

**EUROPEAN ROWING CONFEDERATION  
(“ERC”)**

**Draft 050918 Proposed ERC Constitution**

1.	Foundation.....	3
2.	Name and Status.....	3
3.	Objectives and Obligations.....	4
4.	Autonomy of National Rowing Federations.....	4
5.	Headquarters .....	4
6.	Languages and Communications .....	5
7.	Membership .....	5
8.	General Assemblies.....	5
9.	Voting.....	6
10.	Constitutional Amendments.....	6
11.	European Rowing Board (“ERB”).....	7
12.	Duties of the ERB.....	7
13.	Elections .....	8
14.	Authority.....	9
15.	Delegation.....	9
16.	Finance.....	9
17.	Dissolution.....	9
18.	Concluding Provisions.....	10

## **1 FOUNDATION**

The Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron (“FISA”) was formed in June 1892 with the primary mission to stage an annual European (Senior) Rowing Championships to start in 1893. FISA was the first International Sport Federation to be founded and rowing has been on the programme of every Olympic Games since the start of the modern Games in 1896. FISA continued to stage an open European Rowing Championships every year until 1973, when it was decided to stage the World Rowing Championships every year starting in 1975 except in the year of the Olympic Games. FISA staged the World Rowing Championships every four years during the period 1962 to 1974.

On 27 May 2006, at a meeting of the FISA European member national federations held in Munich, many European member federations expressed the wish to re-start a European Rowing Championships to be staged annually as an additional means to promote the sport of rowing. It was agreed to re-start an annual European Rowing Championship regatta in September 2007 as a cooperative arrangement between FISA and the European member federations. FISA would take the responsibility and financial risk to ensure the bidding and preparation process, ensure a professional host broadcast and distribution of television and commercial aspects, and stage the event in full cooperation with the organising committee and representatives of the European member Federations.

It was also agreed at this meeting that there should be an annual General Assembly of the European member federations to consider all matters relating to the development of rowing competitions among the European member federations of FISA.

The meeting further agreed to a joint co-operation with the FISA Council to create a European Rowing Board (“ERB”) to be responsible for managing such rowing competitions. This ERB was formed with four members elected by the European member Federations and three Europeans appointed by the FISA Council.

In 2017, following the decision to officially recognise Continental Confederations (Art. 18 of the FISA Statutes) at the 2017 FISA Extraordinary Congress, the delegates of the European member federations then, at the 2017 Extraordinary General Assembly, agreed to cooperate with FISA to form a Continental Confederation for Europe at an Extraordinary General Assembly in 2018.

## **2 NAME AND STATUS**

The name of the continental rowing confederation for Europe is the European Rowing Confederation (“ERC”) and is an association formed and operated according to Art. 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code. The term “European Rowing” shall be the external name of the ERC which is protected by trademark registration.

### **3 OBJECTIVES AND OBLIGATIONS**

The objectives and obligations of the ERC are to:-

- 3.1 Develop and promote rowing across the European continent and develop and promote rowing competition between national rowing federations of the European continent, in cooperation with FISA;
- 3.2 Determine the departures from the FISA Rules of Racing that are appropriate for European continental competitions and adopt new rules or make changes to existing rules for the European Rowing Events at the General Assembly of the European member federations in cooperation with FISA
- 3.3 Ensure that the rules of the European Rowing Events (European Rowing Events, if not otherwise specified, shall include the senior, under 23, junior, indoor, and any other events launched in the future) are respected for fair and equal competition.
- 3.4 Attribute the annual European Rowing Events in conformance with the procedures for attribution of FISA events as determined by the FISA Council.
- 3.5 Decide about possible other ERC activities based on proposals from the ERB.
- 3.6 Foster communication between its members;
- 3.7 Assist its members to obtain Olympic Solidarity funding;
- 3.8 Respect and comply in all aspects with both the Olympic Charter and the FISA Statutes and Bye-Laws;
- 3.9 Liaise and cooperate with the European National Olympic Committees and other European-wide bodies; and
- 3.10 Engage in all such other actions and projects incidental to the attainment of these objectives, including cooperation with private or government organisations, the European Union, the European Council and, where appropriate, the European Olympic Committees.
- 3.11 Carefully consult with FISA on the dates of competitions such that the International calendar of events for member federations is logical and reasonable.

### **4 AUTONOMY OF NATIONAL ROWING FEDERATIONS**

- 4.1 ERC will have no part in national rowing matters;
- 4.2 ERC will respect and support the complete autonomy of its member federations.

### **5 HEADQUARTERS**

The location of the ERC's headquarters will be the offices of FISA in Lausanne Switzerland.

## **6 LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATIONS**

The official language shall be English. The use of other languages may be authorised by the ERB at General Assembly meetings or by the chair of the meeting on other occasions;

6.1 Written communications may be sent by post or electronic means.

## **7 MEMBERSHIP**

7.1 All members of the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron (FISA) in the European Continent that are recognised by National Olympic Committees that are members of the European Olympic Committees organisation (this includes Israel) plus the member federation of Gibraltar are members. Unless that member has been subject to suspension or expulsion by FISA.

7.2 The membership year will commence January 1 and conclude December 31 of the same calendar year;

7.3 Only those members who have paid their FISA annual membership fee may attend and vote at General Assemblies of the ERC. There is no specific fee for membership of the ERC;

## **II. GOVERNANCE**

The General Assembly of the European National Rowing Federations is the highest authority of the ERC. The General Assembly attributes European Rowing Events and elects the Chair of the ERC who will also serve as Chair of the European Rowing Board.

## **8 GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

The organisation will hold an Annual General Assembly at a time and location to be determined by the members based upon a proposal by the ERB, in principle at the time of the European (Senior) Rowing Championships;

8.1 The Annual General Assembly will, among other things:

8.1.1 attribute European Rowing Events;

8.1.2 consider recommendations for future action or direction; and

8.1.3 take such action to give effect to the objectives of the organisation;

8.1.4 consider reports from the ERB;

8.1.5 elect the Chair of the ERC who will also serve as the Chair of the ERB

8.1.6 elect the ERB members in accordance with Art. 13;

- 8.2 A General Assembly of the organisation shall be convened by the ERB providing notice in writing to members three (3) months in advance of the date, time and place of any meeting.
- 8.3 The convening notice must state the purpose of the meeting, a provisional agenda and include a call for any specific proposals for inclusion in the Agenda.
- 8.4 Specific proposals from members must be received by the ERB two (2) months before the date of the General Assembly;
- 8.5 The ERB shall send out the agenda for the General Assembly at least one (1) month before the date of the General Assembly. Where possible the various reports, any observations on agenda items shall be sent out with the agenda. Subsequent written material may be circulated by the ERB or produced for the meeting;
- 8.6 Participation in General Assemblies will be at the expense of the member;
- 8.7 The members may call a General Assembly of the organisation if 75% of the members from the preceding calendar year request such a meeting. The petition, stating the purpose of the meeting, shall be submitted to the ERB who shall proceed to call a General Assembly in the manner prescribed above;

## **9 VOTING**

Each member federation will be entitled to one vote at any Annual General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly;

- 9.1 Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken as described in FISA Articles 36 and 37.
- 9.2 In the event of a tie, a new vote shall be taken. If the candidates are still tied after the second such vote, the ERB shall hold an internal vote which will be the deciding vote.

## **10 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members present at an Extraordinary General Assembly called for that purpose;

- 10.1 In order that a constitutional amendment may be considered, it must be submitted to the ERB two months prior to the date set for the Extraordinary General Assembly called for that purpose;
- 10.2 Any proposal to amend the constitution must clearly identify the clause to be deleted, modified or added;
- 10.3 The ERB must send to each member a copy of any proposed amendment to the Constitution no later than one month before an Extraordinary General Assembly.

## **11 EUROPEAN ROWING BOARD**

The European Rowing Board (ERB) is the executive body which manages the matters defined below of the ERC.

The ERB shall consist of seven individuals, only one per member federation: four elected by the European member federations at the annual General Assemblies and three Europeans nominated by the FISA Council and ratified by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall elect the seven members of the ERB for four-year terms as explained below;

- 11.1 The members of the ERB shall each serve for a period of four years, which can be renewed, subject to re-appointment or re-election as appropriate, up to a maximum of 12 years in the same position;
- 11.2 The ERB will meet from time to time, but no less than four times in a calendar year, either in person or electronically and between Annual General Assemblies to carry out its activities which are consistent with the objectives of the organisation.
- 11.3 The ERB shall act as the executive body which manages the ERC organisation;

## **12 DUTIES OF THE ERB:**

The duties of the ERB are the following:

- 12.1 To ensure that European Rowing Events are successfully staged every year – inviting applications from bidding European member federations, analysing the bids, making recommendations to the annual General Assembly of the European member federations, managing the attribution process at the General Assembly and then assisting the successful organising committee in the preparation and operation of the event;
- 12.2 To establish Bye-Laws to the Constitution and Rules of Racing including determining the format, programme and timing of European Rowing Events each year in consultation with FISA as well as the European member federations;
- 12.3 To make recommendations to the annual General Assembly of the European member federations on any departures from the FISA Rules of Racing that they believe should be applied to the European Rowing Championships;
- 12.4 To select a deputy chair who would be prepared to replace the Chair if he or she were to step down from his or her position.
- 12.5 To delegate authority to third persons or parties to carry out activities on its behalf , from time to time or when appropriate.
- 12.6 To investigate other forms of rowing competition and to develop proposals for consideration by the European member federations.

- 12.7 To investigate opportunities to develop or promote rowing in Europe through all means and with all governing authorities.
- 12.8 To create Commissions and Working Groups from time to time, as necessary, and be responsible for appointing individuals to these bodies.
- 12.9 To represent ERC in any negotiations or cooperations with other organisations.

### **13 ELECTIONS**

Nominations for positions on the European Rowing Board must be submitted in writing two months before the Annual General Assembly;

- 13.1 The four ERB members from the European National Federations will be elected as follows:
- 13.1.1 At the Annual General Assembly in the first year after an Olympic year, the European member federations shall elect a member to serve for a four-year period.
- 13.1.2 The election of the Chair of the ERC who will also chair the ERB for a four-year period from among the four NF members nominated by his or her NF shall take place following this election at the Annual General Assembly in the first year after an Olympic year;
- 13.1.3 At the Annual General Assembly in the second year after an Olympic year, the European member federations shall elect a member to serve for a four-year period.
- 13.1.4 At the Annual General Assembly in the year before an Olympic year, the European member federations shall elect a member to serve for a four-year period.
- 13.1.5 At the Annual General Assembly in an Olympic year, the European Federations shall elect a member to serve for a four-year period.
- 13.1.6 If the Chair of the ERC steps down for any reason, then the deputy chair shall serve as interim Chair until the next General Assembly..
- 13.1.7 If an elected member of the ERB steps down for any reason, the position will remain open and ERB shall call for nominations, and an election will be held at the next General Assembly.
- 13.2 The three ERB members nominated by the FISA Council will be elected as follows:
- 13.2.1 The FISA Council shall nominate European members to serve as members of the ERB for a period of four years in the first year after the Olympic year. The Council will present three members for vote at the European General Assembly.

The National Federations will vote yes or no for each of the three and nominees receiving an absolute majority of valid votes cast shall be elected to the ERB for a four-year period and serve as long as they are members of the FISA Council. If one or more of the nominees does not receive an absolute majority of valid votes cast, the Council will then select another European member to serve until the next General Assembly when a new vote will be held. If this nominee does not receive a majority of valid votes cast, then the Council will select another European member to serve for the remaining three years.

13.2.2 In the case that one of the FISA Council nominated members of the ERB shall step down for any reason, the position will remain open until the next General Assembly when the FISA Council shall nominate a different European member for ratification to serve the remainder of the term.

## **14 AUTHORITY**

The ERB, in the case of urgent decisions and acting between the Annual General Assemblies, shall exercise such authority as needed to fulfil the objectives of the organisation except:-

14.1 the ERB will not have the authority to commit member federations or FISA to any financial obligation without prior consultation and approval;

14.2 the ERB may not commit the ERC or FISA to any financial commitment which it does not have the means to fulfil;

## **15 FINANCE**

FISA will keep a record of all financial transactions related to the European Rowing Confederation in accordance with the FISA Co-operation Agreement. All monies received and spent will be in separate accounts of FISA at a reputable retail bank in Lausanne.

## **16 INTERPRETATION**

The ERB will decide all questions of interpretation of this Constitution and for any matters not covered by the ERC Constitution, the FISA Statutes and Rules of Racing shall apply.

## **17 DISSOLUTION**

A dissolution of ERC as described in this Constitution shall be valid only if carried out by four-fifths of the valid votes cast at an Extraordinary General Assembly specially convened for that purpose. Furthermore, a quorum of two-thirds of the member federations is necessary for a valid vote;

17.1 If after the settlement of all obligations and debts, there remain any financial or other assets belonging to the organisation, these shall be turned over to FISA or such other organisation or national rowing federation determined by FISA which operates in the European continent and has objectives similar to those of the organisation.

## **18 CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**

This Constitution was approved effective immediately at the 2018 European Rowing Extraordinary General Assembly held on 22 November 2018 in Berlin, Germany.

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