

Key changes made to the NZRA Rules of Racing 2021 for Athletes, Coaches, and Officials to be aware of

As you will know, 2021 was a rule change year. The NZRA Rules of Racing 2021 (post 2021 AGM) can be found [here](#) (NZRA Rules).

The NZRA Rules of Racing 2021 will be used for the NZ Rowing Champs. These rules are often used for other regattas at Karāpiro like Christmas Regatta or at regattas at Ruataniwha like SI Rowing Champs (with local clauses added etc.). School regattas like Maadi and NISSC use different rules. They use the NZSSRA Rules of Racing which are [here](#).

This table lists key changes to the NZRA Rules that you should know about. *Not all changes are included.* You can find the NZRA Rules and all changes made at the 2021 AGM highlighted [here](#) (make sure you have the '2021' and the 'changes' ticked at the top left of the page). The 'Reference' column in the table provides the relevant Rule.

Athletes, Coaches and Officials are strongly encouraged to read all changes at the links above.

Key Change to NZRA Rules of Racing	Reference
Definition of Non-Resident Competitor added	3
Change to the principles guiding the Organising Committee and officials in charge of regattas: This now includes the safety and welfare of all competitors, officials, and volunteers (previously confined to safety of all competitors).	4.1.a.
Changes made to Rule 13 (Classification According to Ability). A number of changes have been made to the rules pertaining to moving up and down classification grades (e.g. moving up to Club; Senior). Important for Coaches to be across.	13.3 + 13.4
Masters Age Categories updated to match FISA	14
Composites: Composite crews can now also be entered in Premier and Masters 2x and 2- events.	18
Coxswains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is now no maximum weight limit on the deadweight that coxswains carry. This aligns NZRA Rules and NZSSRA Rules. 22.4. ● Coxswain Weigh in Procedure has changed for regattas using NZRA Rules 22.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At NZ Rowing Champs, coxswains now only need to weigh in between one and two hours before their first race; and between one and two hours before their first final of the regatta. I.e. do not need to weigh in every day. ○ At other regattas using the NZRA Rules, coxswains only need to weigh in between one and two hours before their first race of the regatta (don't need to weigh in before final as well) ○ <i>Note: NZSSRA coxswain procedure (once a day) has not changed</i> ● Coxswains can now compete for their Club and their School at a regatta. E.g. at Christmas Regatta a 22.8 	

coxswain can be entered for AKLC and also SHAK	
Coxswain's Seat: The Rule is now that "The steering mechanism shall not hinder egress" rather than "the steering mechanism shall not hinder egress by projecting into the coxswain's enclosure"	29
Boat Weighing: The minimum weight for pairs has been reduced from 27 kg to 25kg (doubles remain at 27 kg).	32
Safety briefing: Safety briefings are now a requirement in the Rules.	53
A Race Official shall, if practical, refer to the Race Committee before Excluding any crew for a safety breach (the wording which specifies that any decision here must be in proportion to the seriousness of the offence and with due recognition that such a decision may have on the future racing of the person or crew involved remains).	55
Technological Devices: Medical devices may be used during a race when that device has been approved for use by the Race Committee (you must get approval first).	66
Disputes and Disciplinary Procedures: This section has been completely updated to ensure that the processes are clear to understand for all parties involved:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definitions are now provided for the key terms used; 	73
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Race Protest process has been clarified. This clarifies when protests can be made and the process the Race Committee must follow on assessing whether protest was justified. 	75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Before imposing sanctions, the Race Committee or Organising Committee must follow clear process 	80
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are now record keeping and reporting obligations on Race Officials and the Race Committee where disciplinary measures are imposed on crews 	81
Zonal Umpiring - the NZRA Rules now contain a process for Zonal Umpiring if this is used.	93