

Appendix 2: Rule 13 Update

Overview

There were a significant number of reclassification requests and subsequent appeals ahead of the 2022-23 Season. Clubs have been strong in their feedback that things need to change. The Community Committee also raised issues with the rules.

NZRA asked Associations for feedback on key areas:

Premier Grade Stand Down

There was general acceptance that a longer stand-down is needed for certain Premier Grade Athletes. The suggested time-frames ranged from two years to five years.

Grading for Senior and Club Athletes Returning to the Sport

There was strong support for a rule specifying the grade athletes returning to the sport should attain. The consensus was for grading to be automatic after two seasons.

Grading School Rowers as Senior

There was a strong majority with the view that no school athletes should be Senior Grade, unless they attained this via the NZ Rowing Championships or NZ Representation.

Athletes leaving school as only Intermediate or Club

This was not supported, with the consensus being that school leavers should leave as Senior Grade if they have attained it.

Other Feedback

Feedback has been given that Eights should not be used for classification. As such, Eights have been removed when Medal placings are used for classifications. However, they have been retained when the criteria is an entire A or B final.

Implementation

It is intended that these rules apply for the 2023-24 Season. As such, Rule 13.8 has been added to make this rule retrospectively apply to the 2022-23 Season results. 13.8 has been added so that Rules 13.3 and 13.4 are simplified and that 13.8 can be removed in the future.

Proposal

- Overall, it is proposed that the feedback received is taken on board and that an updated Rule 13 is put to the AGM for adoption by the Associations.
- This proposal also simplifies Rule 13 which had become quite convoluted over time.
- Only sub-sections 3 and 4 have been adjusted – the other sub-sections are included for completeness, but it is not proposed to change these.
- Sub-section 8 has been added for better implementation.

Rule 13 - Classification According to Ability

1. Classifications

- a. Every rower is classified according to ability into one of five classes: Novice, Intermediate, Club, Senior, Premier. (Classes listed in order of increasing ability from lowest to highest).
- b. A person who has never rowed in a race is unclassified according to ability and is eligible for Novice events.

2. Classification Regattas and Events

- a. The New Zealand Rowing Championships and NZSSRA's New Zealand Championships are Classification Regattas.
- b. Events at Classification Regattas (excluding those events which are less than 2000m in distance or provide for mixed gender participation) are events which are used to assess the ability of rowers.

3. Moving Up a Class

- a. **Novice:** An unclassified person becomes Novice when rowing in their first race.
- b. **Intermediate:** A rower moves up to Intermediate at the first end of Season after becoming Novice i.e. the end of NZSSRA's New Zealand championships.
- c. **Club:** A rower moves up to Club at the end of the Season after qualifying if they progress to an A or B final in any event (excluding Novice and U15) at a Classification Regatta.
- d. **Senior:** A rower moves up to Senior:
 - i. At the end of the Season after qualifying if they place first, second or third in the A final in an U18 or older excluding novice, Club, Senior or Premier event for boats other than eights at a Classification Regatta; or
 - ii. Immediately if they are selected to row for New Zealand in any Junior, Youth Olympic, U21, U23, Elite, or similar crew (as defined by NZRA).
- e. **Premier:** A rower moves up to Premier:
 - i. Immediately when selected to row for a RPC, the NZ Elite Development Squad the NZ Summer Squad or similar (as defined by NZRA), or when selected to row for New Zealand in any U23, Elite or similar crew (as defined by NZRA); or
 - ii. At the end of the season after qualifying if they place first, second or third in the A final of the Premier 1x, Premier 2x or Premier 2-; or
 - iii. At the end of the season after qualifying if they place first in the A final of the U22 1x, U22 2x or U22 2- event at a Classification Regatta.
- f. A rower qualifying by Rules 13.3.c and 13.3.d.i above will not qualify if the results qualifying them places them in the bottom third of the event.

Note: A rower may move up more than one class by achieving the requisite qualification standard.

4. Moving Down a Class

- a. **Senior:** A rower will automatically move down to Senior at the end of the Season, after two Seasons as Premier unless:
 - i. They have met the criteria set out at 13.3.e to be Premier during the previous two Seasons; or
 - ii. They have competed at the World Championship or Olympic Games within the past three years.

- b. **Club:** A rower will automatically move down to Club at the end of the Season, after two Seasons as Senior unless:
 - i. They have achieved Premier grade in the past; or
 - ii. They have made an A final in an U18 or older, Senior or Premier event in the past two seasons.
- c. **Intermediate:** A rower will automatically move down to Intermediate at the end of the Season after two seasons as Club unless:
 - i. They have achieved Senior grade in the past; or
 - ii. They have made an A final in an U16 or older, Club, Senior or Premier event in the past two seasons.
- d. **Novice:** No rower can become Novice again.

5. Re-Classification by Application to NZRA

- a. A rower may apply to NZRA for re-classification to Intermediate or Club or Senior.
- b. A rower may only apply if seeking re-classification at the start of the following Season to:
 - i. move up more than one class; or
 - ii. remain in their current class instead of moving up a class; or
 - iii. move down one class instead of remaining in their current class.
- c. NZRA shall consider applications that:
 - i. have the support of the rower's club and Local Association; and
 - ii. set out a case explaining why NZRA should grant re-classification; and
 - iii. are received during the off-Season or by the first day of November in the current season.
- d. When NZRA considers an application, it shall reach a decision as soon as it is practical to do so and shall notify all parties of that decision.
- e. If NZRA grants re-classification during the off-Season then it happens at the start of the next Season. Otherwise, re-classification happens when the decision is notified to all parties.
- f. NZRA will publish a re-classification report as soon as practical after the application process has concluded. The report will summarise the outcomes of all applications. It may also include such details as NZRA decides may be helpful for future applicants.

6. Classification by NZRA

- a. NZRA shall be responsible for classifying any rower other than a Novice or Premier who has not raced under this system of classification. This includes rowers from overseas and rowers whose previous racing all pre-dates this classification system.

7. Classification Eligibility Review and Adjustment

- a. At the end of each Season NZRA shall convene a Committee pursuant to Article 25.1 of the NZRA Constitution to review the definition of Classification Race and the effect of the tests in Rules 13.3 and 13.4.
- b. The Committee shall conclude its review not less than five weeks before the date of the NZRA AGM.
- c. If, after consultation with Local Associations, the Committee determines Rules 13.2 and/or 13.3 and/or 13.4 should be adjusted then at the conclusion of its review it shall put forward an amendment to the Rules in accordance with Article 25 of the NZRA Constitution (for ratification at the NZRA AGM).

8. Effective Date

- a. The amendments to this Rule 13 passed at the 2023 NZRA Annual General Meeting will be effective from 1 September 2022.