



16 March 2020

## AAGPS HEAD OF THE RIVER 2020

### Moved to Tuesday 17 March 2020 – Designated Staff, Officials, Competitors only

As a result of the escalation of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (Cov-19) in the community, The Athletic Association of The Great Public Schools of NSW has announced the following alternative arrangements to the Head of the River, originally scheduled for Saturday 21 March 2020, now to be held on **Tuesday 17 March 2020** at Sydney International Regatta Centre, Penrith.

In the best interest of the health and wellbeing of students, staff and communities and on the advice of the Federal Government advice of Friday 13 March regarding gatherings of 500 or more the Regatta **will be closed to spectators**. Athletes, officials and coaches are the only permitted attendees of the event. The AAGPS understands that this will be of disappointment to the many family and friends of the competitors, however the event will be live streamed by Rowing NSW on the following link <https://regattas.rowingnsw.asn.au/regattas/4916> allowing all those unable to attend the event to review the Regatta remotely. No individual school photographers are permitted to attend the event. Melba Studios will be attending the event and will be taking photographs of the winning crews and presentation ceremonies.

Official merchandise is available for sale on-line at:

<https://www.paladinsports.com/collections/head-of-the-river>

The Regatta format will now be a reduced schedule to only include the Senior Premiership races. The 3<sup>rd</sup> VIII, and Junior VIII races have been cancelled. The revised schedule is below.

**11.00am: 4<sup>th</sup> IV**

**11.10am: 3<sup>rd</sup> IV**

**11.25am: 2<sup>nd</sup> IV**

**11.40am: 1<sup>st</sup> IV**

**11.55am: 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII**

**12.10pm: 1<sup>st</sup> VIII**

The AAGPS understands the concerns in the community and is totally committed to the health and wellbeing of its students and its community. Stringent health and safety guidelines will be implemented on the day. The bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned by the Sydney International Regatta staff. All crews are to refrain from handshakes before and after races, including at presentation ceremonies. All oars and boats are to be thoroughly washed with appropriate soap and water to ensure hygiene standards are maintained. If any athletes are feeling unwell, **they are not permitted to attend the regatta.**

There will be no food or drink provided at the venue. All schools, if bringing food or drink supplies, must follow strict guidelines to ensure hands and surfaces are well sanitised prior to preparation, distribution and consumption. Water bottles should be cleaned with hot, soapy water. Athletes and all attendees are not to share water bottles or food.

Note: only Gate A will be open until 9am with car parking via green or blue distributed passes, with a list of authorised entry via a list of school and rowing staff, officials, competitors only. **No** other visitors will be allowed entry. Headmasters with blue passes only able to enter after 9am.

The AAGPS wishes all schools and athletes a safe and successful Regatta.

For further information or clarification, please contact Mr Mark Ticehurst, AAGPS Chairman on 0427 990 761, or Mr Nigel Price, Executive Officer on 0497 012 143.