



## **USRowing Re-opening the Boathouse/Return to Training Considerations Post-COVID-19**

*Version 1.0*

*The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content is provided for general informational purposes only. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about your return to training and competition.*

*The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, USRowing makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. The guidelines in this document are subject and subordinate to federal, state and local laws, rules, ordinances and regulations that apply to your location (“Applicable Laws”). USRowing does not condone or recommend disregarding or engaging in conduct not in conformity with Applicable Laws. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the guidelines in this document and any Applicable Laws, the Applicable Laws shall control.*

### **USRowing Guidelines for Re-Opening Boathouses**

USRowing is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of our members. With that in mind, the purpose of this document is to provide member organizations, coaches and athletes with information they can use to help develop protocols for the re-opening of their boathouses and their return to training programs in the context of COVID-19. The goal of this document is to develop an approach that minimizes exposure as stay-at-home orders are lifted and the Opening of America Again protocols are put into place.

As this document is meant to guide both large and small organizations in varied locations with differing resources, it should be used to help each organization develop a plan that is specific to their situation. Many of the recommendations rely upon rules and regulations set forth by public health authorities, which will be different across the country. These recommendations should be adapted to match the local prevalence of COVID-19 in their area.

Additionally, it is every organization’s responsibility to have [SafeSport requirements](#) and general [rowing safety protocols](#) in place. Failure to provide a safe rowing environment are grounds for suspension or revocation of organizational membership.

### **Five Core Principles**

1. All organizations and athletes **must follow state and local rules and regulations** set forth by the public health authorities including group size.
2. Training should focus on a **“get in, train, get out” approach**, minimizing



unnecessary contact.

3. Individuals should always **maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet** in all areas when social distancing is required. This includes coaches, athletes and staff. If possible, separate entrances and exits should be created to optimize social distancing.
4. **Training should be allowed in singles (1x) only in order to maintain proper social distancing** when social distancing is recommended. Individuals living in the same residence (husband/wife, siblings, parent/child) may take out a double/pair (2-/2x) or a four/quad (4-/4x).
5. It is recommended that **no team boats should be allowed until social distancing guidelines are lifted** due to the possibility of the transmission of the disease through respiratory signature. A respiratory signature is the footprint we leave in the air every time we expel air from our lungs through our nose and/or mouth. This can be anything from simply exhaling to talking, laughing, sneezing or coughing. At this time, USRowing does not recommend masks as a substitute for social distancing in order to row in team boats.

### **Additional General Guidelines**

- Masks should always be worn in and around the boathouse, on the apron and on the docks. Masks can be removed once on the water in a single but should be put back on when returning to the dock. Masks should be worn in addition to social distancing.
- Athlete, coach and staff health must be monitored at least daily. Please see “Return to Training/Athlete Health Monitoring” section for details.
- All athletes, coaches and staff should sanitize or wash their hands with soap for at least 20 seconds upon arrival and should follow hand-washing protocols regularly.
- Communal spaces should be closed when possible (locker rooms, drinking fountains, etc.) Pay attention to commonly touched items in your area of training or boathouse such as doorknobs, hoses, water spigots, etc. These should be disinfected regularly if they are not closed. Athletes should carry small containers of hand sanitizer to use after touching potentially contaminated surfaces if no soap or water is available.
- No personal items should be stored at the boathouse. All personal items must remain in the individuals’ vehicle or be brought in the boat with them.
- USRowing recommends setting up a reservation system and online logbook in order to manage the number of individuals onsite at one time.

### **Return to Training/Athlete Health Monitoring**

- Any individual (athletes, coaches, and staff) returning to the boathouse or to a training environment needs to have been in that general geographic location for 14 days prior to coming to the boathouse.
- Any individual known to have been exposed to a person who has been sick and/or diagnosed with COVID-19 must self-report to a designated person at the club if the rower was physically present at the boathouse within the prior 14 days, and the individual must self-quarantine for 14 days before returning.
- All individuals must self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 daily. Each person



should take their temperature daily prior to arrival at the boathouse. If their temperature is 100.4 degrees or over, the person should not come to the boathouse.

- Athletes, coaches and staff must arrive to the practice facility wearing a mask. Masks are to be worn when not engaged in practice activity.
- If someone feels sick, they should contact their coach and not attend practice. The individual should reach out to his or her doctor for assistance.
- If an individual has had a documented case of COVID-19, they will need a note from their doctor indicating they are cleared to resume participation in training.
- If training in groups, it is recommended to train in the same group and not mix training groups in order to decrease the risk of exposure across groups.

### **Outdoor Facility Use**

- Organizations must follow state and local guidelines pertaining to parks and public waterways in the operation of on-the-water training.
- Athletes should use their own equipment or the same pieces of equipment daily if unable to have their own – single (1x), oars, and adaptive equipment such as seat cushions, grip aids, etc.
- The athlete should carry their specific oar set to and from the dock. Alternatively, the organization could have a club-appointed person (caddie) get equipment out of the boathouse to reduce the number of people in a boat bay.
- All oars should be wiped down with disinfectant before and after use.
- If shared equipment is being used, equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after each use.
- Adaptive equipment should be wiped down with disinfectant before and after use.
- When launching/landing, social distancing should be maintained. Multiple boats on the dock should be allowed only if proper social distancing requirements can be met.
- If possible, one dock/set of docks should be used for launching and a second dock/set of docks should be used for recovery. Separate docks should be used for para and adaptive athletes.

### **Indoor Facility Use**

- The operation of your indoor facility should follow state and local guidelines, particularly pertaining to gyms.
- Ergs and any other indoor equipment should be spaced at least six (6) feet apart.
- All ergs and equipment must be wiped down with disinfectant before and after every use. No exceptions.
- When possible, open doors and windows to increase ventilation in rooms. The use of fans should be avoided. This is recommended for boat bays, as well as indoor training rooms.
- Locker rooms and other common areas should be closed. Athletes should come prepared to work out and leave the facility when finished.
- When meeting with coaches, social distancing should be maintained. Masks should be worn by all parties.



- If possible, one entrance should be used for access to facility and another one for exit.
- Hand sanitizer should be provided at all entrances and exits.

### **Team Boats**

It is recommended that no team boats should be allowed until social distancing guidelines are lifted due to the possibility of the transmission of the disease through respiratory signature.

### **Events**

USRowing has cancelled all USRowing-owned events (with the exception of virtual events) through the end of 2020. Guidance regarding Registered Regattas and other events will be published in a separate document the week of May 11.

### **Insurance Guidance from Assured Partners**

#### ***“Exclusion of Loss Due to Virus or Bacteria Endorsement CP 01 40 07 06***

*This endorsement makes an explicit statement regarding a risk that is not covered under your Commercial Property insurance. It points out that there is no coverage under such insurance for loss or damage caused by or resulting from any virus, bacterium or other microorganism that induces or can induce physical distress, illness or disease.” \*\**

#### **What Does this Exclusion Mean for Return to Rowing?**

During this unprecedented time, much uncertainty revolves around the above policy language. Philadelphia Insurance company is the final arbiter on the application of this language, however, rowing members that choose to resume operations may assume liability not anticipated in the above policy. For example, individuals may accuse specific organizations of becoming ill with COVID. Coverage for this assertion is currently unclear. Individuals making these accusations would need proof of negligence and traceable physical damage and bodily injury. Even so, coverage for the rowing member remains uncertain.

#### **Mitigation Advisories**

All club board members should be assessing their federal, state, and local mandates daily for updates to any social-distancing protocol. Upon reopening, there should be evident precautionary measures put in place. Signs stressing the importance of maintaining social distance, hand sanitizer stations, masks and gloves while on-premise before launching, and strong disinfectant systems upon return of used oars are just a few possible recommendations. See our website for important COVID information at <https://www.assuredpartners.com/Coronavirus-Resources>

#### **Will My USRowing Coverage be Negated Due to COVID?**

If your club is currently a member in good standing, all verbiage within the master policy is still in force upon return to rowing. This includes coverage for member club premises and member club operations including, but not limited to, camps/clinics, on-water practices, events and activities otherwise not excluded.



Please Note: Failure to abide by federal, state, and local mandates including, but not limited to, social distancing protocol may lead to possible gray areas within the verbiage of your policy. If practices take place prior to your state's green light reopening phase, it may potentially impact the USRowing General Liability insurance.

**Policy Lines**

Your club's General Liability insurance through USRowing is just one of the many coverage options that may exist for your club. We recommend taking the time to check the status of your Equipment, Directors and Officers, Property, and Auto as well. These are separate stand-alone policies that can be reviewed with one of our Account Executives upon request.

*\*\*As per the Philadelphia Insurance Company policy #PHPK2078245 Insured USRowing et al*