



January 2021 National Championships Cancelled.

The RL24 Owners Association Executive has been actively discussing the possibilities of a 2021, 48th National Championships for the last several months.

You may recall that the plan was that it was to be hosted by Colac Yacht Club, Victoria in early January.

Alas, due to unresolvable issues we must cancel the National Championships. This is the first time Nationals have been cancelled in advance, in 48 years!

1. Currently, it is a big ask of Australian Sailing to support the Association and hosting club for an early January interstate event. We understand very few, if any National Titles are proceeding early in the year given Covid 19 border pandemic controls. Also, the rules governing gatherings are fluid or in discussion at this stage.

2. Water levels are marginal at Lake Colac and they may or may not last into January. Lake Wellington Yacht Club was a contingency plan, but the pandemic has delayed site and building works there and volunteer work such as crash boat crewing is confined to family contributions at this stage. At the moment the club does not have the capacity to provide a venue and is focused on providing a successful Marley Point Race under tricky conditions.

3. There are aspirations for two-way Christmas travel between Vic-NSW- ACT and Qld, (ideally SA -WA and Tas..) without quarantine periods. Presently there are no guarantees as discussions continue and the outcomes maybe changeable.

This makes it hard for competitors to plan to attend, given they might need to incorporate quarantine in different family, work and leave arrangements.

4. To run a minimal but successful Championships we need more than eight boats and crews willing to prepare their boat, organise to be away from work, travel interstate and attend a club with rules around social distancing in uncertain times.

Family catch-ups and other put-off travel is probably higher on the agenda. A fair portion of our competitors may be in higher risk categories and this increases the chances of opting out to play it safe.

Interim arrangements

- We will pause the NSW-Vic–NSW-Qld rotation to give Colac a second shot in January 2022 and sync the important 50th to the Legg Family's home water of the Gold Coast Qld.
- An AGM can be arranged on Zoom for paid up Association members. An issues paper is in draft and will be circulated before the meeting.
- We will try and mark the cancelled National Championships with a web-based and Facebook event. Maybe you might like to plan to be sailing your boat with your family, club or other RL24s in the first week of January. Get photos and videos we can share!

The crew of Spiral Navigator, Gretta the helm and I will really miss the brilliant company, racing excitement and the sailing improvements that attending a National Titles delivers every single time...

On behalf of the RL24 Owners Association Executive; "Roll On 2022!"

Regards

Wayne Hill

President, RL24 Owners Association