



A copy of the Selection Policy for the Scottish Senior and Junior Rowing Teams for the 2009 Home Countries International Regatta is now available on the Scottish Rowing Website.

The Home Countries International Regatta represents one of the few opportunities in which an athlete can represent Scotland in the sport of rowing. In recent years the selection of the teams has been marred by a number of controversies. The policy has therefore been radically updated following an extensive consultation with coaches, athletes and the general membership of the association.

The policy was approved unanimously by the membership of the association at the Scottish Rowing Half Yearly Meeting.

If I may, I would like to take this opportunity to thank potential athletes, coaches and selectors for their patience while the policy was being created and approved.

A current theme throughout the consultation process was that selectors should be able to make decisions and not have their "hands tied" by the selection policy. It is the perception of some, that selectors have a thankless task and is "not worth the hassle". However, without selectors the policy is unworkable and puts in jeopardy the preparation of the athletes and ultimately the success of the team. If you feel you could fulfil the role of selector or you know of someone who you feel would be suitable, please contact me. The process for choosing the selectors is detailed in the selection policy.

Coaches form a vital part of having a successful team and I am looking forward to working with coaches from throughout Scotland. Can I remind all coaches that their participation with the team is dependant on them obtaining a Scottish Rowing Child Protection Certificate. The Scottish Rowing Child Protection officer will be available to process applications at the Strathclyde Park Regatta.

To all the athletes hoping to gain selection I wish you well on your attempts. There was strong feedback during the consultation with athletes that there should be much more time given for preparation. This year's final teams will be announced far earlier than in previous years in an attempt to make this possible. I am also committed to keeping the costs for those involved with the team down and making those costs transparent to all.

If you have any questions about the selection policy or just want to talk in general about the Scotland Rowing Team please feel free to contact me either by phone or by email.

Best Regards

Graeme Cunningham
Team Manager