

October 2017 NF Conference – Agenda Item 5

The Council seeks comments and feedback about the proposal to slightly change the approach to event attribution while still respecting Rule 6. Member Federations and Event Organisers are invited to send comments to info@fisa.org leading up to a discussion period at the 2017 FISA Ordinary Congress on 2 October 2017.

DRAFT - A Strategic Framework for Event Attribution at 270717

Rowing is fortunate to have local, regional and national governments making significant investments to build new, or make improvements to existing, regatta venues. Some examples of recent construction projects are:

Linz/Ottensheim,	Hamburg,	Racice,	Trakai,
Plovdiv,	Brandenburg,	Lake Karapiro,	Varese,
Paris,	Strathclyde,	Copenhagen,	Sarasota-Bradenton,
Aiguebelette,	Rotterdam,	Amsterdam,	Poznan,
Bled,	Lucerne,	Moscow,	Kazan,
Brest,	Minsk,	Shanghai,	Chungju,
Montemar o Velho,	Lake Burnaby	St. Catharines.	and many others

In making these investments, the governments involved have carefully considered the benefits to the local community and economy and are seeking continuous justification for their investments. Major events, together with the benefits they bring, are an important part of this justification. FISA therefore needs to be in a position to offer a more strategic and long term approach to attributing events to these venues to encourage and support a long term return on investment in the facilities, as well as long term support for our sport.

In addition, the increased competitiveness and therefore difficulty in the securing of public grants for organising events means that FISA should consider introducing flexibility and agility to its rules and governance structures. It is important that FISA and the respective NF are able to engage with a government as and when it is determined that an elite sport event is appropriate to its strategy for the promotion of sport or tourism in the city or region.

In consideration of the above and when circumstances permit, FISA must be ready to shift from its competitive bid format that is driven by (in some cases) arbitrary deadlines, to a more targeted and tailored approach in order to better collaborate with key partners and government entities. This follows a path that the IOC is considering in addition to many other International Federations. When governments or cities are ready to dedicate resources to stage one of our events, FISA needs to be open and ready to work with them where such an arrangement would benefit our sport. As IOC President Bach has said, the competitive bid process causes too

many losers, when we should be doing all we can to facilitate the bids of appropriate willing and cooperative partners.

How could we progress this shift in framework?

1. Regattas Attributed by the FISA Council:

- **World Rowing Cup Regattas**
- **World Rowing Masters Regatta**
- **World Rowing Coastal Championships**

Current Status: Appendix 25 (Event Bidding and Preparation Regulations) states that “In the case of World Rowing Cup / World Rowing Masters Regatta/ World Rowing Coastal Championships Bids: The Executive Committee / Masters Rowing Commission/ Rowing for All Commission will evaluate all bids and select the most suitable venue(s) and organising committee(s) and propose it (them) to the Council for final approval.”

In principle, the World Rowing Cup regattas and World Rowing Coastal Championships are attributed two years in advance, and the World Rowing Masters Regatta is attributed three years in advance. As these time periods are stipulated in the Bye-Laws, they may be changed by the Council.

2. Regattas Attributed by the FISA Congress

- **World Rowing Championships**
- **World Rowing Under 23 Championships**
- **World Rowing Junior Championships**
- **World Rowing Senior, Under 23 and Junior Championships in Olympic year**

Current Status: In the case of the World Championships (World Rowing Championships, World Rowing Under 23 Championships, World Rowing Junior Championships), Rule 6 applies which calls for a competitive bid process leading to a decision by the Council and a vote by the Congress. The Rule 6 would have to be changed to accommodate the possibility of a change as proposed above.

According to the current Regulations, the World Rowing Championships are attributed four years in advance, and the World Rowing Junior and Under 23 Championships are attributed three years in advance. As these time periods are stipulated in the Bye-Laws, they may be changed by the Council.

3. Proposed new approach:

In order to offer a more strategic and long term approach to attributing FISA events, it is proposed that an 18 month period is allocated for organisers and National Federations to consult with their government authorities and express interest in a list of all the regattas listed above, for example, from 2021 to 2024 that are available for attribution during a specified time period. Interested parties would then enter into confidential but non-exclusive

discussions with FISA about the regattas that best suit their interests and longer term objectives for their venue leading to a bid documentation preparation phase and an attribution decision phase.

For the events listed under point 1 above, if no others have expressed interest in certain events, then National Federations or organisations could enter into a “strategic attribution process”, meaning that their bid for the events of interest would not be in competition with other bids. In the case where two or more organisations express interest in hosting the same event, the FISA Executive Committee will actively seek a solution that would work for all organisations, e.g. by attributing the event in the following year, or an event of similar size or status. If no solution is found by a prescribed deadline, then the bids would be presented in a competitive forum for a Council vote.

For the World Championships events listed under point 2 above where the Congress is responsible for attributing, each bid with the relevant information (accommodation prices, distances, etc.) and an assessment from the Council would be presented for a formal vote of attribution in accordance with Rule 6. As for the other events, in the case where two or more organisations express interest in hosting the same event, the FISA Executive Committee will actively seek a solution that would work for all organisations, e.g. by attributing the event in the following year, or an event of similar size or status. If no solution is found by a prescribed deadline, then the bids would be presented in a competitive forum for a Congress vote.

4. Timing

We envision a 20 month scenario, as follows:

1. Stage One - Announcement of the framework programme with a nine month period (1 November 2017 to 31 July 2018) for confidential discussions with interested NFs, OCs and Governments whereby they would inform us of their goals and objectives for their venue during the four-year period (in this case, for the 2021 to 2024 period) and make a first indication of the events they would be interested in hosting during the indicated four-year period.
2. Stage Two - At the close of the nine months, FISA would take three months (1 August 2018 to 31 October 2018) to go back to the interested parties at which more than one indicated interest in a certain event and see if another event which did not have a bidder would be satisfactory for them or more suited to their goals and objectives.
3. Stage Three – The bid preparation period would begin and last for six months (1 November 2018 to 30 April 2019) leading to preliminary bid event questionnaires and preliminary bid event budgets. The FISA Events team would be working with the bidders to ensure clarity and provide any additional or missing information. If a new venue is

presented, then a site visit would be required. No site visit would be required for venues that have hosted a FISA event within the past four years.

4. Stage Four – Two additional months (1 May 2019 to 30 June 2019) to finalise all details and present complete, final bids with all letters of guarantee as well as accommodation locations and prices to Council and Congress. A complete review of all bid documentation would be undertaken to be assured that all standards have been met. These, depending on the events, would be presented to the appropriate stakeholder groups for attribution at this point.

5. Next Steps:

This proposal was discussed by the FISA Council in Lucerne on 9/10 July 2017. The Council now seeks comment and feedback from Member Federations and event organisers. It will be placed before the 2017 FISA Ordinary Congress on 2 October 2017 for any final comments leading to a Council decision. If adopted, a change will be made to Appendix 25 - Event Bidding and Preparation Regulations (presented below). FISA will start discussions with Continental Confederations to see if there are synergies to combine certain continental events with this proposal.

6. Relevant Rules and Regulations:

Rule 6 text: (no change needed)

Rule 6 – Attribution of World Rowing Championships

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, a second election shall then take place for which all candidates for the relevant Championships that have satisfied the minimum requirements shall be eligible (see Appendix 25).

FISA shall encourage a worldwide attribution of World Rowing Championship regattas to suitable candidates. The Council may directly attribute a World Rowing Championship regatta for the year before an Olympic Games regatta to an Olympic host city as a test event for the Olympic regatta without a vote of Congress.

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.

Regulations (that would need to be changed by Council)

Appendix 25

EVENT BIDDING AND PREPARATION REGULATIONS – EVENT REGULATIONS AND/OR DEPARTURES FROM THE FISA RULES OF RACING

Applicable to:

- World Rowing Championships,

- World Rowing Junior Championships, World Rowing Under 23 Championships,
- World Rowing Cup Regattas,
- World Rowing Masters Regattas,
- World Rowing Coastal Championships.

1. Start of the Bid Process

The relevant events shall, in principle, be attributed to a member federation for organisation, *in principle, no less than two years* ~~a specified number of years~~ in advance. A Bid Questionnaire will be available ~~at least~~ *no less than* one year before the attribution date of the event.

~~Four years~~

- ~~World Rowing Championships~~

~~Three years~~

- ~~World Rowing Junior Championships~~
- ~~World Rowing Under 23 Championships~~
- ~~World Rowing Masters Regattas~~

~~Two years~~

- ~~World Rowing Cup Regattas~~
- ~~World Rowing Coastal Championships~~

...

6. Attribution

World Rowing Championships, World Rowing Junior Championships, World Rowing Under 23 Championships Bids (Rule 6): 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. As part of this proposal to Congress, the Council shall set out its reasons for selecting its recommended candidate(s). 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, a second election shall then take place for which all candidates for the relevant Championships that have satisfied the minimum requirements shall be eligible.