

Proposals for the European Rowing Extraordinary General Assembly at 071117

European Rowing ~~Championships~~ Constitution ~~Statutes~~ and Rules ~~of Racing~~

Constitution ~~European Rowing Statutes~~

As amended after the Extraordinary General Assembly held in ~~Copenhagen, Denmark~~ London, Great Britain on ~~14 February 2013~~ 17 December 2017

Article 1 – Foundation

At a meeting of the European Member Federations of FISA held in Munich on 27th May 2006 it was agreed to hold an annual European Rowing Championship regatta, starting in September 2007. It was also agreed 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 Management Board to be responsible for managing such rowing competitions. This Board consists of European members appointed by the FISA Council and members elected by the European National Rowing Federations. The FISA Council appoints one of these members to act as Chair.

Article 2 – Principles of the European Rowing Championships [moved below]

Article 32 – Governance

A. General Assembly of FISA member European National Federations

1. General Area of Responsibility

To govern the principles that will apply to rowing competitions among the rowers of the European Rowing Federations recognised by FISA

2. Objectives and Activities

- a) To ensure that the rules of the European Rowing Championships are established for fair and equal competition.
- b) To decide on the attribution of the Annual European Rowing Championships and the Annual European Junior Rowing Championships.
- c) To vote on any rules or changes to rules and Constitution of the European Rowing Championships Regattas and events at the General Assembly of the European Member Federations.
- d) To decide about possible other European Rowing activities based on proposals from the European Rowing Management Board.
- e) To elect the four federation representatives on the European Rowing Management Board, one each year.

3. Composition of the General Assembly

The General Assembly consists of delegates nominated by FISA member European National Rowing Federations. Each member federation is entitled to one vote.

4. Convening the General Assembly

The European Management Board shall send a convening notice to European national federations at least four months before the date of the General Assembly.

The convening notice shall call for national federations to submit any specific proposals for inclusion in the agenda, which shall be received by the European Management Board, in English and/or French, at least three months before the date of the General Assembly.

The European Rowing Management Board shall send out the agenda for the General Assembly at least two months 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 European Rowing Management Board.

5. Proposals from the European national federations

A European member federation may submit in writing to the European Rowing Management Board specific items to be include in the Agenda of the General Assembly, together with the reasoning behind the proposal. A European federation may also submit any specific proposal it proposes should be discussed under an existing agenda item.

6. Proposals from the European Rowing Management Board

The European Rowing Management Board may include on the Agenda any proposal which they consider to be appropriate. They may submit a proposal to the General Assembly at any time provided it relates to an item on the Agenda.

7. Alterations of the Constitution

Proposals for changes to this Constitution will only be considered in the year after the Olympic Games at an Extraordinary General Assembly convened for this purpose.

8. Voting

Each FISA member European federation is entitled to one vote. Unless a secret ballot is demanded by a delegate, voting shall be by a show of hands.

9. Majorities

Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken on the basis of a majority of valid votes cast in each ballot. In case of elections, if additional ballots are necessary, the candidate obtaining the smallest number of valid votes in each ballot shall be eliminated until one candidate obtains the majority of the valid votes cast. In similar situations, for example the designation of a member federation for organising the European Rowing Championships, this method of voting shall also apply.

In case of a tie, a new vote shall be taken. If the candidates are still tied the European Rowing Management Board shall make the decision. Alterations to the Constitution shall be carried out only if they obtain two-thirds of the valid votes cast in each ballot. An abstention is not considered to be a vote.

B. European Rowing Management Board

1. General Area of Responsibility

- a. To be responsible for directional guidance, promotion and development of European rowing.
- b. To manage rowing competitions among the rowers of the European Member Federations.

2. Objectives and Activities

- a) To ensure that European Rowing Championships Regattas and 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 annual meeting and then assisting the successful organising committee in the preparation and operation of the event.

- b) To determine the format, programme and timing of the European Rowing Championships each year after consultation with the European Member Federations.
- c) To make recommendations to the annual meeting of the 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.
- d) To investigate other forms of rowing competition (Under 23, Junior, indoor rowing, etc) and to develop proposals for consideration by the European Member Federations.

3. Composition of the European Rowing Management Board

- a) The Board shall consist of four members elected by the European Member Federations at the annual General Assembly and three European members appointed by the FISA Council. The FISA Council shall appoint one of the seven members to act as Chair.
- b) The members of the Board shall each serve for a period of four years, which can be renewed, subject to re-appointment or re-election as appropriate.
- c) At a meeting in an Olympic year, the FISA Council shall appoint a member to serve for a four-year period and, at the European General Assembly, the European Federations shall elect a member to serve for the same four-year period.
- d) At its annual meeting in the first year after an Olympic year, the FISA Council shall appoint a member to serve for a four-year period and, at the European General Assembly, the European member Federations shall elect a member to serve for the same four-year period.
- e) At its annual meeting in the second year after an Olympic year, the FISA Council shall appoint a member to serve for a four-year period and, at the European General Assembly, the European member Federations shall elect a member to serve for the same four-year period.
- f) At the European General Assembly, in year before an Olympic year, the European member Federations shall elect a member to serve for a four-year period.

[ROU proposal]

Article 3. Governance

A. General Assembly of European Rowing Confederation

- we propose to use Confederation when we refer to our organization because
„When a group of people or nations form an alliance, it is called a *confederation*, allowing each member to govern itself but agreeing to work together for common causes”

B. European Rowing Confederation Board

3. Composition of the European Rowing Confederation Board

- our proposal is to have all seven members including The President, elected by European Member Federations, so we propose the following text:

- a) The Board shall consist of seven persons, one President and six Members, elected by the European Member Federations at the annual General Assembly.
- b) The members of the Board shall each serve for a period of four years, which can be renewed, subject to re-appointment or re-election as appropriate .
- c) At a meeting in an Olympic year, at the European General Assembly, the European Federations shall elect a person to serve as President for four year period.
- d) At its annual meeting in the first year after an Olympic year, at the European General Assembly, the European member Federations shall elect two persons to serve as members of Board for four year period.

e) At its annual meeting in the second year after an Olympic year, at the European General Assembly, the European member Federations shall elect two persons to serve as members of Board for four year period.

f) At the European General Assembly, in year before an Olympic year, at the European General Assembly, the European member Federations shall elect two persons to serve as members of Board for four year period.

[ERMB proposal towards the ROU proposal above]

Current and Future Constitutional Arrangements

1. In line with the revised FISA statutes approved at the Tokyo Extraordinary Congress in 2017 the ERMB discussed the establishment of a new entity. This would be an independent confederation of European rowing national federations, into which the ERMB would transition. There should be a period of consultation with the NFs to ensure that the principles, objectives and remit of the new confederation is agreed and any consequences for the successful continuation of the Championship events are fully understood.
2. A new independent confederation would be able to initiate and support development projects in rowing across Europe, work closely with European sports and non-governmental organisations and apply for funding directly for continental projects, in addition to its role governing the European championships events.
3. The new Constitution should distinguish between organisational governing matters and rules relating to racing and event organisation. Rules relating to events, and other appropriate matters, should be moved to By-laws.

Discussion will need to take place with FISA in the short term to agree the approach and in the medium term to better understand the position regarding the Championships and commercial assets and how this relationship would work. A timeline and presentation would be put together for the Extraordinary General Assembly to outline the thinking so far regarding general direction and content of draft statutes. The initial target date for the new Constitution would be a General Assembly in August 2018 during the Glasgow European Championships.

European Rowing Rules of Racing

1. –Principles of the European Rowing Championships

A. European Rowing Championships (Seniors)

1. **Dates:** Every year, in principle, in the week ending with the 22nd Sunday of the year. the Olympic year will be decided individually
2. **Events:** Covered in Regulation 3 below.
Men (M) ————— 1x, 2x, 2-, 4x, 4-, 8+
Women (W) ————— 1x, 2x, 2-, 4x, 8+
Lightweight men (LM) ————— 1x, 2x, 2-, 4-
Lightweight women (LW) ————— 1x, 2x
3. **Distance:** 2,000 metres
4. **Number of days for the regatta** – up to 43 days.
5. **Awards** - Medals for athletes (1st to 3rd),
6. **Technical Standard** – At the level of a World Rowing Cup regatta including professional timing and results services and television host broadcast.
7. **Off the water standards** –At the standard of a World Rowing Cup regatta including a television host broadcast.
8. **Participation** – All European National Federations recognised by FISA (annex 1).
9. **Eligibility** – An athlete must present a valid passport or identity card from the country for which he wishes to compete (as per FISA rules).
10. **Decision dates** – The annual General Assembly will attribute the European Rowing Championship regattas two years in advance.

B. European Rowing Junior Rowing Championships

1. **Dates:** Every year, in principle, the second two weeks of MAY.
2. **Events:** The boat classes of the World Rowing Junior Championships.
3. **Distance:** 2,000 metres
4. **Number of days for the regatta** – Two days with the FISA progression system.
5. **Awards** - Medals for athletes (1st to 3rd),
6. **Technical Standard** – At the level of a major international regatta in terms of competition aspects including professional timing and results services. The course must have minimum 6 racing lanes.
7. **Off the water standards** –At the standard of a major international regatta.
8. **Participation** – All European National Federations recognised by FISA should be eligible (in annex 1).
9. **Eligibility** – An athlete must present a valid passport or identity card from the country for which he wishes to compete (as per FISA rules).
10. **Decision dates** – The annual General Assembly will attribute the European Rowing Junior Championship regattas two years in advance.

C. European Rowing Under 23 Championships [ROU proposal]

11. **Dates:** Every year, in principle, the second two weeks of JUNE.
12. **Events:** The boat classes of the World Rowing Under 23 Championships.
13. **Distance:** 2,000 metres
14. **Number of days for the regatta** – Two days with the FISA progression system.

[15. Awards - Medals for athletes \(1st to 3rd\).](#)

[16. Technical Standard – At the level of a major international regatta in terms of competition aspects including professional timing and results services. The course must have minimum 6 racing lanes.](#)

[17. Off the water standards –At the standard of a major international regatta.](#)

[18. Participation – All European National Federations recognised by FISA should be eligible \(in annex 1\).](#)

[19. Eligibility – An athlete must present a valid passport or identity card from the country for which he wishes to compete \(as per FISA rules\).](#)

[20. Decision dates – The annual General Assembly will attribute the European Rowing Under 23 Championship regattas two years in advance.](#)

C.D. European Indoor Rowing Championships

- Dates:** A weekend in the period between 1 December – ~~end-28~~ February **inclusive**
- Events:** The four individual events M1x, W1x, LM1x, LW1x. In principle team events may be added to the programme.

The regulations of the European Indoor Rowing Championships are specified in Annex [2](#)

2. Departures from the FISA Rules of Racing

The following sections define the departures (Regulations) from the latest version of the FISA Rule Book as they relate to the European Rowing Championships:-

PART I – SCOPE

Regulation 1 (Rule 2) – Application

These Regulations and the relevant Bye-Laws shall apply to the European Rowing Championship regattas together with and not in exclusion of the FISA Rules of Racing.

The General Assembly of European National Rowing Federations empowers the European Rowing Management Board as the executive authority governing the European Rowing Championships. The European Rowing Championships shall be rowed in accordance with the FISA Rules of Racing and Racing Bye-Laws in addition to these Regulations.

PART II – ROWERS AND COXSWAINS

Regulation 2 (Rule 16) – Eligibility and Insurance

Any European country with a national federation affiliated to FISA with the addition of Israel may participate in a European Rowing Championship. To represent a country's federation in a European Rowing Championship regatta or event, a competitor shall be a citizen of that country, and must be able to prove this by showing an official document (passport or identity card).

PART III – CLASSES OF BOATS

Regulation 3 (Rule 31) – European Championship Boat Classes

European Rowing Championships are held in the following events:

Men (M)	1x, 2x, 4x, 2-, 4-, 8+
Women (W)	1x, 2x, 4x, 2-, 4-, 8+
Lightweight men (LM)	1x, 2x, 4x, 2-, 4- [for discussion with OC for 2018, 2019][AUT]
Lightweight women (LW)	1x, 2x, 4x, 2- [for discussion with OC for 2018, 2019]
Para Rowing [from 2019]	PR1 M1x, PR1 W1x, PR2 Mix 2x, PR3 Mix 4+ [ERMB proposes only Paralympic Games boats for now with review in 2021] [NED]

Under 23 men (BM)	1x, 2x, 4x, 2-, 4-, 4+, 8+
Under 23 women (BW)	1x, 2x, 4x, 2-, 4-, 4+, 8+
Under 23 lightweight men (BLM)	1x, 2x, 4x, 2-
Under 23 lightweight women (BLW)	1x, 2x, 4x, 2-

Junior men (JM)	1x, 2x, 2-, 4x, 4-, 4+, 8+
Junior women (JW)	1x, 2x, 2-, 4x, 4-, 4+ , 8+

[\[ERMB proposal\]](#) For the period 2018 until 2020 no automatic removal of events from the Championships that attract less than 7 entries. All boat classes will be reviewed for the 2021 General Assembly.

PART VI – ORGANISATION OF REGATTAS

Regulation 4 (Rule 40) – Disputes, Appeals and Cases not Covered

The European Rowing Management Board (“ERMB”) shall adjudicate on all cases not covered by the Rules of Racing, the Bye-Laws and the present Regulations, as well as on disputes which may arise during a European Rowing Championship regatta. The decision of the ERMB shall be final. Any decision made by the ERMB under this article shall immediately be communicated to the European Member Federations of FISA in writing.

Regulation 5 (Rule 41) – Prizes and Sponsorship Contracts

The title of Champion shall be conferred on winning competitors at a European Rowing Championship Regatta. They shall each be awarded a gold-plated medal. To those finishing second in each event, they shall be awarded silver medals. To those finishing third in each event, they shall be awarded bronze medals. At the victory ceremony, the national anthem of the country which the winning competitors represent shall be played. The national flags of the three countries which the winning competitors, the competitors finishing second and the competitors finishing third represent shall be raised. Above medals shall be supplied by FISA but at the cost of the Organising Committee.

Regulation 6 (Rules 67) – The Draw and Progressing to the Finals

The Progression system used at the European Rowing Championship regatta to determine the finals will be the FISA Championship progression system prescribed in the FISA Rules of Racing and the relevant Bye-Laws.

Regulation 7 (Rule 85) – Exceptional Cases

Should it be necessary to take decisions in exceptional cases (e.g., postponing of a race or suspension of the regatta), the Chairman of the European Rowing Management Board or his designee, in consultation with the President of the Jury and the Chairman of the Regatta, shall make such decisions.

European Rowing Championships

Rules for Regatta Organisers

A. BIDDING

1. Start of the Bid Process

In principle, the European Rowing Championships shall be attributed to a federation for organisation at least two years in advance. A Bid Questionnaire will be available at least three years before the given Championship.

2. Bid Questionnaire

Each bidding federation interested in organizing a European Rowing Championship regatta must submit detailed answers to the Bid Questionnaire within the period prescribed by the European Rowing Management Board ("ERMB"). The answers to the questionnaire will form part of the Event Agreement signed with FISA if the candidature is successful.

3. Guarantees and Undertaking

Each bidding federation must present written guarantees on several topics to the ERMB in writing. The bidding federation and any governmental authority(ies) presenting the bid must submit a written undertaking in which they agree to sign the Event Agreement if they are successful.

4. Candidature, Bidding, Hosting Fees

The European Rowing Management Board may announce fees for entering the bid process, submitting a bid and for winning the right to host the event. These fees will be determined and announced at least three months before the request for expressions of interest are due to be received.

5. Bid Inspection Visit

The ERMB may send to the bidding sites, at the cost of the respective bidding federations, a group of experts (up to three persons) to evaluate, in reference to the answers given in the questionnaires, the conditions under which the Championships could best be held.

6. Attribution

The ERMB will evaluate all candidates to ensure all standards are met and guarantees signed before presenting it (them) to the General Assembly for the decision. The General Assembly will elect one of the selected candidates by a majority of valid votes cast. In the event that General Assembly fails to so elect one of the selected candidates, a second election will then take place for which all candidates will be eligible. [European events will be included in the Strategic Event Attribution process for European regatta venues.](#)

7. Event Agreement

The member federation to which the European Rowing Championship regatta is attributed shall immediately enter into an Event Agreement with FISA, on behalf of the European Rowing Management Board, to comply with its undertakings.

B. PREPARATIONS AND OPERATIONS

1. Event Dates

The ERMB shall decide the dates of the European Rowing Championship regatta at least two years in advance.

2. Rights – Television and Commercial

The following rights are the exclusive property of FISA at all European Rowing Championship Regattas and shall be exploited in cooperation with each Organising Committee in accordance with the Event Agreement:

- a) Television rights, including all means now known or hereafter devised, whether live or recorded, pay or free television including terrestrial, satellite or cable transmission;
- b) Commercial rights, including all commercial and sponsorship rights arising in relation to or in any way connected including signage rights, general sponsorship rights, official supplier

rights, event programme rights, advertising rights on all promotional materials and publications and hospitality rights; and

- c) The right to use and licence the name and official emblem of FISA and other names, emblems and logos as registered by FISA.

FISA shall negotiate with the various Organising Committees in order to determine how the proceeds of the sale of these rights shall be handled. FISA also possesses the right to sell souvenir and other products at European Rowing Championships and the Organising Committee shall provide space for this activity at the venue of the Championships without charges to FISA.

3. Preparation Expenses

The organisers of the Championships will be responsible for the entire expenses of up to six visits by individuals designated by FISA to inspect the venue and review preparations with the Organising Committee prior to the Championships.

4. Organisational Expenses

The bid documents shall specify in detail the organisational expenses that the Organising Committee shall be responsible for payment. FISA will confirm these as maximum amounts for the Organising Budget and, if actual is below, only charge the actual cost.