprints.

The CORA IVF Committee continued to coordinate the selection process for IVF Samoa 2021 World Distance through-out the spring / summer / autumn of 2020 with training programs, virtual time trials, and V1 race-offs right up to the announcement by Samoa in early November postponing the event until 2023.

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/2020-sprints-cancelled-by-ivf-2021-distance-selection-starts-now/>

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/ivf/>

SMALL-BOAT RACING WINTER SERIES INITIATIVE

The CORA Board recognized that the ongoing uncertainty regarding big boat racing (V12 / OC6) would extend early into the 2021 racing season. With the current British Columbia cap of 50 persons on event gatherings curtailing big boat racing until BC enters Phase 4, a continued focus on small boat racing was considered an appropriate measure to encourage racing within regulatory constraints. The CORA Board will be coordinating a 2021 CORA Small-Boat Racing Winter Series on a regional basis. A guidance document has been published and the website has a page dedicated to this series with an "Intent To Host" form that had attracted seven host clubs as of early November. The series will be sanctioned at the Annual Technical Meeting.

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/races/cora-2021-small-boat-racing-winter-series/>

VIRTUAL AGM

At the October CORA Monthly Board Meeting, CORA Board discussed AGM options given ongoing COVID concerns and the CORA Bylaws that allow for an exclusively electronic AGM. Several options were considered such as a socially distanced AGM at the Jericho Sailing Centre within restricted meeting room capacities, a fully virtual AGM, and a hybrid socially distanced AGM combined with a virtual AGM. The CORA Board opted for a fully virtual AGM and pursued a licence for a cost-effective and user-friendly video-teleconferencing platform (Zoom) that CORA anticipates using for ongoing virtual training / planning / meeting sessions.