



2018 RCA U21 National Team Information

Bulletin #1

March 26, 2018.

General:

The RCA U21 program is a new National Team program that will be delivered by our Provincial partners at ROWONTARIO and Rowing BC. This unique approach to programming is designed to leverage RCA's High-Performance relationship with Ontario and BC and the NextGen HUB facilities that exist in those provinces.

The key purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for the best U21 athletes to gain high level competition experience between the World Championship age categories of Under 19 and Under 23.

The RCA U21 Team will compete against the Australian and New Zealand Under 21 teams in the second leg of their Trans-Tasman Series. The series consists of two legs of racing, with both countries hosting one round. RCA will compete in the second leg of the series, August 23-25 at Lake Karapiro, NZ. The Trans-Tasman series is an annual event that has been running for over a decade. Both countries see this event as an important and integral step in the development pathway and see direct correlation between participation at U21 and performance at the U23 level.

The Trans-Tasman Series offers a unique racing experience. All athletes must be able to row sweep effectively even if they prefer to focus their main preparation and competition in sculling as all team members will compete in the eight. The team size is 10 Men and 10 Women and is broken down as follows: 4 Open Sweep, 2 Open Scull, 2 Lightweight Scull, 1 Lightweight reserve and 1 coxswain for both men and women.

Open sweep athletes will race the 2-(2), 4- and the 8+

Open sculling athletes will race the 1X(2), 4X and the 8+

Lightweight sculling athletes will race the L2X, 4X and the 8+

Lightweight reserve athletes will race the LM1X and the MixL2X

Each boat class will race a heat and a final on the same day. Racing is held over a 3-day period starting with the small boats concluding with the eights.

Eligibility:

Athletes attempting selection for the Under 21 Team must be 20 years of age or younger on December 31 in the year of the respective team selection. For the 2018 U21 Team, athletes must be 20 years of age or younger on December 31, 2018.

Selection:

All athletes will participate in the 2018 RCA Speed Order Regatta. Following this regatta eligible U21 athletes will be invited to participate in further selection. Athletes will be considered from the U23 category for further selection if they are eligible for the U21 category. The selectors reserve the right at their sole discretion to choose the crew combinations, seat racing partners, and the matrix of seat racing. RCA will announce the RCA Under 21 Team by no later than 2 days following the conclusion of selection.

Financial:

Participants selected to compete as part of the RCA U21 Team will be required to pay an assessment to cover the costs of international preparation and competition. This assessment will be made available to all participants as soon as possible. The U21 Team will be included in the RCA Crowdfunding Initiative for 2018 to help athletes off set related expenses.

Information:

Further information will forthcoming in future bulletins. Please watch for the U21 Selection criteria(Appendix) to be added to the RCA website in due course.

If you have questions with regards to any aspect of the U21 program please contact Chris Marshall, ROWONTARIO, Manager of High Performance at chris@rowontario.ca **OR** Rob Richards, Rowing BC, Provincial Coach at rob.richards@rowingbc.ca.