

World Rowing Rules of Racing

2021 Edition (following the 2020 Extraordinary Congress)

PART I – SCOPE

Rule 1 – Rowing, Boats, Regattas

- 1) Rowing is the propulsion of a boat, with or without coxswain, by the muscular force of one or more rowers, using oars as simple levers of the second order and sitting with their backs to the direction of movement of the boat. Rowing on a machine or in a tank which simulates the action of rowing in a boat is also considered as rowing.
- 2) A rowing regatta is a sporting competition consisting of one or more events divided, if necessary, into a number of races, in one or more classes of boats for rowers divided, as a general rule, into different categories of gender, age or weight.

Rule 2 – Application

These Rules of Racing and relevant Bye-Laws and Regulations shall apply to:

- 1) World Rowing Championships;
- 2) World Rowing Cups;
- 3) Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games within the limits of the authority of World Rowing and the relevant qualification regattas;
- 4) World Rowing Masters regattas;
- 5) Continental and Regional Championship regattas;
- 6) Regattas held as part of Continental, Regional or other multi-sport Games within the limits of the authority of World Rowing;
- 7) All International Regattas and Matches and International Indoor Rowing competitions.

In addition, these Rules of Racing and related Bye-Laws shall be supplemented by Event Regulations.

Each member federation is responsible for ensuring that the organisation of any competition within its country defined by World Rowing as an International Regatta or International Match complies with the Rules of Racing and related Bye-Laws, subject to any exceptions under the provisions of Rules 6 and 7.

Any member federation, club or individual that participates in any capacity in a rowing competition governed by the Statutes, Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations is deemed to accept without exception or reservation the application of these Statutes, Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations, particularly those relating to the authority and jurisdiction of World Rowing and of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Rule 3 – World Rowing Championships

1) World Rowing conducts the following World Championships:

Event Title

- World Rowing Championships
- World Rowing Under 23 Championships
- World Rowing Under 19 Championships (This event will be referred to as the World Rowing Junior Championships until 31 December 2021, after which time it will be referred to as the World Rowing Under 19 Championships)
- World Rowing Coastal Championships
- World Rowing Beach Sprint Championships
- World Rowing Indoor Championships

2) These titles shall be used only for World Championships organised by World Rowing.

3) World Rowing Championships shall be held in every year. However, in the year of the Summer Olympic and Summer Paralympic Games, the Olympic and Paralympic events will not be on the programme of the equivalent World Rowing Championships.

Rule 4 – Status of Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Regattas

Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas shall have the same status and follow the same rules as World Rowing Championships. Within the limits of the authority of World Rowing the same Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations shall apply.

Rule 5 – Attribution of World Rowing Championships

World Rowing shall encourage a worldwide attribution of World Championships to suitable candidates.

1) World Rowing Championships

- a) The Council shall review all final bids, reject any that do not satisfy the minimum requirements and then select the most suitable candidate(s) and propose it (them) to the Congress for final approval. The Congress shall vote to accept the proposed candidate or, where more than one candidate is proposed by the Council, to elect one of those candidates by a majority of valid votes cast. In the event that Congress fails to so accept the Council's proposed candidate or one of the candidates proposed by the Council, the Congress shall then vote in a second election for which all candidates for the relevant Championships that have satisfied the minimum requirements shall be eligible (see Appendix R21).
- b) Where no bid has been received or when no bid meets the minimum requirements by the deadline for consideration of Congress, the Council may identify a suitable candidate and may directly attribute the event provided the Council is satisfied that the bid meets the minimum standards for the regatta.

2) Other World Championships

- a) The Council may directly attribute a World Rowing Championship regatta in the age groups of Under 23 and Under 19, and in the categories of Coastal, Beach Sprints and Indoor. If the Council cannot decide between two or more bids, the attribution for that particular event shall be decided by a vote of the Congress.
- b) The Council may directly attribute a World Championship regatta for the year before an Olympic Games regatta to an Olympic host city as a test event for the Olympic regatta.

Rule 6 – International Regattas

1) Definition

An International Regatta is a rowing competition, over any distance whether started abreast or against the clock, which is open to rowers from all member federations. Each member federation is responsible for informing World Rowing of any competition to be held in its country which conforms to this definition. World Rowing will decide whether such competition is to be defined as an International Regatta and, if so, that regatta will be included in the World Rowing International Event Calendar under Rule 10.

2) International Regattas – Control by World Rowing

- a) In principle, International Regattas shall be conducted according to the Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations, but the Executive Committee may approve exceptions to these Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws or Event Regulations.

- b) Details of any exceptions to the Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws or Event Regulations shall be provided to competing member federations at the time of their invitation to take part in the International Regatta.
- c) International Regattas shall take place under the authority of World Rowing, which may give directions to the organising committee.
- 3) Competition in International Regattas
 - a) Each member federation is responsible for ensuring that the organisation of any competition within its country defined by World Rowing as an International Regatta complies with the requirements of this Rule.
 - b) No rower shall enter International Regattas other than through his club and/or member federation (as specified by individual regatta requirements). Additionally a rower may only make a direct approach to World Rowing (e.g. on a question of appeal) through his member federation.
 - c) A member federation may participate in events at all International Regattas as the national team without club designation. If rowers compete in an International Regatta under the name of their national team, they shall be citizens of the country of that member federation. In this last regard, the Executive Committee may make exceptions in exceptional cases.
 - d) No rower may compete for two different clubs or member federations at the same International Regatta.
 - e) The Council may authorise competitions between members and non-members of World Rowing.

Bye-Law to Rule 6 – World Rowing Cup – Definition

The World Rowing Cup is an annual series of designated International Regattas. The Council has the sole right to designate regattas as World Rowing Cup regattas, to use the World Rowing Cup name and logo, and to prescribe regulations governing the World Rowing Cup.

Rule 7 – International Matches

1) Definition

An International Match is a rowing competition, over any distance whether started abreast or against the clock, which is restricted only to rowers from certain member federations.

Each member federation is responsible for informing World Rowing of any competition to be held in its country that conforms to this definition. World Rowing will decide whether such competition is to be defined as an International Match and, if so, that Match shall be included in the World Rowing International Event Calendar under Rule 10.

2) International Matches – Control by World Rowing

- a) In principle, International Matches shall be conducted according to the Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations, but the Executive Committee may approve exceptions to these Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations. International Matches shall take place under the authority of World Rowing, which may give directions to the organising committee.
 - b) Details of any exceptions to the Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws or Event Regulations shall be provided to competing member federations at the time of their invitation to take part in the International Match.
- 3) Competition in International Matches
- a) Each member federation is responsible for ensuring that the organisation of any competition within its country defined by World Rowing as an International Match complies with the requirements of this Rule.
 - b) The Council may authorise Matches between members and non-members of World Rowing.

Rule 8 - National Regattas

A National Regatta is a rowing competition, over any distance whether started abreast or against the clock, which is intended in general for rowers from one member federation only. The fact that rowers from other member federations may enter such regattas does not necessarily render them International Regattas.

National Regattas shall be governed by the Rules of Racing of the member federation of the organising body.

Rule 9 – Approval of International Regattas and Matches

All member federations shall, not later than 31 October in each year, send to the World Rowing headquarters a list of all competitions proposed to be held in their countries during the following year that conform with the definitions of an International Regatta in Rule 6 or of an International Match in Rule 7. They shall submit to World Rowing for approval:

- 1) The dates on which these Regattas and Matches are to be held;
- 2) Details of the courses (stretches of water and technical installations) proposed;
- 3) The type of Regatta proposed;
- 4) The categories of rowers and classes of boats proposed;
- 5) Any envisaged exception to the World Rowing Rules of Racing and Bye-Laws.

Rule 10 – World Rowing International Event Calendar

All International Regattas and International Matches approved by World Rowing under Rule 9 shall be entered in the World Rowing International Event Calendar. However, World Rowing may, at its discretion, also include the dates of other competitions in the Calendar for the convenience of the member federations, but the fact that such competitions are not held under the authority of World Rowing shall be identified in the Calendar.

PART II – ROWERS AND COXSWAINS

SECTION 1 – General

Rule 11 – Right to Participate

- 1) World Rowing Championships are open to all member federations.
- 2) Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic regattas are open only to those rowers whose member federations have qualified in the appropriate boat classes in accordance with the relevant qualification system.

Rule 12 – Eligibility and Nationality

- 1) World Rowing Championship, World Rowing Cup and International regattas shall be open to all rowers who are authorised to compete by their member federation and who are eligible under the relevant Rules.
Events for Lightweight, Para, Under 23 and Under 19 rowers are open only to rowers complying with the requirements of the relevant category.
The other events at the World Rowing Championships, World Rowing Cup and Olympic regattas are open to all rowers without restriction of age or weight.

Exceptions to this Rule are set out in the Event Regulations.
- 2) Subject to the provisions of this Rule, to represent a country in a World Rowing Championship regatta, rowers shall be nationals of that country. They must be able to prove this by showing an official document (passport or identity card).
- 3) To represent a country at a continental or final qualification regatta for the Olympic, Paralympic or Youth Olympic Games, a rower shall prove that he is eligible under the eligibility rules of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) or the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) respectively. In exceptional cases, the Executive Committee may make exceptions.
- 4) Dual or Change of Nationality – Rowers who are nationals of two or more countries or who change nationality or acquire an additional nationality, may represent either country, as the rowers may elect. However, after having represented one country in a World Championship, Olympic or Paralympic Games regatta, or Continental or Regional Games or Championship regatta, rowers may not represent another country unless they have held the passport of that country for a minimum of twenty four months prior to the date at which they compete for that country, and they only compete for one country in any one calendar year.

For multi-sport Games regattas, the rules of the Games authority shall apply in this regard.

- 5) Under 19 Rowers – An Under 19 rower may compete for his country of residence. A rower who has competed for one country as an Under 19 may, only in the year after which he is last eligible to compete as an Under 19, choose to compete for a different country subject to having the nationality of the country for which he will compete. Such choice may only be made once under this rule and World Rowing must be notified before the rower competes under the new nationality, together with proof of such nationality.
- 6) In exceptional cases, the Executive Committee may make exceptions, and in doing so may consult the member federations concerned.

Rule 13 – Men’s and Women’s Events

- 1) Subject to Rule 21 (Coxswains), only men may compete in men’s events and only women may compete in women’s events.
- 2) A Mixed crew is a crew which contains both men and women rowers, in such proportion as shall be stipulated either in these Rules and Regulations or otherwise by the relevant organising committee, as the case may require.
- 3) In order to meet the requirements of this Rule and of World Rowing’s commitment to the fundamental principles of fairness and equality of opportunity it is necessary to provide certainty on gender categorisation to maintain the integrity of World Rowing’s competitions.
- 4) To be eligible to compete either as a man or as a woman, a rower must meet the criteria and comply with the requirements appearing in the Bye-Law to this Rule.
- 5) Any issue as to the eligibility of a rower to compete as a man or as a woman shall be determined by the Executive Committee in accordance with the Bye-Law to this Rule.

Bye-Laws to Rule 13 – Men’s and Women’s Events

Refer to Appendix R1 – Men’s and Women’s Events

Rule 14 – Safety and Health of Rowers

- 1) The safety and health of all participants in the sport of rowing is a matter of paramount concern.

- 2) Rowers entering international events shall ensure that:
 - a) they have a state of health and fitness which allows them to compete at a level commensurate with the competition level of the particular event; and
 - b) they have the basic swimming ability as defined in the Bye-Law to this Rule.
- 3) In addition to the safety provisions in Rule 51, each member federation shall ensure that:
 - a) the rowers entered to represent their member federation meet the requirements stated in points 2) a) and b) of this Rule;
 - b) their rowers are able to develop as athletes and compete free from unhealthy influences such as discrimination of any form, harassment and abuse so that the athletes are able to operate in a safe and secure environment.
- 4) Every organising committee shall comply with all safety and health requirements of World Rowing and other authorities and shall ensure that the facilities at the regatta are of a sufficient standard to provide a safe, hygienic and healthy environment for rowers and other regatta participants.
- 5) Member federations and organising committees shall respond fully and promptly to any inquiry by World Rowing as to any issue relating to the health and safety requirements as provided by these Rules and Bye-Laws.

Bye-Laws to Rule 14 – Safety and Health of Rowers

1) *Swimming Ability*

All rowers competing in World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas and qualification regattas for the Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games shall be able to swim 50m and keep their head above water unassisted for three minutes. It is the responsibility of the member federation to ensure and certify that rowers can meet these minimum standards and be able to provide evidence thereof if requested by World Rowing. At World Rowing Masters Regattas it is the responsibility of the individual masters rower (Rule 20).

2) *Pre-competition Health Screening*

- a) *All rowers competing in the World Rowing Senior, Under 23, Under 19 and Beach Sprint Championship regattas must have completed a pre-competition health screening which includes a questionnaire, a physical examination and an ECG following the IOC's recommended procedure. It is the responsibility of the member federation to ensure and certify that these Pre-competition Health Screening procedures have been performed and be able to provide evidence thereof if requested by World Rowing.*
- b) *All rowers competing in the World Rowing Senior, Under 23, Under 19 and Beach Sprint World Championship regattas must complete the medical questionnaire and undergo a medical examination each year, and, in addition, must undergo a resting ECG every three years up to the age of 23, and every five years after the age of 23.*

c) *For all other World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas, and World Rowing Masters Regattas, it is strongly recommended that rowers competing in these events undergo this Pre-competition Health Screening.*

3) *Intravenous re-hydration*

Any rower who has been re-hydrated intravenously shall not subsequently compete on that day.

4) *Injections (No-Needle Policy)*

During International Regattas (from 24 hours before the start of the first race of the Regatta through to 24 hours after the end of the last race at such Regatta), any injection to any site of a rower's body of any substance:

a) *Must be medically justified;*

Justification includes physical examination by a certified medical doctor (M.D.), diagnosis, prescription of medication, route of administration and appropriate documentation;

b) *Must respect the approved indication of the medication;*

c) *Must be administered by a certified medical professional; and*

d) *at regattas where a World Rowing Doctor is present, must be reported immediately and in writing not later than 24 hours afterwards to the World Rowing Doctor, including rowers with a valid TUE. The report must include the diagnosis, medication and route of administration.*

The disposal of used needles, syringes and other biomedical material which may affect the security and safety of others, including blood sampling (e.g. lactates) and other diagnostic equipment shall conform to internationally recognised safety standards.

5) *Member Federation Chief Medical Officer and Team Medical Officer*

a) *Each member federation competing in events under these Rules, Bye-Laws and Regulations must, before the first competitions of crews from their federation each year, provide to World Rowing the name and contact details of its Chief Medical Officer with whom World Rowing may communicate on medical issues of a confidential or other nature and shall notify World Rowing of any change thereof.*

b) *At the time that a team arrives at a regatta venue, the Team Manager shall register with World Rowing the name of its Team Medical Officer (if any) who is attending the regatta with that team.*

c) *The Team Manager and Team Medical Officer are required to inform the organising committee Medical Officer about medical issues in their team which may be relevant to public health and safety of an event.*

Rule 15 – Insurance

- 1) Each member federation or club participating at a World Rowing Event shall ensure that it has adequate and appropriate insurance cover in place for each of its rowers and accompanying team officials (including delegates) for at least the duration of the event and the period of travel to and from.
- 2) Only where a World Rowing Event permits an individual rower to enter that event directly and not through a member federation or a club, and a rower makes such a direct entry, that rower shall similarly ensure that he or she has adequate and appropriate insurance cover in place for the rower and any official such as a coach accompanying that rower.
- 3) For the purpose of this Rule, “adequate and appropriate insurance cover” shall include cover for:
 - a) General (third party) liability – sufficient for the countries visited;
 - b) Travel and medical expenses - sufficient for the country being visited and to include repatriation to the home country; and
 - c) Property – for boats, other rowing related equipment and personal effects of significant value not covered by the travel insurance.
- 4) Member federations or clubs, or rowers participating at a World Rowing event in the circumstances described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Rule shall, upon being requested by World Rowing to do so, provide documentation to World Rowing that confirms that they hold the various insurance coverage required by this Rule.

Rule 16 – Commitment

- 1) Rowers may only compete at World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas and qualification regattas for the Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games if they have submitted a signed World Rowing Commitment Form, according to Art. 57 of the Statutes. Each team official must have submitted a signed World Rowing Commitment Form to World Rowing before accreditation may be issued.
- 2) Where World Rowing has also committed to follow the rules of other organisations as a condition of World Rowing’s authority in conducting the above events, rowers may also be required by World Rowing to sign additional commitments from such organisations as a condition to compete.

Rule 17 – Age Categories

The following age categories for rowers are recognised by World Rowing:

- 1) Under 19
- 2) Under 23
- 3) Seniors
- 4) Masters

Rule 18 – Additional Categories

In addition to the age categories, World Rowing recognises a lightweight category for Seniors and Under 23, as well as a Para Rowing category for Seniors.

SECTION 2 – Age Groups

Rule 19 – Under 19, Under 23 and Senior

- 1) Under 19 - A rower may compete in an Under 19 rowing event until 31 December of the year in which they reach the age of 18.
- 2) Under 23 - A rower may compete in an Under 23 rowing event until 31 December of the year in which they reach the age of 22.
- 3) Senior – Senior rowing events are open to rowers of all ages.

SECTION 3 – Masters

Rule 20 – Masters

A rower may compete in Masters rowing events from the beginning of the year during which they reach the age of 27. A World Rowing Masters Regatta shall be conducted each year under the supervision of the Masters Commission. The World Rowing Masters Regatta shall be an International Regatta under these rules.

Bye-Laws to Rule 20 – Masters

Refer to Appendix R16 – World Rowing Masters Regatta Regulations.

SECTION 4 – Coxswains

Rule 21 – Coxswains

Coxswains are members of the crew. Any reference to rowers in these Rules shall include coxswains unless otherwise stipulated.

Except for multi-sport Games and relevant qualification regattas which shall be subject to the rules of the authority concerned, the gender of the coxswain shall be open so that a men's crew may be coxed by a woman and a women's crew by a man. Age categories shall apply to coxswains, except in Masters events. In exceptional cases, the Executive Committee may make exceptions.

The minimum weight for a coxswain wearing the racing uniform is 55.0 kilogrammes ("kgs").

To make up this weight, coxswains may carry a maximum of 15.0 kgs deadweight which shall be placed in the boat as close as possible to their person. No article of racing equipment shall be considered as part of this deadweight.

These provisions shall also apply to coxswains in lightweight races.

Bye-Law to Rule 21 – Weighing of Coxswains

Coxswains shall be weighed wearing only their racing uniform on tested scales not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race in each event in which they are competing on each day of the competition.

The weighing scales shall indicate the weight of the coxswain to 0.1 kgs.

The Control Commission may require on the occasion of the first weighing, or subsequently, the presentation of an official identity card with photograph. Where an official photograph of the crew has been checked for correctness against such identity card, this photograph may be used instead by the Control Commission at time of weighing.

If coxswains are carrying deadweight, the Control Commission may require the weight of the deadweight to be checked at any time before the race or until immediately after disembarkation. Additionally, the Starter and Umpire may check the presence of the deadweight.

SECTION 5 – Lightweights

Rule 22 – Lightweights

1) Rowers may compete in lightweight rowing events if they meet the following criteria:

- a) A crew competing in a lightweight men's crew event shall have an average weight (excluding coxswain) not exceeding 70.0 kgs, and no individual rower may weigh more than 72.5 kgs.
- b) A rower competing in a lightweight men's single sculls event may not weigh more than 72.5 kgs.
- c) A crew competing in a lightweight women's crew event shall have an average weight (excluding coxswain) not exceeding 57.0 kgs, and no individual rower may weigh more than 59.0 kgs.
- d) A rower competing in a lightweight women's single sculls event may not weigh more than 59.0 kgs.

*Please note: The 2020 FISA Extraordinary Congress has delegated authority to the 2022 World Rowing Ordinary Congress to consider possible changes to lightweight averaging for 2023 and onwards.

Bye-Law to Rule 22 – Weighing of Lightweight Rowers

Lightweight rowers shall be weighed wearing at least their racing uniform on tested scales not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race of each lightweight event in which they are competing, each day of the competition. The weighing scales should indicate the weight of the rower to 0.1 kgs.

Notwithstanding the foregoing,

- 1) If two rounds of the same event take place on the same day of competition and some rowers in the second round do not have to race in the first round of that day, then these rowers in the second round shall be weighed at the same time as the rowers in the first round.*
- 2) On each occasion of weighing, each crew shall present itself together as a crew at the weighing centre and shall be weighed as a crew. If the first race is subsequently postponed or cancelled, the lightweight rower is not required to be weighed again on the same day for that event.*
- 3) The Control Commission shall require presentation of each rower's official identity card with photograph at the time of the first weighing of the rower or subsequently. Where an official photograph of the crew has been checked for correctness against such identity card, this photograph may be used instead by the Control Commission at time of weighing.*
- 4) A rower or crew not meeting the required weight may be weighed again any number of times within the allowed time limit. However, if a rower or crew fails to meet the required weight or does not present itself by the expiry of the time permitted for weighing, the rower and the crew of that rower are no longer eligible and shall be excluded from the event.*
- 5) A reserve for a lightweight crew may be weighed with the crew as if a member of that crew. The recorded weight then applies in the event of a substitution under Rule 48 or 49.*

- 6) *If a crew has officially weighed in without a reserve, a replacement rower under the provisions of Rule 48 or 49 may be weighed at any time before the next race of the crew. In such case, the individual weight and the crew average weight using the weight of the replacement rower and the recorded weights of the remaining crew members must comply with this Rule.*

SECTION 6 – Para Rowing

Rule 23 – Para Rowing

Rowers may compete in a Para Rowing event if they have an Eligible Impairment and have been allocated an eligible Sport Class and Sport Class status under the Para Rowing Classification Regulations (Appendix R15). Rowers may compete in a more functional Sport Class than their assigned Sport Class, but not a less functional Sport Class.

The categories and boat classes are defined in the Para Rowing Competition Regulations (Appendix R14).

PART III – BOAT CLASSES

Rule 24 – Boat Classes

The following boat classes are recognised by World Rowing:

- 1) Single sculls (1x)
- 2) Double sculls (2x)
- 3) Pair (2-)
- 4) Coxed Pair (2+)
- 5) Quadruple sculls (4x)
- 6) Coxed Quadruple sculls (4x+)
- 7) Four (4-)
- 8) Coxed Four (4+)
- 9) Eight (8+)

Rule 25 – World Championship Event Programme

In principle, the events programme for World Rowing Championship regattas shall be the same for men and women.

World Rowing Championships are held in the following events:

Senior Men (M)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-		8+	
Senior Women (W)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-		8+	
Senior Lightweight Men (LM)	1x	2x	2-		4x				
Senior Lightweight Women (LW)	1x	2x	2-		4x				
Senior Para Rowing (PR)	PR1 M1x	PR1 W1x	PR2 M1x	PR2 W1x	PR2 Mix2x	PR3 M2-	PR3 W2-	PR3 Mix2x	PR3 Mix4+
Under 23 Men (BM)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-	4+	8+	
Under 23 Women (BW)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-	4+	8+	
Under 23 Lightweight Men (BLM)	1x	2x	2-		4x				
Under 23 Lightweight Women (BLW)	1x	2x	2-		4x				
Under 19 Men (JM)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-	4+	8+	
Under 19 Women (JW)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-	4+	8+	

The Council will propose the most appropriate programme to the Quadrennial Congress convened in accordance with Article 32, to be valid for the next 4 years.

The event programmes for the World Rowing Coastal Championships, World Rowing Beach Sprint Championships and World Rowing Indoor Championships shall be found in their relevant Event Regulations (Appendices).

**Please note: The 2020 FISA Extra-Ordinary Congress has delegated authority to the 2022 World Rowing Ordinary Congress to consider possible changes to the World Rowing Championship programmes for 2023 and onwards.*

Rule 26 – Olympic Games Event Programme

The events programme for the Olympic regatta shall be determined by the IOC Executive Board after consultation with World Rowing in accordance with the Olympic Charter.

The World Rowing Congress shall select a recommended Olympic programme that the World Rowing Executive Committee shall submit to the IOC.

Bye-Laws to Rule 26 – Olympic Games Boat Classes

The following events will be included on the rowing programme for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and the 2024 Paris Olympic Games:

Senior Men (M)	1x	2x	2-	4x	4-	8+
Senior Women (W)	1x	2x	2-	4x	4-	8+
Senior Lightweight Men (LM)		2x				
Senior Lightweight Women (LW)		2x				

Rule 27 – Boat Classes at Other Events

The events at Regional and Continental Championship regattas as well as multi-sport Games regattas shall be proposed to World Rowing by the regional or continental rowing confederation or multi-sport Games associations, as appropriate for World Rowing approval.

PART IV – BOATS AND CONSTRUCTION

Rule 28 – Free Construction

The construction, design and dimensions of boats and oars shall, in principle, be unrestricted subject to the Bye-Laws to this Rule and to Rule 29. However, except for the rowers' seats, all load bearing parts including the axes of moving parts must be firmly fixed to the body of the boat.

Bye-Laws to Rule 28 – Boats and Equipment

Refer to Appendix R2 – Boats and Equipment.

Rule 29 – Innovations in Equipment

- 1) Innovations in equipment including, but not limited to, boats, oars, related equipment and clothing, must meet the following requirements before being used in International Regattas:
 - a) Be commercially available to all rowers (patents may not exclude the use by a team or a rower);
 - b) Not add to the cost or complexity of the sport without adding corresponding value;
 - c) Not provide an advantage to some rowers over others or change the nature of the sport;
 - d) Be safe and consistent with the principles of sustainable development; and
 - e) Be a positive development for the sport of rowing and maintain the principles, in particular those of fairness and equality, of the sport.
- 2) An innovation must be submitted to the World Rowing Executive Committee for evaluation. If it is judged to meet the above conditions and is approved for use, it must be readily available for all rowers by 1 January in order to be authorised for use in International Regattas that year. Crews shall not be allowed to compete with unapproved innovations in events held under these Rules.

The Executive Committee has the sole authority to decide all matters under this Rule including what constitutes an innovation, whether an innovation is significant, whether it is readily available, whether the costs are reasonable, whether it is safe and consistent with the principles of sustainable development and whether it is a positive development for the sport of rowing and maintains the principles of the sport.

Rule 30 – Weight of Boats

All boats used at World Rowing Championship, World Rowing Cup, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas, Regional Games and Continental Championship regattas and all other International Regattas shall be of defined minimum weights as set out in the Bye-laws to this Rule.

The minimum boat weights for boats used at coastal rowing and beach sprint rowing events are found in Appendix R18 and Appendix R19.

Bye-Laws to Rule 30 – Weight of Boats

Refer to Appendix R3 – Weight of Boats.

PART V – COURSES

Rule 31 – Characteristics

- 1) The standard international course for World Rowing Championship, World Rowing Cup, Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and relevant qualification regattas, Regional Games, Continental Championships and International Regattas shall provide fair and equal racing conditions for six crews racing in separate, straight, parallel lanes that are perpendicular to the Start and Finish lines, over a distance of 2,000 metres.
- 2) For World Rowing Championship, World Rowing Cup, Olympic, Paralympic and relevant qualification regattas, the standard international course shall be provided with technical installations and equipment to Category A level as defined in the Bye-Laws to Rules 31 to 33. In addition, it must also comply with all the specifications and descriptions given in the latest version of the World Rowing Manual.
- 3) Requirements for the World Rowing Coastal Championships, World Rowing Beach Sprint Championships and World Rowing Indoor Championships are defined in the relevant Event Regulations.
- 4) In order to be classified by World Rowing as a standard international course, full details of the course concerned must be submitted in writing to World Rowing by the applicants, and the course must be inspected at the cost of the member federation concerned and approved by an expert appointed by World Rowing.
- 5) The Council may approve non-standard requirements for World Rowing Championship, World Rowing Cup, Olympic, Paralympic and relevant qualification regattas, Continental and Regional Games and Continental Championship regattas where this is in the interests of the event and the sport of rowing.

Rule 32 – Racing Distance

- 1) International Regattas

The standard international racing distance shall be 2,000 metres straight for men and women in the categories Senior, Under 23, Under 19 and Para Rowing. For Masters (men, women and mixed crews) the racing distance shall be 1,000 metres straight.

- 2) World Rowing Championship regattas

The length of the standard World Championship course shall be 2,000 metres straight. The provisions of this Rule require the use of moveable starting installations in order that the bows of all boats of whatever class may be aligned on the same start line.

Requirements for the World Rowing Coastal Championships, World Rowing Beach Sprint Championships and World Rowing Indoor Championships, are defined in the relevant Event Regulations.

- 3) The length of the course and all intermediate distances shall be measured by an independent qualified surveyor and a certified plan shall be held by the organising committee. This plan shall be available for inspection by World Rowing at any time. For World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas, World Rowing may request a further survey be carried out to standards specified in the latest version of the World Rowing Manual.
- 4) The Council may grant exceptions to this rule where necessary for regattas in multi-sport competitions, Continental or other Championships where it is clearly demonstrated that a standard course is not reasonably achievable.
- 5) A non-standard course may be shorter (for example, sprints) or longer (for example, long distances, head of the river, etc.) than the standard course. It is not necessary that a non-standard course be straight.

Rule 33 – Number of Lanes

1) International Regattas

On standard international courses, races shall normally be held using up to six lanes.

2) World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas

Races shall be held using up to six lanes but, in principle, the course shall have at least eight lanes usable for racing.

Requirements for the World Rowing Coastal Championships, World Rowing Beach Sprint Championships and World Rowing Indoor Championships, are defined in the relevant Event Regulations.

Bye-Laws to Rules 31 to 33 – Regatta Courses

Refer to Appendix R4 – Regatta Courses

PART VI – ORGANISATION OF REGATTAS

SECTION 1 – General

Rule 34 – Authority of World Rowing

All International Regattas and International Indoor Rowing competitions are under the overriding authority of World Rowing and, subject thereto, of the member federation concerned. An organising committee shall be responsible for the organisation of regattas.

World Rowing Championship, World Rowing Cup, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas, Continental and Regional Championship regattas as well as regattas in connection with other multisport competitions shall take place under the authority of World Rowing, which will give directions to the organising committee. The Executive Committee shall nominate Technical Delegates for each regatta in accordance with Appendix R5.

SECTION 2 – Regatta Roles

Rule 35– The Organising Committee

The relevant member federation shall ensure that an organising committee is formed for each International Regatta or International Match. The organising committee is responsible to ensure the proper preparation and operation of the regatta in accordance with the Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations.

The responsibilities and duties of the organising committee are set out in the Bye-laws to this Rule at Appendix R5, Regatta Roles.

Rule 36 – Team Manager

- 1) At International Regattas each member federation or club shall appoint an individual (the “Team Manager”) who will be responsible for official communication between rowers and coaches and the organising committee during a regatta. Team Managers are responsible for their team and they or their delegate must identify themselves to the organising committee and agree arrangements for subsequent communications, including attendance at all Team Managers’ Meetings.
- 2) At World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas, and World Rowing Cup regattas, each participating member federation shall appoint a Team Manager. Team Managers, or their delegates, shall attend each official Team Managers’ Meetings and shall communicate to all rowers and coaches in their teams all relevant information from the meeting or otherwise

distributed to Team Managers, including that concerning racing and safety, and shall be responsible for all official communications with World Rowing during the regatta on matters concerning their teams, including withdrawal of crews and substitution of rowers.

- 3) Failure of a member federation or club to appoint a Team Manager or failure of a Team Manager to attend official meetings or communicate information may result in the member federation being sanctioned by the Executive Committee.

Rule 37 – World Rowing – Roles at Regattas

World Rowing shall have certain responsibilities at regattas including duties carried out by specified officials. Racing will be conducted in accordance with these Rules by International Umpires, the Jury and the Board of the Jury.

- 1) The Executive Committee shall have specific responsibilities at regattas under the Statutes and Rules of Racing. In addition:
 - a) International Regattas and International Matches -

the Executive Committee may appoint a Technical Delegate to represent World Rowing at the regatta

- b) World Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas – the Executive Committee shall appoint the following officials to represent World Rowing at the regattas:
 - i) Technical Delegate(s)
 - ii) President of the Jury
 - iii) World Rowing Doctor
 - iv) World Rowing Event Safeguarding Officer
 - v) Fairness Committee

The appointment, roles and responsibilities of these officials are set out in the Bye-law to this Rule at Appendix R5.

- 2) Conduct of Racing
 - a) The Jury - The Jury shall be responsible for conducting the racing and ensuring that the regatta is run in accordance with these Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations and shall be comprised of a group of International Umpires, supported where appropriate by national umpires.

The safety of rowers must be the prime concern of the Jury at all times during the regatta.
 - b) Board of the Jury - The Board of the Jury shall consider and decide on any protests made according to Rule 76 and shall consist of the President of the Jury and two other members of the Jury designated by the President of the Jury on a daily basis prior to the start of racing.

c) International Umpires shall be responsible for conduct of racing as members of the Jury.

Bye-laws to Rules 35–37 – Regatta Roles

Refer to Appendix R5 – Regatta Roles

SECTION 3 – Commercial and Identification Provisions

Rule 38 – Commercial Publicity, Sponsorship, Advertising, and Identifications

All Identifications displayed on clothing and equipment and in any other manner whatsoever at a regatta held under these Rules, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations (Appendix R6) shall be restricted and governed by these Rules. Any contravention shall be subject to penalty.

Bye-Laws to Rule 38 – Commercial Publicity, Sponsorship, Advertising, and Identifications

Refer to Appendix R6 - Commercial Publicity, Sponsorship, Advertising, and Identifications

Rule 39 – Rowers' Clothing and Blade Colours

- 1) Members of the same crew shall compete wearing identical clothing except as allowed under the Bye-Laws to Rule 38. If any members of the crew wear headwear, then the headwear worn by those crew members shall be identical except as allowed under the Bye-Laws to Rule 38.
- 2) The colours and design of the blades of all oars and sculls shall be identical on both sides.
- 3) Coxswains may race wearing additional clothing in the colours of their crew.
- 4) World Rowing Championship regattas
 - a) Members of national crews shall wear the registered racing uniform of their member federation. The blades of all oars and sculls shall be in the registered colours of their federation.
 - b) At least three months before the first proposed use in competition, the design and colours of racing uniforms and blades shall be registered with World Rowing in accordance with Art. 13 of the Statutes.

- c) The Council may issue further regulations regarding rowers' clothing at World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas in particular, including use of a t-shirt provided by World Rowing or other World Rowing sponsor identification as defined in the Bye-Law to Rule 38.

Bye-Law to Rule 39 – Rowers' Clothing and Blade Colours

At International Regattas, members of a composite crew shall either wear an identical uniform and Identifications or each member of the crew shall wear the uniform and Identification of his own club.

Rule 40 – Prizes and Sponsorship Contracts

Rowers may receive cash or other prizes for competition. They may also enter into sponsorship contracts provided these contracts are reviewed and approved by their member federation in advance, and that these contracts are in compliance with World Rowing Statutes and Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations.

Rule 41 – World Rowing Merchandising Rights

At all regattas under its authority World Rowing retains all rights to:

- 1) Sell merchandise, souvenirs and other articles. The organising committee shall provide sites for this activity at no cost to World Rowing;
- 2) Use and licence the name and official emblem of World Rowing and World Rowing and other names, emblems and logos as registered by World Rowing.

World Rowing may share a proportion of the proceeds of the sale of these rights with the organising committees of relevant regattas.

SECTION 4 – Entries, Withdrawals and Crew Changes

Rule 42 – Authorisation of the Member Federation

- 1) International Regattas

A crew may compete in an International Regatta in another country only if authorised in writing by its member federation. The latter shall be held responsible for the payment of the entry fees. If an organising committee allows a crew to enter its regatta without written authorisation from the relevant member federation then that federation cannot be held responsible for the crew and for its actions. This rule shall not apply to Masters regattas.

2) World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas and qualification regattas for Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games

Rowers shall compete under the name of their member federation which shall alone be entitled to enter and represent them.

3) Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic regattas

Rowers shall compete under the name of their National Olympic or Paralympic Committee which shall alone be entitled to enter and represent them.

Rule 43 – Entries

1) International Regattas

- a) The entry of a crew for an International Regatta will be valid if all details required by the entry form have been completed.
- b) Names shall be shown starting with the bow rower and finishing with the stroke rower, followed by the coxswain.
- c) The organising committee of an International Regatta must accept every valid entry made by the closing date except where only one entry is received by the entry deadline in which case that event will be cancelled.

2) World Rowing Championship regattas

- a) Dedicated entry forms shall be made available to the member federations in principle two months before the closing date for entries.
- b) Entries must be received at World Rowing headquarters before the specified deadline (usually between 9 and 14 days before the date of the first heat).
- c) These entries shall indicate the crews, with the names and the birthdates of the rowers in the crews, starting with the bow rower and finishing with the stroke rower, followed by the coxswain.
- d) The entries shall also include the names and birthdates of any additional rowers who may be used as a replacement during the regatta.
- e) Minimum entries - Should only one crew be entered in an event at the entry deadline, the event will be cancelled.

Rule 44 – List of Entries

1) International Regattas

Not later than two days after the closing of the entries, the organising committee shall send to all participating clubs and member federations a list of the entries, a provisional timetable of the heats, the time(s) and venue(s) of the Team Managers' Meeting and draw, and details of the traffic rules.

2) World Rowing Championship regattas

World Rowing shall make a list of the entries from member federations entered in each event available to all federations concerned.

Rule 45 – False Declarations

Any false declaration regarding the name, age, classification, club membership or eligibility of a rower may result in the disqualification of every rower of the crew concerned from all races for which they are entered at the regatta in question. The Executive Committee may apply additional penalties.

Rule 46 – Entry Irregularities

1) International Regattas

Any person, club or member federation claiming that an entry is not valid shall lodge an objection in writing promptly with the organising committee specifying the grounds upon which they consider that the entry is invalid. After consultation with the affected parties, the organising committee shall decide on the matter and, if found justified, shall reject the entry concerned.

2) World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas and qualification regattas for the Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games

Any member federation claiming that an entry is not valid shall lodge an objection in writing promptly with the Executive Committee specifying the grounds on which it considers that the entry is invalid. After consultation with the affected parties, the Executive Committee shall decide on the matter and, if found justified, shall reject the entry concerned.

Rule 47 – Withdrawals

1) International Regattas

- a) If a club or member federation wishes to withdraw from an event that it has entered, it shall give notice in writing to the organising committee as soon as possible and, at the latest, before the Team Managers' Meeting.
- b) In the case of a Regatta comprising two successive days of racing and where the events are held as two separate one-day regattas, a withdrawal for the second regatta must be given, in writing, to the organising committee no later than one hour after the last race of the first day.
- c) In the event of a withdrawal the organising committee may conduct a new draw.

2) World Rowing Championship, World Rowing Cup regattas, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas

If a member federation withdraws a crew or crews from an event in which it has been entered, it shall give notice in writing of the withdrawal to World Rowing, at the latest, three hours before the Draw.

3) A withdrawal once made is irrevocable.

Bye-Law to Rule 47 – Withdrawals after the Withdrawal Deadline

World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas and qualification regattas for the Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games

- 1) *Notice of the withdrawal must be lodged with World Rowing at the World Rowing Regatta Office or another previously announced location.*
- 2) *In cases of withdrawals received later than the deadline of three hours before the Draw, the member federation concerned will be fined EUR 500 or equivalent per withdrawal. However, there shall be no financial sanction for the withdrawal of a crew that withdraws for medical or safety reasons acceptable to World Rowing.*

Rule 48 – Crew Changes after the Entry Deadline and before the First Heat

1) International regattas

- a) Crews – Clubs or member federations may substitute up to one half the number of rowers (as well as the coxswain, if applicable) in any crews entered by them, provided:

- i) that the replacement rowers are members of the same club, or, in the case of composite crews, of one of the clubs concerned.
 - ii) in the case of national team crews, the replacement rower shall be of the same member federation.
 - iii) Any substitution is to be notified in writing to the organising committee at least one hour before the first heat of the event.
 - b) Single scullers – A single sculler who has entered shall not be replaced except in the case of illness or injury in accordance with the Bye-law 1b) to this Rule.
- 2) World Rowing Championship, World Rowing Cup regattas and qualification regattas for the Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games:
- a) Crews – Member federations may substitute up to one half the number of rowers (as well as the coxswain, if applicable) in all crews entered by them, provided that the replacement rowers are eligible to represent that federation in accordance with these Rules, and that the changes are communicated in writing to World Rowing at least three hours before the first heat of the event.
 - b) Single scullers – A single sculler who is entered shall not be replaced except in the case of illness or injury in accordance with the Bye-law 2 b) to this Rule.

Bye-Laws to Rule 48 – Changes after the Entry Deadline and before the First Heat for Medical Reasons

1) *International Regattas:*

- a) *Crews: In addition to the provisions of paragraph 1 a) of this Rule, in the case of illness of, or injury to, a member of a crew before the first heat, a substitution of that rower may be made no later than one hour before the crew's first heat upon production of a medical certificate. The replaced rower may not compete again in the same crew even if he is returned to health. Any replacement rower must be eligible to represent that club or, in the case of national crews that member federation, in accordance with these Rules.*
 - b) *Single scullers: A single sculler who is entered and falls ill or is injured may, after the entry deadline and on production of a medical certificate, be replaced no later than one hour before their first heat provided that the replacement rower is a member of the same club, and in the case of national teams of the same member federation.*
 - c) *Any replacement under this Bye-law must be communicated in writing to the organising committee at least one hour before the first heat of the crew or sculler concerned.*
 - d) *The official start time, in principle, shall not be changed for such substitutions, however in exceptional cases the President of the Jury may make a decision to delay the start.*
- 2) *World Rowing Championship, World Rowing Cup regattas and qualification regattas for Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games*
- a) *Crews - In addition to the provisions of paragraph 2 a) of this Rule, in the case of illness of, or injury to, a member of a crew before the first heat, a substitution of that rower may be made in principle no later than one hour before the official start time of the race if a medical certificate is provided and if the change is approved by the World Rowing Doctor who shall first examine the ill or injured rower.*

The replaced rower may compete again in the same crew at any point during the competition if returned to health as confirmed by a further medical certificate and with the approval of the World Rowing Doctor, who shall first make a further examination of the rower concerned. Any replacement rower must be eligible to represent that member federation in accordance with these Rules.

- b) Single scullers: In the case of illness of, or injury to, a single sculler before the first heat, a substitution of that sculler may be made in principle no later than one hour before the official start time of their heat if a medical certificate is provided and if the change is approved by the World Rowing Doctor who shall first examine the ill or injured sculler. The replacement sculler must be eligible to represent that federation in accordance with these Rules. A single sculler replaced under this Bye-law may not compete again in that event even if returned to health.*
- c) Any replacement under this Bye-law must be communicated in writing to World Rowing at least one hour before the scheduled time of the first heat of the crew or sculler concerned.*
- d) The official start time, in principle, shall not be changed for such substitutions, however in exceptional cases the President of the Jury may make a decision to delay the start.*

Rule 49 – Changes after the First Heat

1) International regattas:

- a) Crews
 - i) No substitution of rowers may be made in a crew which has already raced in their heat of the event, except in the case of illness or injury, in which case a medical certificate shall be provided and the crew change approved by the organising committee.
 - ii) A rower who has been replaced may no longer compete at the regatta, even if the rower is restored to health.
 - iii) Up to half of the rowers in a crew plus the coxswain (if applicable) may be changed in accordance with this Rule.
 - iv) Any replacement rower must be a member of the same club, and in the case of national team, of the same member federation.
- b) Single scullers – No substitution is permitted for a single sculler who has already raced in the heat of their event.

2) World Rowing Championship, World Rowing Cup regattas and qualification regattas for Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games:

- a) Crews
 - i) No substitution of rowers shall be made in a crew which has already raced in the heat of its event except in the case of illness or injury to a member of the crew, in which case a medical certificate shall be required and the crew change request shall be submitted in writing to World Rowing.
 - ii) The change may only be made if it is approved by the World Rowing Doctor, who has first had or has waived an opportunity to examine the ill or injured rower.

- iii) The rower may compete again in the same crew if returned to health at any point during the competition upon notification to World Rowing in writing with a further medical certificate, and with the approval of the World Rowing Doctor who shall have had further opportunity to examine the rower.
 - iv) Up to half of the rowers in a crew plus the coxswain (if applicable) may be changed in accordance with this Rule.
 - v) Any replacement rower must be eligible to represent that member federation in accordance with the Rules of Racing and related Bye-Laws.
- b) Single scullers – No substitution of a single sculler may be made once they have competed in their heat.
- 3) Consequential Substitutions
- a) Where a rower is ill or injured and a substitution is made for that rower using a rower from a second boat (with no doubling up), the rower from the second boat may in turn be substituted in that boat by another rower.
 - b) This consequential substitution may only occur if the line of substitutions is clearly resulting from the illness or injury of the rower in the first boat in accordance with Bye-Laws to Rule 45 or Rule 46.
 - c) If the ill or injured rower recovers and is substituted back into the boat, the rower substituted for the ill or injured rower and any other rower substituted as a consequence of the initial substitution, must then at the same time, and effective immediately, be substituted back into their original boat for the next round of their event.
 - d) Where a consequential substitution is made and there is no available replacement for the second rower, then the crew of that second rower may be withdrawn as a consequential medical withdrawal under Rule 47.
 - e) Any replacement rower must be eligible to represent that club or, in the case of national crews that member federation in accordance with the Rules of Racing and related Bye-Laws.

SECTION 5 – Safety and Fairness

Rule 50 – Guiding Principles – Safety and Fairness

- 1) The primary principles guiding the organising committee and the regatta officials in charge of the regatta shall be:
 - a) Safety of all rowers;
 - b) Fairness for all rowers.
- 2) Each individual rower and team official shall act at all times in accordance with these principles.

Rule 51 – Safety – General Principles

- 1) An organising committee is responsible for providing all safety measures at its regatta. The Council may remove a regatta from the World Rowing International Event Calendar if it is not satisfied that the Rules of Racing and Bye-Laws regarding safety have been observed.
- 2) Rowers and team officials shall at all times act and compete in accordance with the rules in force relating to the safe use and safe condition of their boats, oars, sculls and other items of equipment.
- 3) It is the responsibility of rowers, team officials and their club or member federation to ensure that all their equipment is in a safe and suitable condition and that the rowers meet the requirements of Rule 14 regarding swimming ability and state of health and fitness.
- 4) Rowers and team officials shall comply with the instructions of the Jury and of the organising committee on any matter relating to safety.
- 5) Any member of the Jury may prohibit any crew from going on the water if they consider that crew constitutes a danger to themselves or other crews on the water. In the event of a dispute, the President of the Jury shall determine the issue.
- 6) While the organising committee of a regatta shall take all reasonable steps to provide safe rowing conditions and appropriate safety measures, the ultimate responsibility for competing safely lies first and foremost with each individual rower and their team officials.
- 7) The responsibility for all aspects of safety at World Rowing Championships, World Rowing Cup regattas, qualification regattas for Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games, International Regattas and International Matches lies with the organising committee, as well as the competing clubs, member federations and rowers as provided for by these Rules. In this aspect World Rowing accepts no legal liability.

Rule 52 – Safety – Training at Regattas

- 1) Training shall take place only during the official training hours as notified by the organising committee.
- 2) During the official training hours, a medical and rescue service shall operate on the land and on the water.
- 3) The organising committee shall give advance notice of the official opening day of the course for training
 - a) The official opening day for an International regatta shall be a minimum of one day before the start of the regatta;

- b) The official opening day for an Under 23 or Under 19 Championship shall be a minimum of three days before the start of the regatta; and
 - c) The official opening day for a senior World Rowing Championship shall be a minimum of four days before the start of the regatta.
- 4) The organising committee shall also give as much notice of the official training hours for each day as is reasonably possible subject to review for safety or operational requirements.
 - 5) Notification of the official training hours shall specify the opening time and the closing time of the course for each day of training. All crews must be off the water by that closing time.
 - 6) Crews may be penalised for failing to follow these requirements.

Rule 53 – Traffic Rules on the Course

- 1) The organising committee must publish, and display clearly in the embarkation or boathouse area, the traffic rules to be followed to control the movement of the boats on the water. These rules must cover:
 - a) Traffic rules for training; and
 - b) Traffic rules for racing.
- 2) It is the responsibility of every Team Manager to ensure that all of their team members understand the traffic rules.
- 3) It is the responsibility of every rower to comply with these traffic rules.
- 4) It is a requirement of these Rules that a crew warming up for a race or cooling down after a race:
 - a) Must stop when a race approaches its position;
 - b) Must not cross the finish line (in any direction) while boats from a race are in the process of finishing; and
 - c) Must not follow a race over all or part of the course, even outside the buoyed area, when not taking part in a race.
- 5) A crew may be penalised for failing to follow these requirements.

Bye-Laws to Rule 53 – Traffic Rules on the Course

- 1) *A copy of the traffic rules must be provided to every club or member federation entered, be published in the Team Managers Manual and clearly displayed on large signs in the boating area. These signs shall be located beside the pontoons where the crews go out on to the water.*
- 2) *The traffic rules for training and racing shall identify at least one clear lane of water as a neutral lane between crews travelling in opposite directions on the water. If it is not possible to provide the neutral lane, then the crews travelling in opposite directions must be separated by a “swimming line”, or equivalent, as a continuous, physical barrier on the water surface.*
- 3) *In principle there shall be no training during racing at International Regattas.*
- 4) *The traffic rules for racing shall cover the warm-up area and the cool-down area. They shall also take into consideration the safe movement of any boat taking part in the victory ceremony.*

Rule 54 – Other Boats on the Water

- 1) Racing
 - a) During the official hours of racing (when the traffic rules for racing apply), no boat (moving or fixed) shall be allowed on the regatta course or in the training areas unless it has the approval of the President of the Jury.
 - b) The President of the Jury shall approve the position and the movement of all approved vessels, i.e. Umpires’ boats, rescue boats, television boats, work boats, etc. during the official hours of racing.
- 2) Training
 - a) During the official hours of training (when the traffic rules for training apply), no boat (moving or fixed) shall be allowed on the regatta course or in the training areas without the approval of the Competition Manager.
 - b) The Competition Manager shall approve the position and the movement of all approved vessels such as rescue boats, television boats, work boats, etc. during the official hours of training.
- 3) The Competition Manager is responsible for ensuring that no unauthorised crews or boats shall be permitted on the water of the regatta course at any time during the course opening times, from the first day the course opens until the end of the regatta.

Rule 55 – Damage to Equipment

Should a crew suffer damage to its equipment, the Board of the Jury shall, upon request from any of the crews involved, decide who is at fault.

Rule 56 – Fairness – General Principles

- 1) All rowers competing at a regatta shall at all times:
 - a) compete fairly;
 - b) be respectful of their opponents and the regatta officials;
 - c) Comply with the Rules of Racing; in particular, to be at the start on time and follow the instructions of the officials both on the water and off.
- 2) Team officials shall, at all times:
 - a) Be familiar with the Rules of Racing as may be relevant to their individual team duties;
 - b) Be respectful of the other teams, and regatta officials, and of the need for fair competition.
- 3) Regatta officials shall ensure that the Rules of Racing are applied fairly and in an atmosphere of respect to all rowers and team officials.

SECTION 6 – The Draw and Progressing to the Finals

Rule 57 – World Rowing Progression System

- 1) Should the number of crews taking part in an event exceed that of the number of lanes used for racing, a progression system shall be used to determine the finalists.
- 2) International Regattas
Each round of an event shall finish at least two hours before the following round of the same event.
- 3) World Rowing Championship regattas, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic Games and relevant qualification regattas
 - a) If earlier rounds of racing are required before the Final, they shall, in principle, be organised in such a way that a rower shall not be required to race more than once a day in the same event, or, if this is not possible and with the exception of Re-Rows, all rowers in the same round of that event shall have had the same number of races on that day.
 - b) The progression systems to be used shall be the World Rowing Progression System. Modified progression systems may be approved by the Executive Committee.

Bye-Laws to Rule 57 – World Rowing Progression System to Determine Finalists

Refer to Appendix R7 - World Rowing Progression System to Determine Finalists

Rule 58 – Seeding

- 1) The purpose of seeding is to avoid many of the faster boats in an event being drawn into the same heat. The seeding order shall only affect the allocation of crews to the heats and is for no other purpose. It shall not be taken into account for any of the later rounds of competition.
- 2) The Executive Committee shall determine and publish in advance the criteria for seeding crews and it shall appoint a Seeding Panel for a regatta at which seeding is to apply.
- 3) Where a Seeding Panel has been appointed by the Executive Committee under this Rule for a particular regatta, the Seeding Panel shall determine which crews in which events should be seeded.
- 4) The Seeding Panel will seed crews applying the criteria determined by the Executive Committee and published in advance, in principle seeding two crews per heat with the highest seeded crew being paired with the lowest seeded crew, the next highest with the next lowest, etc.
- 5) There shall be a random draw, supervised by a member of the Jury, to determine the heat for each pair of seeded crews so that the highest seeded crew is not always in heat 1. The lanes of each of the seeded crews in their heat shall also be determined by random draw.

Rule 59 – The Draw

- 1) The Draw for the heats shall take place at the Team Managers' meeting.
- 2) If the number of entries in an event would result in an unequal number of crews in each heat, then the heats with the greater number of crews are drawn before the heats with the lesser number of crews.
- 3) If the entries for an event are less than or equal to the number required for a final:
 - a) at International and World Rowing Cup regattas, a Preliminary Race to determine lanes for the final is not required and the Draw for lanes for that final should take place at the main Draw;
 - b) at World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas, there shall be a mandatory preliminary race for all crews and the Draw for the Preliminary Race shall take place at the main Draw. The results of the Preliminary Race shall determine the lanes for the final.

- 4) If a crew withdraws after the Draw, but before the start of the first heat in their event and if the number of crews remaining in the event implies another variant of the progression system, or if the withdrawal results in an avoidable imbalance between the number of crews in each heat, the President of the Jury shall supervise a new Draw and, if necessary, postpone the race times to allow the redraw to be implemented.

Rule 60 – Determining the Lanes (Normal Conditions)

- 1) A random draw, supervised by the President of the Jury, shall be held to determine the heat and lane to which each crew will be assigned in the first round of the progression system, subject to the provision for seeded crews (Rule 58).
- 2) Assignment of lanes in later rounds – For all rounds after the heats, the principle is to put the crews with the best placings in their previous round in the middle lanes. The crews with the next lower placings in their previous round are put in the next outer lanes, etc. If the crews have the same placings in the previous round then there shall be a draw, supervised by a member of the Jury, to determine their lanes in the next round.
- 3) At World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas, if a crew withdraws after the heats and this results in an avoidable imbalance in the next round of racing (e.g., Semi-finals CD with 5 and 3 crews), the President of the Jury may decide to alter the progression system to balance the number of crews in each race.

Rule 61 – Withdrawals, Exclusions and Disqualifications after the Draw

If a crew withdraws or is excluded or disqualified after the Draw then the following procedures shall operate:

- 1) If the withdrawal, exclusion or disqualification takes place before the start of the first heat, the start of the first repêchage, the start of the first quarter-final or the start of the first semi-final of the event, the President of the Jury may take the appropriate steps to modify the Draw or make a new Draw. In addition:
 - a) The result of the race will show the crew as DNS (did not start), EXC (excluded) or DSQ (disqualified).
 - b) A crew withdrawing before its heat or which is excluded or disqualified at any point in the event shall not be ranked in that event.
 - c) A crew withdrawing after its heat but before the start of its repêchage or its quarter-final or its semi-final will be placed last in the overall ranking of that event, and if there is more than one, then equally in last place.
- 2) If a crew stops rowing during a heat, a repêchage, a quarter-final, or a semi-final and does not finish the race:

- a) The result of the race will show the crew as DNF.
 - b) The number of crews stipulated in the progression system will go forward to the next round.
 - c) The crew that does not finish the race will not be placed in that race and will not race again in the event and will be placed last in the overall ranking of that event.
 - d) Notwithstanding the above, where a problem has prevented the crew from finishing a race, the President of the Jury or, at a World Rowing Championship regatta, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas or World Rowing Cup regatta, the Executive Committee, may decide to place that crew last in that race.
- 3) If a crew is excluded or disqualified after the start of the first heat of the event:
- a) The result of the race will show the crew as EXC or as DSQ.
 - b) The number of crews stipulated in the Draw will go forward to the next round.
 - c) The crew that has been excluded or disqualified will not race again in the event and will not be ranked in the event.
- 4) In any final, if a crew withdraws before the start of the race or if a crew stops rowing during the race and does not finish the race:
- a) The result of the race will show the crew as DNS or DNF.
 - b) The crew that withdraws or stops during the race will be placed last in that final.

Rule 62 – Time Trials

- 1) A Time Trial is a race in which crews are started one after the other, whether in one or more lanes, and where the result is determined by the time taken by each crew to complete the course.
- 2) In cases of limited time availability or in adverse or unequal conditions, the President of the Jury at International Regattas, or the Executive Committee or its delegate at World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas, may decide to hold time-trials instead of or in combination with heats, repêchages, quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals. The format and description of time trials is set out in the Bye-Laws to this Rule.

Bye-Laws to Rule 62 – Time Trials

Refer to Appendix R8 – Time Trials

Rule 63 – Adverse Weather Conditions

- 1) At International Regattas, when unfair or unrowable conditions prevail or are predicted, and after consultation with appropriate members of the Jury and the organising committee, the President of the Jury may decide to apply provisions as described in the Bye-Laws to this Rule.
- 2) For World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas, when unfair or un-rowable conditions prevail or are predicted, the Fairness Committee or Executive Committee respectively may decide to apply provisions as described in the Bye-Laws to this Rule. The President of the Jury shall implement the decisions.

Bye-Laws to Rule 63 – Alternative Programmes in cases of Adverse Weather Conditions

- 1) *When unfair or unrowable conditions prevail or are predicted, the Fairness Committee may apply the options as described below. First consideration must be to the most appropriate option from Options 1, 2 and 3 before considering Option 4.*
 - a) *Option 1 - To use the lanes offering the most equal conditions;*
 - b) *Option 2 - To recommend to the Executive Committee to change the time table of the regatta to avoid adverse weather conditions;*
 - c) *Option 3 - To suspend racing when weather conditions are, or are about to become unfair or unrowable and recommend alternative times for racing;*
 - d) *Option 4*
 - i) *To prioritise the lanes for each individual race using the placings from the previous round to put the crews with similar placings from the previous round into adjoining lanes and giving the crews having achieved better placings better lanes.*
 - ii) *Where two or more crews have the same placing in the immediately previous round (e.g. each were heat winners), then there shall be a new draw for the crews with the same placing, supervised by a member of the Jury, to determine their reallocated lanes.*

This alternative shall not be used for heats (or in finals of an event with less than seven crews where there has been no mandatory preliminary race to determine the lanes for the final).

- 2) *At International Regattas, if the President of the Jury has determined that none of these Options provide an appropriate solution, the President of the Jury shall decide whether to implement one of the Solutions in point 3) of this Bye-Law in order to continue the regatta.*
- 3) *At World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas, if the Fairness Committee determined that none of these Options provide an appropriate solution, it is the duty of the Executive Committee to decide whether to implement one of the following solutions in order to continue the regatta. The Executive Committee will consult with the Fairness Committee before determining which Solution to implement.*
 - a) *Solution 1: To start racing earlier than previously scheduled;*
 - b) *Solution 2: To resume racing at a later time when conditions have improved;*
 - c) *Solution 3: To omit one or more rounds of the event (e.g. semi-finals) where adverse conditions have stopped racing for a significant period of time or where the weather forecast indicates that racing may not be possible on some of the remaining days. In such a case*

the composition of the next rounds will be determined on the basis of the results of those rounds that have been completed. That may necessitate more than six crews in each race. Wherever possible the rankings of the crews in the previous rounds will be used as the basis for the composition of the next rounds.

- d) Solution 4: To implement time trials for each individual race, e.g. if there were four heats from the official draw, then there shall be four separate time trial races in accordance with Appendix R8.*
 - e) Solution 5: To implement a time trial in which all the remaining crews at each level in a round or rounds of an event compete together in one time trial.*
 - f) Solution 6: To reduce the length of the race to no less than 1,000 metres where conditions are so adverse that no other alternative is possible.*
- 4) When a decision is made to adopt any one of these Options or to implement any one of these Solutions, that decision shall be announced to the crews and notified to the Team Managers at the earliest opportunity as the case may require. In particular, adequate time must be given to crews to prepare for their race with knowledge of the change to the racing procedure by the adoption of one of the Options or the implementation of one of the Solutions.*
- 5) Results from the previous rounds of racing may be used other than in accordance with the normal progression system to ensure fairness of competition.*

Rule 64 – Re-Rows

- 1) A Re-Row is a second running of a race involving some or all crews of that race.*
- 2) The Umpire shall decide whether there is to be a Re-Row of a race.*
- 3) The Re-Row shall be over the full distance of the original race.*

Bye-Laws to Rule 64 – Re-Rows

- 1) The Umpire may require a race to be re-rowed in accordance with this Rule if the Umpire considers that a Re-Row is necessary to ensure the fairness of the competition and, in particular but not exhaustively, in any one of the following circumstances:*
 - a. A race which has been started but is interrupted by weather conditions or other external influences and is stopped by the Umpire before the race is finished;*
 - b. There is interference between crews during a race and the Umpire determines that in order to restore the chances of a crew the race should be re-rowed with all or some of the crews;*

- c. A dead-heat, where this is required by the Rules of Racing;*
 - d. Other special situations as decided by the Umpire to ensure the fairness of the competition.*
- 2) The Umpire shall decide which crews in the original race shall be required to re-row.*
 - 3) Where the original race has been completed, the Umpire may exempt one or more crews from the Re-Row and confirm the results of those crews in the original race;*
 - 4) Before ordering the Re-Row, the Umpire may exclude one or more crews from the event in accordance with the Rules of Racing where that crew's (or crews') actions have caused the Re-Row.*
 - 5) A Re-Row shall take place not less than two hours after the original race and on the same day. The Umpire may decide, in consultation with the President of the Jury, that this two-hour limit may be reduced.*
 - 6) For the purposes of this Rule, the decision of the Board of the Jury determining a protest from the decision of the Umpire to order a Re-Row shall be deemed the decision of the Umpire.*
 - 7) For the purposes of this Rule, the decision of the Executive Committee determining an appeal from the Board of the Jury on a decision to order a Re-Row shall be deemed the decision of the Umpire.*
 - 8) At International Regattas, the Umpire may decide whether the Re-Row shall take place over the full course distance or over a shorter distance depending on the circumstances, including the distance already rowed by the crews in the original race, the time remaining until the next round, the overall fairness to the crews and any other relevant matters.*

SECTION 7 – Sanctions

Rule 65 – Sanctions

- 1) In any case of breach of the rules, a member of the Jury may impose appropriate sanctions. The sanctions available are:
 - a) Reprimand, which is a formal admonishment that the conduct of the rower or crew is in breach of the Rules and that this breach may be taken into account when considering an appropriate sanction for any further breach during that regatta. This will be an appropriate sanction where the breach does not warrant a high level of sanction.
 - b) Yellow Card – which is a formal warning for a breach of the Rules:
 - i) A Yellow Card shall apply to the next race in which that crew competes in that regatta. It shall lapse only when the race is concluded and shall therefore still apply in the case of a postponement or a Re-Row of that race.
 - ii) A crew awarded two Yellow Cards applying to the same race shall be awarded a Red Card and excluded from the event.
 - c) Relegation (REL) – which places a crew in the last position in a race where specifically provided in these rules;
 - d) Red Card or Exclusion (EXC) which excludes the crew from all the rounds of the event in question. This sanction is for a serious and/or repeated breach of the Rules justifying that the offending crew take no further part in the event.

- e) Disqualification (DSQ) which disqualifies a rower or a crew from all events in the regatta.
 - i) This sanction is for the most serious breach of the Rules justifying removal from the regatta.
 - ii) Where a rower is disqualified, that rower shall take no further part in the regatta.
 - iii) Where a rower is disqualified at a time when Rules 45 and 46 only allow substitutions for medical reasons, then the rower may not be replaced and the crew of that rower shall be excluded from all rounds of the event in question.
 - iv) Where a crew is disqualified, no member of that crew shall take any further part in any event at that regatta

- 2) Sanction on a Member Federation
 - a) The President of the Jury may additionally provide a report to the Executive Committee on the breach of the Rules and the sanction imposed.
 - b) The Executive Committee shall, upon receiving such a report from the President of the Jury and if it considers that the sanction imposed by the Jury was not sufficient to the breach:
 - i) provide a copy of the report to the relevant member federation
 - ii) give notice to that member federation that it intends to consider also imposing a sanction on that member federation with that notice to specify:
 - (1) the nature of the breach to be considered,
 - (2) the sanction or range of sanctions that will be considered;
 - (3) if past conduct is to be taken into account, the notice shall specify that accordingly and detail the relevant past conduct; and
 - (4) invite the member federation to provide written submissions on the issue by a stated date.
 - c) The Executive Committee may, after considering the report and any submissions from the member federation, impose such sanction as it considers appropriate to reflect the serious nature of the breach and/or the past conduct of that crew or any member of it or its team official as the circumstances may justify.

Bye-Laws to Rule 65 – Yellow and Red Cards

- 1) *When a Yellow Card or Red Card is awarded to a crew, the sanctioned crew shall be informed immediately or as soon thereafter as possible.*
- 2) *At World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas, if the sanction applies to a race in a subsequent racing session, it shall be notified in writing to the Team Manager of that crew. This written notification shall state:*
 - a) *The crew on which the sanction has been imposed;*
 - b) *The sanction;*
 - c) *The nature of the breach;*

- d) *Time and location of the breach;*
 - e) *Any other important facts; and*
 - f) *The name and function of the Jury member who awarded the sanction.*
- 3) *In the case of a Yellow Card applying to the next race of the sanctioned crew for which the crew is not yet on the water, the sanction shall where possible be announced verbally to the crew by the Jury member at the outgoing pontoon when the crew boats for its race.*
 - 4) *Where a crew already on the water is awarded a Yellow Card prior to arriving at the Start, the Starter shall announce the sanction to the crew before the start of its race.*
 - 5) *A crew awarded a Red Card or otherwise excluded or disqualified shall not participate in the race once notified of the sanction*
 - 6) *If a sanction which affects the result of a crew is applied by a member of the Jury, it shall be shown on the race result in the following form:
DSQ – Disqualification; EXC – Red Card or Exclusion; REL – Relegation.*

SECTION 8 – The Start

Rule 66 – At the Start

The first 100 metres of the regatta course constitutes the start zone.

A crew may enter the start zone if permitted by the Starter, but shall not enter the racing lanes until all crews from the preceding race have left the start zone and the Starter has attributed a lane to the crew. Crews must be attached to their starting positions at least two minutes before the designated start time.

Rule 67 – The Starting Procedure

- 1) **Methods of Starting** - There shall be two methods of starting as described in the Bye-law to this Rule. The normal start procedure shall include a roll call of all crews before the start command is given. Alternatively, in case of adverse weather conditions or other valid reasons the Starter may decide to use the Quick Start procedure in which there is no roll call of individual crews.
- 2) **Starting Process** - The Starter shall inform the crews of their starting positions and shall start the race when the Judge at the Start indicates that the crews are correctly aligned. The Judge at the Start alone shall decide if the boats are correctly aligned or if one or more crews have committed a false start.
 - a) Should the Judge at the Start deem there to be a false start or the start to be otherwise faulty, the Starter shall stop the race and, if there was a false start, shall award a Yellow Card to the crew or crews which, in the opinion of the Judge at the Start, caused it. A crew

causing two false starts or receiving two Yellow Cards which apply to the same race for any infringement whatsoever, shall be awarded a Red Card and be excluded from the event.

- 3) In principle the Starter shall start the race at the scheduled race start time.
- 4) The Starter may start the race without reference to absentees. A crew arriving late at its starting position may be awarded a Yellow Card by the Starter.

Bye-Laws to Rule 67 – The Starting Procedure

- 1) *Starting Procedure – Normal Start*
 - a) *Crews must attach themselves to their start pontoons at least two minutes before the start time of their race. Two minutes before the designated start time, the Starter shall announce “Two minutes” and this shall signify to the crews that they are formally under Starter’s orders. The announcement of “Two minutes” shall also be an instruction to the crews that they must be ready to race within two minutes. After announcing “Two minutes” and if the Starter is satisfied that all the crews are ready to race the Starter may, in adverse weather conditions or other special circumstances, proceed with the start without waiting for the scheduled start time.*
 - b) *Where an Alignment Control Mechanism is in use, the Starter, after all crews are attached to their start pontoon, shall alert crews by announcing “Raising Start System” and shall then activate the alignment mechanism to raise it to the surface.*
 - c) *Before giving the start command, the Starter shall ensure that the Umpire and the Judge at the Start are ready. When the boats are aligned and the crews are ready to race, the Starter shall make a roll call by announcing – in lane order – the names of each of the crews in the race. Each crew is responsible for being both straight and ready to race at the end of the roll call.*
 - d) *Once the roll call begins the Starter shall proceed to finish the roll call, taking no further notice of any crew which indicates that it is not ready or not straight. After the last crew has been named in the roll call the Starter shall check that the crews are straight and the Judge at the Start is indicating that the crews are still correctly aligned and shall then say: “Attention!”*
 - e) *The Starter shall then EITHER raise the red flag, OR where the start is given using traffic lights, shall press a button (or switch) to change the traffic lights from the neutral position to red.*
 - f) *After a clear pause the Starter shall give the start signal by:*
 - i) *EITHER dropping the red flag quickly to one side and simultaneously saying: “Go!”*
 - ii) *OR by pressing a button that shall, at the same instant:*
 - (1) *Change the red light to green;*
 - (2) *Make an audible signal through the loudspeakers;*
 - (3) *Start the timing system for the race;*
 - (4) *Freeze the picture on the monitor in the Aligner’s hut (if freeze frame facility is provided);*

(5) Release the Alignment Control Mechanism (if used).

- g) The pause between the raising of the red flag / the showing of the red light and the start signal shall be clear and shall be variable from race to race.*
- h) If the starting procedure is interrupted for any reason then the Starter may begin the procedure again, starting with the roll call.*
- i) After a false start the Starter must begin the procedure again, starting with the roll call. The starter is not required to announce “Two minutes” again.*

2) Starting Procedure – Quick Start

Where the Starter considers, for adverse weather conditions or any other valid reason, that the normal start with the roll call should not be used, after saying “Two Minutes!” the Starter shall inform the crews that the race will be started using the “Quick Start”.

Then, in place of the roll call, the Starter shall just say: “All Crews”, and after a clear pause he shall then say “Attention” and shall then proceed with the remaining start procedure.

Rule 68 – False Start

A crew whose rowers begin rowing and whose boat crosses the start line after the Starter has raised the red flag, or the red light is shown and before the start command is given, has committed a false start and shall be awarded a Yellow Card. If more than one boat commits a false start, only the crew or crews that the Judge at the Start decides actually caused the false start shall be awarded a Yellow Card.

Bye-Laws to Rule 68 – Consequences of a False Start

- 1) After the start command has been given, the Starter shall look towards the Judge at the Start to check that it was a good start. Should the Judge at the Start indicate that this not be so, the Starter shall stop the race by ringing the bell and waving the red flag from side to side. If the traffic lights start system includes both visual and audible signals to indicate a false start then these shall be used (instead of the bell and the red flag) by flashing the red light and sounding the audible signal repeatedly. In this case, the Judge at the Start may directly activate the signal to stop the race.*
- 2) In the case of a false start, the Judge at the Start shall inform the Starter of the name of the crew or crews to be penalised and the Starter shall award that crew or crews a Yellow Card when they have returned to their starting position by stating “(Name of Crew), False Start, Yellow Card!”.*
- 3) The Starter shall then instruct the official on the starting platforms to place a yellow marker, or in the case of a Red Card or Exclusion a red marker, adjacent to the starting position of the crew or crews so penalised. The yellow or red marker must be clearly visible to the crew concerned.*

- 4) *A crew awarded a Red Card or otherwise excluded will not take part in the race and will leave the course and return to the boating area as directed by the Starter.*

Rule 69 – Objections at the Start

A crew awarded a Yellow Card or excluded or disqualified at the start may make an objection to the Umpire or the Starter at the time. The Umpire or the Starter shall decide immediately on the objection and shall communicate the decision to the objecting crew, to the other crews in the race, and to the President of the Jury and other race officials.

SECTION 9 – During the Race

Rule 70 – Responsibility of the Rowers

All rowers shall compete in their races in accordance with these Rules. Crews are responsible for their own steering. Each crew shall have a lane reserved for its own use and shall remain completely (i.e., including its oars or sculls) within this lane throughout the race. If a crew leaves its lane then it does so at its own risk. If it impedes or interferes with any of its opponents or gains any advantage thereby, it may be penalised without prior warning or other notification from the Umpire.

Rule 71 – Interference

A crew causes interference to its opponents if its oars, sculls or boat encroach into the opponent's lane and cause a disadvantage to its opponents by contact, its wash or other distraction, or in any other way. The Umpire alone shall decide if a crew is in its lane or if it is interfering with another crew and causing them a disadvantage. If a crew has caused interference to another crew and has, in the Umpire's opinion, affected the finishing position of that crew then it may be excluded by the Umpire. In the situation where a collision between boats or oars or sculls has occurred, the Umpire may exclude the crew causing the collision even if no prior warning has been given to that crew.

In no case may the Umpire alter a placing.

Bye-Laws to Rule 71 – Actions on Interference and Consequences thereof

- 1) *Alerting a crew – If a crew is about to cause interference to another crew, the Umpire shall, when possible, raise the white flag, call to the crew at fault, state the name of the crew and indicate the required change of direction by lowering the flag to that side. In principle, the Umpire may not otherwise give steering indications to a crew unless there is an obstruction in its lane.*
- 2) *Stopping a crew – To ensure the safety of the rowers and to prevent damage to boats and equipment, the Umpire may intervene by raising the white flag to the vertical position, naming the crew and giving the command “Stop!”. A crew so instructed shall immediately stop their boat. The crew may begin rowing again to finish the race if permitted by the Umpire.*
- 3) *Alerting the Umpire – If, during a race, a crew considers that it is being interfered with by another crew and is suffering a disadvantage thereby, then a member of the crew should, if possible, draw the attention of the Umpire to the interference at the time the interference occurs to indicate that it intends to make an objection.*
- 4) *Remedying a disadvantage – If a crew is placed at a disadvantage, the priority is to restore its chances. The imposition of any sanction is a secondary consideration. Should a crew suffer a disadvantage, the Umpire must take the most appropriate course of action provided by the Rules. Such action may be, for example, to stop the race, impose the appropriate sanction and order the race to be re-rowed. Depending on circumstances, the Umpire may allow the race to continue and then announce a decision after the race is over. The Umpire may not only penalise the crew at fault while the crew that has suffered interference does not have its chances restored to it.*
- 5) *Nothing in this Rule or its Bye-Laws lessens the responsibility of each crew to remain in its designated lane throughout the race.*

Rule 72 – Coaching during Racing

In addition to the provisions of Bye-Law to Rule 28 (Appendix R2), it is prohibited to give any instructions, advice or directions to rowers or crews that are racing with any electric, electronic or other technical device, either directly or indirectly from outside the boat.

SECTION 10 – The Finish

Rule 73 – Conclusion of the Race

- 1) A crew has finished the race when the bow of its boat has reached the finish line. The race shall be valid, i.e. in order, even if the crew is incomplete. Nevertheless, a crew of a coxed boat finishing the race without its coxswain shall be excluded.
- 2) A race is concluded when the Umpire so indicates by raising a white flag or otherwise confirms the result.

Bye-Laws to Rule 73 – Conclusion of the Race

- 1) *Race was in order – The Umpire, even if satisfied that the race was in order, must check to be sure that no crew is making an objection under Rules 71 or 75 before signalling to the Judge at the Finish, by raising the white flag, that the race was in order. Before leaving the finish area the Umpire shall make sure that the Judge at the Finish has acknowledged the signal with either a white flag or a white light.*
- 2) *Race was not in order – If the Umpire considers that the race was not in order the Umpire shall raise the red flag and shall then inform the crews and the Judges at the Finish of the decision. The Judges at the Finish, in such cases, must not announce the official result of the race until the Umpire has given the decision.*
- 3) *Objections - If a crew considers that its race was not in order a member of the crew must raise their arm to indicate that it is making an objection. In this case the Umpire shall not raise any flag at the end of the race but shall consult with the objecting crew and consider their objection. The Umpire may then decide upon one of a number of alternative actions:*
 - a) *The Umpire may reject the crew's objection and raise a white flag to signify that the race was in order.*
 - b) *The Umpire may accept the crew's objection and raise a red flag to signify that the race was not in order. The Umpire shall then follow the procedure to handle objections (Rule 75).*
 - c) *The Judges at the Finish, in such cases, shall not announce the official result of the race until the Umpire has given a decision.*
- 4) *Official result – The official result of the race shall be determined by the Judge at the Finish and crews shall be ranked in order of the bows of their boats reaching the finish line. Where the Umpire considers that the race was not in order, the Judge at the Finish shall take into account the decision of the Umpire in determining the official result of the race.*
- 5) *Photo-finish – In the case of a close finish the Judge at the Finish shall determine the order of finish by viewing the picture produced by the photo-finish system. The necessary equipment shall be operated by specialists who do not form part of the team of Judges at the Finish. Systems using less than 100 frames per second are not suitable for determining the order of finish. The organising committee must provide equipment specially designed for the purpose.*
- 6) *Timing – Intermediate times and finish times shall be recorded to 1/100th of a second. This may mean that where there is a difference between crews on the photo-finish system of less than 1/100th of a second, those crews may have the same recorded times but will have different rankings. The exception shall be for time trials (see Appendix R8) where the times of each crew determine their ranking and in such races, where crews finish less than 1/100 of a second apart, their times shall be recorded as shown on the photo-finish system if any. The necessary equipment shall be operated by technicians who do not form part of the team of Judges at the Finish.*
 - a) *International Regattas – If the finish of the race for each crew can be clearly determined by the naked eye, times taken by hand-operated timing equipment may be used. In the case of a photo-finish the times shown on the result sheets and on the scoreboard shall be taken from the photo-finish for all the crews in that race.*
 - b) *World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas – All times shown on the result sheets and on the scoreboard shall be taken from the photo-finish for all the crews in all races.*
- 7) *Exclusion by the Umpire – A crew excluded by the Umpire during the race or at the finish of a race shall be notified by the Umpire saying “(name of crew) – (reason for exclusion) – Red Card – Exclusion!”*

Rule 74 – Dead-Heats

When the order of finish between two or more crews is too close for any difference to be determined, then the result shall be declared a dead heat between the crews involved.

Bye-Laws to Rule 74 – Dead-Heats

If there is a dead-heat, the following procedure shall operate:

- 1) In a heat, if a dead-heat occurs between crews and if those crews cannot all progress into the same level of the next round, then there must be a Re-Row in accordance with Rule 64. If all crews involved in the dead-heat progress anyway into the same level of the next round, there will be no Re-Row and their relative positions in the next round shall be decided by a draw supervised by a member of the Jury.*
- 2) In a repêchage, a quarter-final or a semi-final if a dead-heat occurs between crews and if those crews cannot all progress into the same level of the next round, then the crew which had the highest ranking in the immediate preceding round shall be deemed to have the higher ranking of the dead-heat crews for progression to the next round. The immediate preceding round shall be the last previous round in which both/all of the dead-heat crews competed. If the crews had the same result in that round then the ranking in the next previous round shall be used for this purpose. If on this basis the results of the crews concerned are identical, then there must be a Re-Row between the crews involved in the dead-heat. Where such a dead-heat involves more than two crews and this number exceeds the number of crews advancing to the same level of the next round, the above procedure shall be used to determine which of those crews shall so advance. If all crews involved in the dead-heat progress anyway into the same level of the next round, there will be no Re-Row and their relative positions in the next round shall be decided by a draw supervised by a member of the Jury.*
- 3) In a final, if a dead-heat occurs between crews, then they shall be given equal placing in the final order and the next placing(s) shall be left vacant. If the tied placing is for a medal position then the organising committee shall provide additional medals.*
- 4) Where a Re-Row is required as a result of a dead-heat under this Bye-law, that Re-Row shall be over the full course distance under the provisions of Rule 64.*

SECTION 11 – Objections, Protests, Outcome of Protests, Appeals and Disputes

Rule 75 – Objections

- 1) Objections to Sanctions
 - a) A crew may only object to a sanction at the time it is awarded in accordance with the Bye-Law to this Rule by informing the member of the Jury, the Starter or the Umpire who notified the crew of the sanction that it objects to the sanction.

- b) The member of the Jury, the Starter or the Umpire to whom the objection is made shall decide on the objection without delay and shall communicate the decision to the crew, to the Starter and to the other race officials.
- 2) Objection to the conduct of a race
- a) If a crew considers that its race was not in order and that its ranking in the race has been affected, a member of the crew may object to the Umpire before its boat has left the immediate area of the finish line and before the umpire raises the white flag, in order for the objection to be valid.
 - b) Such an objection may only concern the conduct of that crew's race.

Bye-Laws to Rule 75 – Objections

1) *Objections to Sanctions*

- a) *Where a sanction is imposed on a crew in each of the following circumstances the crew may raise an objection as follows:*
 - i) *At the Start - a crew awarded a sanction during warm-up or at the Start may object to the Starter, Umpire or any other member of the Jury at the Start or at the time the sanction is awarded.*
 - ii) *During a race – a crew sanctioned by the Umpire during a race may object to the Umpire at the time the sanction is awarded or immediately after the finish of its race.*
 - iii) *During cool-down or training or at any other time -*
A crew notified of a sanction for an infringement during cool down or training or at any time other than those above, may object to the member of the Jury who notifies the crew of the sanction. In such cases, in order to be valid the objection must be made before the crew embarks for the race to which the sanction applies.

2) *Objection to the conduct of a race*

- a) *A crew that objects to the conduct of its race must object to the Umpire immediately after the finish of the race, before the crew leaves the immediate area of the finish line and before the Umpire raises the white flag.*
 - i) *The crew shall indicate to the Umpire that it wishes to make an objection by a member of the crew raising their arm.*
 - ii) *The objecting crew shall not leave the area of the finish line until the Umpire has heard its objection.*
- b) *The Umpire will determine the objection as follows:*
 - i) *The Umpire may reject the crew's objection and raise a white flag to signify that the race was in order;*
 - ii) *The Umpire may accept the crew's objection and raise a red flag to signify that the race was not in order.*
 - (1) *In this case the Umpire must go to the Judges at the Finish in order to give them the decision and any necessary explanation.*
 - (2) *The Judges at the Finish, in such cases, shall not announce the official result of the race until the Umpire has given a decision*
 - iii) *The Umpire may decide to seek further information regarding the objection.*

- (1) *In this case, the Umpire shall raise a red flag and then take any necessary further steps to resolve the issues relating to the objection, e.g. consult with other officials, consult with other persons, consult with the President of the Jury etc.*
- (2) *The Judges at the Finish, in such cases, shall not announce the official result of the race until the Umpire has given a decision.*

Rule 76 – Protests

- 1) A protest to the Board of the Jury may only be made by:
 - a) a crew whose objection has been rejected;
 - b) a crew whose ranking in a race has been affected by the acceptance of an objection;
 - c) a crew ruled DNS (did not start) or DNF (did not finish);
 - d) a crew that has been excluded or disqualified; and
 - e) a crew that disputes the published results.
- 2) Such a protest must be in writing and lodged with the President of the Jury not later than one hour after the conclusion of the race and the publication of the official results.
- 3) The protest must be accompanied by a deposit of EUR 100 or equivalent, which amount shall be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- 4) The Board of the Jury shall then decide if the protest was justified. It will make its decision before the next round of races in the event concerned and, in any case, no later than two hours after the last race of the day. The decision and reasoning shall be given in writing.
- 5) The Board of the Jury may:
 - a) Reject the protest;
 - b) Uphold the protest and provide such relief as may be necessary to restore each affected crew's chances in the race or to correct the published results. The relief available to be provided by the Board of the Jury is as follows:
 - i) Reprimand a crew;
 - ii) Exclude a crew from the event;
 - iii) Disqualify a crew
 - iv) Relegate a crew to last place in the race where specifically provided for in these Rules;
 - v) Order a Re-Row in accordance with Rule 64 between some of all of the crews in the race

- 6) At a World Rowing Championship or World Rowing Cup regatta, in the case of a protest arising from an objection concerning the final of an event, the Executive Committee may postpone the victory ceremony of that event.
 - a) If the victory ceremony has taken place, and if the subsequent decision of the Board of the Jury changes the final result of the event then the official result shall be changed accordingly.
 - b) Where medal placings are affected, then the medals shall be re-awarded as necessary in accordance with the decision.
- 7) Subject only to Rule 77, the decision of the Board of the Jury on such a protest shall be final and not subject to further appeal.

Rule 77 – Appeals

- 1) Only appeals provided for by this Rule will be considered by the Executive Committee
- 2) A decision of the Board of the Jury which confirms the decision of a member of the Jury shall be final and may not be appealed.
- 3) Subject to paragraph 2 above, an appeal to the Executive Committee against a decision of the Board of the Jury may be made only by:
 - a) a crew whose ranking in a race has been adversely affected by a decision of the Board of the Jury; or
 - b) a crew whose protest against the published results was rejected by the Board of the Jury.
- 4) Appeal Time Limits and Requirements
 - a) International Regattas - Any such appeal must be lodged with the Executive Director within three days of the date that the decision to be appealed was notified to that crew, club or member federation;
 - b) World Rowing Championships, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas – Any such appeal must be lodged at the World Rowing Office of the regatta within one hour of the publication of the official results of the race following the decision of the Board of the Jury.
 - c) An appeal shall be by notice in writing specifying:
 - i) The member federation and crew bringing the appeal;
 - ii) The decision appealed against;
 - iii) the grounds to be relied on for the appeal.
 - d) The appeal must be accompanied by a fee of EUR 200 or equivalent which fee shall be refunded if the appeal is allowed.
 - e) The Executive Committee shall consider the appeal and may:
 - i) Reject the appeal;
 - ii) Allow the appeal and provide such relief as was available to the Board of the Jury as it considers just and appropriate.

If the decision of the Executive Committee on the appeal changes the final result of the event, the official result shall be changed accordingly.

- f) At World Rowing Championships, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas:
 - i) Where the appeal relates to a preliminary round in an event, the Executive Committee will deliver its decision before the next round of that event
 - ii) Where the decision of the Executive Committee on the appeal changes the final result of the event:
 - (1) the official result shall be changed accordingly; and
 - (2) where the medal placings are affected, the medals shall be re-awarded as necessary in accordance with the decision.
 - iii) As a general rule, the victory ceremony will not be postponed for an appeal.

5) Decisions of the Executive Committee under this rule are final

Rule 78 – Disputes, Appeals and Cases not Covered

1) International Regattas

Subject to Rule 79, disputes between clubs or member federations shall be referred to the organising committee. Appeals against decisions of the organising committee may be submitted to the Executive Committee under Rule 77.

2) World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas –

The Executive Committee shall adjudicate on appeals from a decision of the Board of the Jury and on all cases not covered by the Rules of Racing and Bye-Laws and the Event Regulations as well as on disputes which may arise during these regattas.

The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final. Any decision made by the Executive Committee under this Rule shall immediately be communicated to the member federations of World Rowing in writing.

Rule 79 - International Regattas – Disputes between the Organising Committee, Clubs or Member Federations

- 1) A dispute between the Organising Committee, clubs or member federations at an International Regatta may be referred to the Executive Committee for resolution.

- 2) This dispute referral process is to enable such a dispute to be resolved swiftly and with the minimum of inconvenience or expense to the parties.
- 3) This referral may be made by any one of the parties in dispute. The referral shall be in writing and made as soon as possible after the conclusion of the International Regatta.
- 4) It may be inappropriate for the Executive Committee to decide on certain disputes. Accordingly, the Executive Committee may, in its absolute discretion, decline to accept the referral without providing an explanation.
- 5) If the Executive Committee agrees to accept the referral, it shall proceed to determine the dispute by due process and with respect to the fundamental rights of the parties in dispute.
- 6) The decision of the Executive Committee on the dispute shall be considered final and binding on the parties

Rule 80 – The Regatta Report

- 1) Where World Rowing has given notice before the regatta that it requires a regatta report, the Chair of the organising committee and the President of the Jury shall write the regatta report on the standard form of World Rowing. This report shall include comments on the running of the races and on any incidents and disputes arising. This report shall be submitted in electronic form to World Rowing not later than 7 days after the regatta.
- 2) World Rowing may request an organising committee to send to World Rowing in electronic form not later than 7 days after the regatta the complete results of the regatta.

SECTION 12 – Duties of the Jury

Rule 81 – Control Commission

The Control Commission shall ensure that the composition of the crews is correct and that their equipment is in order. It shall also assist in the identification of the rowers selected to undergo anti-doping tests after their race.

Rule 82 – The Starter and the Judge at the Start

The Starter and the Judge at the start shall ensure that the correct starting procedure is followed.

Rule 83 – The Umpire

- 1) The Umpire shall ensure the proper conduct of the race and the safety of the rowers and in particular shall endeavour to ensure that no crew gains any advantage or suffers any disadvantage from its opponents or from outside interference.
- 2) Where the Umpire considers that a crew has been significantly impeded the Umpire shall endeavour to ensure that its chance is restored to it and shall impose appropriate sanctions on crews at fault whether or not prior warning or notification has been given to those crews. The Umpire shall not give any steering indications to crews except as may be required to assist with the avoidance of accidents and to prevent crews from being interfered with by their opponents.
- 3) If necessary, the Umpire may stop the race, impose any necessary sanctions and order the race to be re-rowed, either immediately or later, in accordance with Rule 64. In the latter case, the Umpire shall decide on the new starting time in consultation with the President of the Jury and shall so inform the crews concerned.
- 4) The Umpire may also allow the race to continue and exclude crews after the race has finished. Any Re-Row may be confined to such crews as the Umpire shall designate. However, when the Umpire considers that the impediment has not affected the result of the race, or considers the effect of the impediment was not significant, the Umpire may decline to order a Re-Row of the race or of the crews involved in the incident.
- 5) Zonal Umpiring – The Executive Committee may decide that at a World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic or relevant qualification regatta or World Rowing Cup regatta, umpiring of some races shall be carried out from boats which are stationary or which do not follow the whole race or by Umpires stationed on the land adjacent to the course, and shall issue instructions and guidelines accordingly.
 - a) Where the weather or other conditions are such that zonal umpiring is about to put the safety of crews at risk the President of the Jury may decide to revert to dynamic umpiring for the remainder of that racing session.

Rule 84 – Judges at the Finish

The Judges at the Finish shall determine the order in which boats reach the finish. They shall ascertain that the race was in order. They shall be responsible for validating the results.

Bye-Laws to Rules 81 to 84 – Duties of the Jury

Refer to Appendix R9 – Duties of the Jury

PART VII – ANTI-DOPING RULES

Rule 85 – Anti-Doping

Doping is strictly prohibited.

The fight against doping is regulated by the World Anti-Doping Code, which the World Rowing Congress has formally adopted as World Rowing rules and that the World Rowing Council has the power to clarify and/or supplement, by appropriate Bye-Laws.

In rowing, for those who infringe doping provisions, a sanction may be imposed extending to, in a relevant case, a life ban from all competition.

The version of the World Anti-Doping code, its Bye-Laws and the World Rowing Anti-Doping Bye-Laws valid at the time of the violation shall apply.

Bye-Laws to Rule 85– Anti-Doping (Appendix R10)

Refer to Appendix R10 – Anti-Doping

PART VIII – EXCEPTIONAL CASES

Rule 86 – Exceptional Cases

- 1) International regattas – Should it be necessary to make decisions in exceptional cases (e.g., postponement of a session of races or suspension of the regatta), the President of the Jury shall appoint and preside over a body to make such decisions.
- 2) World Rowing Championship, Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic and relevant qualification regattas and World Rowing Cup regattas – Should it be necessary to take decisions in exceptional cases, the Executive Committee members present or others specifically appointed by the Executive Committee for that purpose shall make such decisions.

PART IX – CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Rule 87 – Concluding Provisions

These Rules of Racing were approved effective immediately by the FISA Extraordinary Congress held virtually from 17 to 18 October 2020.

Jean-Christophe Rolland Matt Smith

President Executive Director