



Dear Parents and Rowers,

As the Corona Virus continues to place our lives on hold, it is with much thought, discussion and adherence to outside decisions that the Freedom Rowers Board of Directors and I need to announce our spring rowing season is cancelled. Along with the extended absence from school, US Rowing has suspended all planned regattas through the beginning of May... at the least.

This is not an easy decision. Our start of the season was an impressive 3 – 4 days! We usually do not get on the water the first week, but the boats and rowers were ready to go and the weather was unusually warm for March. We understand the disappointment runs deep. As one of my rowing sources so aptly put it:

*“ This sport has always been a tool to prepare us to be good citizens and leaders in the world beyond boats. We ask our members to call on the lessons rowing has taught us: resilience, patience and the willingness to step up and take care of one another. We want to add to the chorus in urging our community, usually so active, to do your part by staying put”...for this is our greatest opportunity for making an impact.”*

As your Freedom Rowers family, we are missing so much more than our time on the water. We are missing your smiles, your stories and the energy you bring to Evergreen Cove each day. Thinking ahead, we would like to celebrate our new rowers and honor our seniors who have spent the better part of their high school years with us. We are not sure how or when this is going to work out just yet. Our hope is to get the team back on the water, even if it's just an “inter-team wing-ding on the water” as soon as the situation allows.

We will continue to send you updates as we emerge on the other side of this community challenge, and as always, we welcome your thoughts. Payments for the season are suspended and arrangements will be made for refunds should you have already paid.

Again, I encourage all rowers to stay in shape, stay in touch and maintain the Freedom Rowers ethic of excellence. We are pulling for each other and the river will be waiting for us.

Stay well and see you on the “recovery”

Chris Gill

Executive Director and Coach

Board President, Christopher Walsh, Board Members: Alison Sanford, Robert Billings, Sandy Brown, JoRoy Lizewski

Fellow Coaches, David Hillman, Sarah McKenzie and Kevin White