

**2017 WORLD ROWING REVIEW PROJECTS  
NATIONAL FEDERATIONS MEETING  
WORLD ROWING UNDER 23 CHAMPIONSHIPS, PLOVDIV – 22 JULY 2017**

The following questions and comments were received from the national federations (NFs) present. The response from FISA is noted below each question:

**1. Rule 36 – World Rowing Championship Programme**

NF The Council has recommended gender equality for immediate implementation as well as the Natural Death Rule which could contradict each other – the Natural Death Rule can cause an even of one gender to be eliminated leaving the programme gender unequal. We don't have a view on it as the Dutch Federation, but wonder how the FISA Council views it.

FISA Every four years we have the chance to re-evaluate and reflect on the programme, so the principle is to start gender equal but it is accepted that it might happen that an event in one gender could be eliminated the programme is unequal for a year or two, until the next Extraordinary Congress. The Natural Death Rule is there to reveal weaknesses and, if an event is eliminated, we can then look for solutions to address those weaknesses.

NF If we are to consider introducing a coxed four for junior and under 23 women, could this be staged to allow the participation in women's sweep rowing to grow first at the junior level then, after a year or two, expand to under 23? So could we decide in Sarasota to introduce the JW4+ and BW4+ at later dates (dates to be discussed)?

FISA The answer is that the Congress could decide to implement the change at any date as long as it is clearly specified in the text of the proposed rule. It should not be too open however.

**2. 2020 Olympic Qualification System**

NF Regarding the number of lightweight doubles, there are fewer allocated to the continents than in 2016 so we have reduced the universality of the lightweight doubles.

FISA There are several scenarios, and this is one of the dilemmas because we have the quota cut and we have to balance all of the principles against each other.

NF I don't think that the reduction in fours and quads is a good idea; a minimum of 10 places should be a requirement. The position presented today with the WCH programmes as well as the principles shows that there is big pressure on fours and quads. This needs to be weighed carefully against the 70:30 principle, and I ask that the Council reconsiders this principle.

FISA Noted

NF I support the argument that the fours and quads are important boat classes for the medium nations, 10 is the minimum.

FISA Noted.

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NF The ratio between excellence and participation of 70:30 – is this something that the Council wants to achieve? We have lost excellence boats from 2016, why can't we try to maintain the number of excellence boats as far as possible and have full A and B finals? If we achieve participation only through the singles, we can still achieve a high level of participation.

FISA Everything is possible, we are still discussing the options but having more than 10 boats in the fours and quads would push the balance too far in the direction of excellence, in the opinion of the Council. We understand the desire for more excellence boats, but we still need to achieve universality. The Council, when supporting 70:30, is not talking about absolute figures, but rather about the range, and some of the options are very far from this ratio.

In addition, it would be contradictory of us to remove the participation aspect of the lightweight doubles given that we have used this as a key argument for maintaining the lightweight category in the Olympic programme.

NF How many athletes doubled up in Rio? As the numbers are very small, we should think of doubling up for 2020 and not wait.

FISA Very few athletes doubled up that we know of – possibly only NZL W2- and W8+.

NF Lightweight doubles places should not be increased to increase participation; 20 should be the maximum. Universality should be achieved via the singles.

FISA Noted. We are consulting with IOC members and management to understand their view on lightweight rowing post-2020, and will report back once we feel we have a clear picture from the IOC.

NF A colleague from the National Triathlon Federation told us that they are very proud of their new event for Tokyo; the mixed relay. It isn't yet clear whether they have to use already-qualified athletes. Rowing is under constant pressure and we seem to miss an innovative solution to try to increase our quota in the Olympics – we could try things at the Junior Championships for example.

FISA We are focussed on decisions for this year but this is on our radar as well. We acknowledge that the stability we have enjoyed in the Olympic programme the past 24 years is over, and we will be under constant pressure to innovate and adapt to the Olympic environment.

Note that the triathlon quota was not increased – they have to use athletes qualified for other events or reduce the quota for the individual events for the mixed relay.