**Coach dies, rower injured in lightning strike at Germiston Lake [South Africa]**

Rowing South Africa saddened to hear of death of coach, injury of rower.

26 January 2019

<https://germistoncitynews.co.za/195782/coach-dies-rower-injured-lightning-strike-germiston-lake/>

Rowing South Africa (RowSA) on their Facebook page said they are deeply shocked and saddened to hear of a lightning strike incident that occurred on Saturday at a regatta at VLC (Victoria Lake Club) at Germiston Lake which resulted in the death of a coach and injury of an athlete.

“We wish our rower a speedy recovery and we offer our sincere condolences to the family and club of this special coach, our hearts are with you during this immensely difficult time.

“Where appropriate we will communicate further on this incident,” the statement read.

RowSA further added in another post on their Facebook page that in light of the tragic events which led to the death of a member of the rowing community, Rowing South Africa (RowSA) has taken the decision to cancel the remainder of the VLC National Sprints Regatta (today, Sunday, January 27).

“This difficult decision was taken out of the deepest respect for those affected and in the interests of the broader rowing community,” the post said.

Germiston Lake will remain open to the public and rowers will be permitted to row and use the water, however no form of racing will take place.

For any regatta related queries contact Sean Kerr on 083 611 6116.

The GCN has requested comment from emergency services, VLC and Rowing South Africa and are awaiting more information.