



2019 ROWONTARIO Membership and Participation Fees

In accordance with the ROWONTARIO By-laws, approved by the membership in November 2017 at the ROWONTARIO Annual General Meeting, a Membership Fee Advisory Committee (MFAC) was struck in December 2018 with the purpose to review and make recommendations on current fees to the Board of Directors.

The committee, chaired by Pippa Hobbes - ROWONTARIO Treasurer - and comprised of representatives from six (6) member clubs (*Jo-Anne Costello – Guelph RC, Brian Love – Peterborough RC, Melissa McKenzie – Ottawa RC, Alison Parsons – Thunder Bay RC, Brian Thorne – St. Catharines RC, and Matt Waddell – UWO BC*) met on January 14, 2019 to review the current membership and participant fees and to make recommendations on current fees to the Board. The committee mandate was to review the participation fees for all three registration categories (athlete, coach, and umpire), the club membership fee as well as the seat fee.

Umpire Registration Fees

Sparked by a request from the Umpire Committee in October 2018, the Board of Directors tasked the staff to review the current umpire registration fee structure and propose recommended solutions. To assist in this process the staff struck an Umpire Fee task force made up of umpires, club representatives, coaches as well as regatta organizers. The task force developed a number of different options for consideration, including a recommendation on the umpire registration model. After review by the Board, this proposal was sent to the MFAC. **The final recommendation from the MFAC and approved by the Board of Directors on January 17, 2019 was to lower the umpire registration fee to \$5.00 per umpire and introduce an umpire program fee (UPF) for each regatta, which would go towards delivering the umpire program in Ontario.** The umpire program fee is determined by the size of the regatta and the number of days of the regatta. The approved chart is below.

Regatta Type	Criteria*	Daily Flat Rate/regatta
Indoor Regattas	All indoor regattas	\$25/day
Outdoor A	<500 seats	\$25/day
Outdoor B	501 – 1,000 seats	\$50/day
Outdoor C	> 1,000 seats	\$100/day
Provincial Regattas	All regattas with a provincial scope	\$200/day

* regattas will be classified by previous year's entry numbers. New regattas will be determined between the Host and ROWONTARIO. (e.g. ROWONTARIO Championships – 2 days x \$200 = \$400.00 UPF)

Rationale:

The committee unanimously agreed that the sole benefactors of the umpire program are the regattas and the participants at those regattas, as a sanctioned regatta cannot run without licensed umpires. While the Ministry requires umpires to pay a registration fee (so that ROWONTARIO can include umpires in their reports to the Ministry), the committee believed that the bulk of the revenue to support the umpire program should come from the sole benefactors of the program and not the umpires themselves.

Naturally, with the recommendation to reduce one volunteer registration fee, the MFAC discussed the possibility of reducing the coach registration fee as well. The committee also unanimously agreed that clubs (and their athletes) are the sole benefactors of coaches, thus using the same principle as above, it should be the clubs that are paying to support the coaching program. ROWONTARIO's business relationship with respect to the coach registration fee remains with the clubs not the individual coaches, therefore the committee agreed to stay with the status quo. How clubs choose to recoup those fees remains each club's decision.

Annual membership and participant fees.

Defined as - Club membership fees, Participant fees (athletes, coaches, and umpires), Seat Fees, and Umpire Program Fee (to regattas).

Appreciating that a significant portion of these fees listed above go towards the general operations of ROWONTARIO, and most of those operating costs are subject to annual inflation due to the increases in the cost of living, **the committee's unanimous recommendation, and approved by the Board was to introduce a policy to increase all membership and participant fees by the December Consumer Price Index (CPI) of the previous December, effective April 2020** (*i.e., 2020 dues increase will be determined by the December 2019 CPI*). This decision does not preclude the Board from time to time increasing fees greater than the annual cost of living increase if a situation arises that such an increase is required. However, with ROWONTARIO's commitment to maintain an adequate financial reserve, there should not be too many reasons why ROWONTARIO cannot provide the membership with significant notice of any change so the change is anticipated and can be planned for.

Rationale:

The committee reviewed a series of options on how to address covering the gap between stagnant revenue from the annual membership and participant fees and increases in operating costs. The committee wanted something that would be anticipated and predictable as that will also assist the clubs in their planning. The committee felt a predictable annual increase compared to a larger increase every three years was a much better solution for both the clubs and ROWONTARIO. It was also unanimous that following the guiding principles of anticipated and predictable, that it was imperative that ROWONTARIO gave adequate notice of this change, thus the decision to implement this in 2020 and not in 2019. The committee also agreed that with the anticipated pending cuts in provincial funding from the Ministry it was even more important to institute an annual cost of living fee increase.

A summary of the 2019 fees are below. If there are any questions related to either decision, please do not hesitate to contact myself (president@rowontario.ca) or Andrew Backer (andrew@rowontario.ca) at the office.

Yours in rowing,
Chris Waddell – President



2019 ROWONTARIO Fee Chart

Club membership fee	\$600.00
Athlete registration fee	\$25.00
Coach registration fee	\$25.00
Umpire registration fee	\$5.00
Ontario Seat fee	\$2.25 (\$1.99 + \$0.26 HST)

Regatta umpire program fee (flat fee per regatta)

Regatta type	Criteria*	Daily Flat Rate/regatta
Indoor regattas	All indoor regattas	\$25/day
Outdoor – A	<500 seats	\$25/day
Outdoor – B	501-1,000 seats	\$50/day
Outdoor – C	>1,000 seats	\$100/day
Provincial	All provincial regattas	\$200/day

* regattas will be classified by previous year's entry numbers. New regattas will be determined between the Host and ROWONTARIO. (e.g. ROWONTARIO Championships – 2 days x \$200 = \$400.00 UPF)