

An important message for the varsity athletes and families of WCC:

Good news, life moves quick! We have been told by Saratoga Rowing Association that they plan on hosting the New York State Championships regatta on May 22nd & 23rd. There is still a chance the regatta gets cancelled if Saratoga Rowing cannot meet certain health standards, but a framework for hosting is in place.

It will be much smaller than in previous years. Here are some of what we know:

- There will be no lightweight or novice events.
- There will be no food tents or vendors.
- There will be no spectators allowed on site.
- They plan on streaming all races online for spectators to watch.
- **Boys races will be Saturday May 22nd, Girls on Sunday May 23rd.**
- It is still up in the air if athletes can stay at the trailer in between races.
- Finals will occur at the end of the day. 'A' Finals (Top 8-10) are planned, 'B' and 'C' Finals are unlikely.
- We will need 1-2 parent volunteers from our team in order to compete.

Additionally, WCSD will have to approve any travel for our team.

Because of all of this **we cannot guarantee all Varsity/JV athletes that they will be permitted to go to states. Assuming the regatta is deemed safe, the coaching staff will determine what boats are permitted to go based on boat speed, skill, athlete dedication, and safety of the crew.** The coaching staff is very excited at the prospect of this opportunity, and look forward to taking fast boats to Saratoga!

Due to the nature of boys and girls racing on separate days, this regatta could be categorized as a 'day trip.' However, because no spectators will be allowed on site (and athletes may have to leave the premises after racing) a hotel may be necessary. As we know, races may be very early in the morning so hotels may be needed for some. **The team is working on reserving rooms for booking as team hotels. As always, families are free to make their own reservations in the area, but please be reminded that we cannot guarantee all athletes will be going to States this year. So be sure your child is racing before you book.** We will communicate further on this when we have more information. In keeping with COVID-19 restrictions, there may be an additional cost for athletes going to States (food/hotels/etc.)

As we mentioned several times during the parent meeting on 3/4, a lot of the 2021 season will be very fluid and will continue to develop as the season goes on. We ask for your patience and understanding as we learn new information in real time. If you have any questions about racing, please direct them to Coach Matt via email stufano.matt@gmail.com. Any questions about hotels and volunteering, please direct them to our parent board wccwinning@gmail.com. Thank you!

-Coach Matt Stufano
Head Coach & Varsity Boys Coach, Wappingers Crew Club