

## **Rule 36 – Proposals for the World Championship boat classes and FISA Council position on the key principles**

### **1. Introduction and Background**

At the 2017 Extraordinary Congress in Tokyo, the delegates voted to delegate the authority to change Rule 36, the World Championships boat classes (senior, under 23 and junior), to the 2017 Ordinary Congress in Sarasota-Bradenton on 2 October 2017. This decision was taken due to the timing of the IOC Executive Board's decision set for July 2017 on the Olympic Programme, which would influence to some extent the composition of the World Championship boat classes. The IOC Executive Board ultimately decided to include the following events in the Olympic Programme for 2020: W1x, W2x, W2-, W4x, W4-, W8+, LW2x, M1x, M2x, M2-, M4x, M4-, M8+, LM2x.

A review project was established to consider the key principles that should guide the decisions related to the World Championship programmes as well as identify the various options. A working group was established by the FISA Executive Committee to provide input to the evaluation, and the review the progress and outputs of the review project presented to the member federations through a series of meetings held at the three World Rowing Cup regattas, the European Championships and the World Rowing Under 23 Championships. The final National Federation meeting will take place at the World Rowing Junior Championships in Trakai, LTU on 5 August 2017.

This document reflects the outcome of the discussions and deliberations on the topic, primarily relating to the key principles of the World Championship programmes. In addition, a number of options are presented for consideration by the Congress delegates; these are the options that will be put forward for vote at the Congress. While all options will be presented for vote, the FISA Council will, on 2 September, publish its considerations and preferred option(s) for the World Championship programmes.

### **2. Key Concepts and Principles**

#### **2.1. Purpose and Goal of World Rowing Championships**

##### **World Rowing Championships**

The World Rowing Championships is the annual pinnacle competitive rowing event for rowers worldwide which showcases the very best of the sport and those who partake in it.

**Vision:** The World Rowing Championships is the most important international rowing competition, other than the Olympic Games. It is a globally respected, prime sporting event which allows the world's very best rowers to present their talent and skills in regatta venues that showcase the value and attractiveness of the environment in our sport.

##### **Purpose and goals of the World Rowing Championships**

1. To provide a platform and the conditions that allow the best rowers of the world to perform to the best of their abilities
2. To determine the world champions, medalists and a final world ranking for a given year in each boat class of each age category

3. To promote and facilitate broad participation for rowers representing national rowing federations from all around the world
4. To provide an entertaining and informative experience for participants, spectators and television viewers of all nationalities, languages and ages.
5. To stage the event in a way which supports FISA's strategic plan for the sport of rowing and upholds FISA's principles: development of the individual, promoting international understanding, promoting rowing as a lifetime sport and affirming collective environmental responsibility.

## **2.2. The criteria for including a boat class in the World Rowing Championship programmes**

There are currently no specific criteria in the Rules however this was recognised as something to be developed for the future. The seven guiding principles that have been identified and endorsed by the member federations during the Olympic programme review as well as the World Championship programmes (Rule 36) review project could form the basis for such a set of criteria.

## **2.3. Gender equality**

The Council believes gender equality is essential and strongly favours that all World Championship programmes become gender equal immediately.

## **2.4. Excellence, minimum entry threshold and Natural Death Rule**

The Council supports the principle that is the basis of the Natural Death Rule: to be on the World Championship programme, the competition in the event must be of a certain standard of excellence. The standard of excellence proposed requires at least three rounds of racing and the winner having competed with at least six other crews. One way to institutionalise this "excellence" is the natural death rule that automatically eliminates events that do not reach this threshold for three consecutive years. The Congress would then review such events at each Extraordinary Congress.

## **2.5. Pathways**

The events offered should have a clear relationship to each other to allow logical pathways for athlete development and competition structures including the age group World Championships (Junior and Under 23), and should provide the best opportunity for developing rowers to progress along the pathway to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Council noted that national, regional and continental events are also an integral part of the pathway to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, making these important opportunities for rowers to reach their full potential. The Council therefore, while encouraging the application of the guiding principles discussed above, recognises the autonomy of each continental association to develop its event programmes as relevant to the local context.

### 3. Rule 36 Scenarios for the open, lightweight and para-rowing categories

A number of options are presented according to each category: three open, six lightweight and 2 para-rowing options; in each category, the status quo will be presented as an option as well. In order to reach the final option that will be considered against the current Rule 36 for vote, the Congress will vote on the options by category at an absolute majority until a preferred option is reached for each category (open, lightweight and para). The preferred options will then be combined to form the final block option. This vote will require a two-thirds majority in order to replace the existing rule.

The Council noted that not all of the options in the lightweight category are gender equal. In the para-rowing category, the Council notes that ratio between para and non-para events must be considered. The options are as follows:

#### 3.1. Options for the Open category:

Status quo:

Men								
World Champs	M1x	M2x	M4x	M2-	M4-		M2+	M8+
Under 23 Champs	BM1x	BM2x	BM4x	BM2-	BM4-	BM4+		BM8+
Junior Champs	JM1x	JM2x	JM4x	JM2-	JM4-	JM4+		JM8+
Women								
World Champs	W1x	W2x	W4x	W2-	W4-			W8+
Under 23 Champs	BW1x	BW2x	BW4x	BW2-	BW4-			BW8+
Junior Champs	JW1x	JW2x	JW4x	JW2-	JW4-			JW8+

Option a: eliminate M2+, BM4+, JM4+

Men						
World Champs	M1x	M2x	M4x	M2-	M4-	M8+
Under 23 Champs	BM1x	BM2x	BM4x	BM2-	BM4-	BM8+
Junior Champs	JM1x	JM2x	JM4x	JM2-	JM4-	JM8+
Women						
World Champs	W1x	W2x	W4x	W2-	W4-	W8+
Under 23 Champs	BW1x	BW2x	BW4x	BW2-	BW4-	BW8+
Junior Champs	JW1x	JW2x	JW4x	JW2-	JW4-	JW8+

Option b\*: eliminate M2+, add BW4+ and JW4+

Men							
World Champs	M1x	M2x	M4x	M2-	M4-		M8+
Under 23 Champs	BM1x	BM2x	BM4x	BM2-	BM4-	BM4+	BM8+
Junior Champs	JM1x	JM2x	JM4x	JM2-	JM4-	JM4+	JM8+
Women							
World Champs	W1x	W2x	W4x	W2-	W4-		W8+
Under 23 Champs	BW1x	BW2x	BW4x	BW2-	BW4-	<u>BW4+</u>	BW8+
Junior Champs	JW1x	JW2x	JW4x	JW2-	JW4-	<u>JW4+</u>	JW8+

**Option c\*: eliminate M2+ and BM4+, add JW4+**

Men							
<b>World Champs</b>	M1x	M2x	M4x	M2-	M4-		M8+
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BM1x	BM2x	BM4x	BM2-	BM4-		BM8+
<b>Junior Champs</b>	JM1x	JM2x	JM4x	JM2-	JM4-	JM4+	JM8+
Women							
<b>World Champs</b>	W1x	W2x	W4x	W2-	W4-		W8+
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BW1x	BW2x	BW4x	BW2-	BW4-		BW8+
<b>Junior Champs</b>	JW1x	JW2x	JW4x	JW2-	JW4-	<u>JW4+</u>	JW8+

Note: British Rowing has submitted proposals supporting the inclusion of the JW4+ and BW4+ but suggesting a phased approach to their addition to the World Championship Programme (please see the British Rowing proposals in Agenda Item 19). This option may be considered an amendment to the proposals above, and decided at the Congress.

**3.2. Options for the Lightweight category:**

**Status quo:**

Men					
<b>World Champs</b>	LM1x	LM2x	LM4x	LM2-	LM4-
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLM1x	BLM2x	BLM4x	BLM2-	BLM4-
Women					
<b>World Champs</b>	LW1x	LW2x	LW4x		
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLW1x	BLW2x	BLW4x		

**Option 1: add LW2-, LW4-, BLW2-, BLW4-**

Men					
<b>World Champs</b>	LM1x	LM2x	LM4x	LM2-	LM4-
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLM1x	BLM2x	BLM4x	BLM2-	BLM4-
Women					
<b>World Champs</b>	LW1x	LW2x	LW4x	<u>LW2-</u>	<u>LW4-</u>
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLW1x	BLW2x	BLW4x	<u>BLW2-</u>	<u>BLW4-</u>

**Option 2: eliminate LM4-, BLM4- add LW2-, BLW2-**

Men					
<b>World Champs</b>	LM1x	LM2x	LM4x	LM2-	
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLM1x	BLM2x	BLM4x	BLM2-	
Women					
<b>World Champs</b>	LW1x	LW2x	LW4x	LW2-	
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLW1x	BLW2x	BLW4x	BLW2-	

**Option 3: eliminate LM2-, LM4-, BLM2-, BLM4-**

<b>Men</b>			
<b>World Champs</b>	LM1x	LM2x	LM4x
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLM1x	BLM2x	BLM4x
<b>Women</b>			
<b>World Champs</b>	LW1x	LW2x	LW4x
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLW1x	BLW2x	BLW4x

**Option 4: eliminate LM4-, BLM4-**

<b>Men</b>				
<b>World Champs</b>	LM1x	LM2x	LM4x	LM2-
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLM1x	BLM2x	BLM4x	BLM2-
<b>Women</b>				
<b>World Champs</b>	LW1x	LW2x	LW4x	
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLW1x	BLW2x	BLW4x	

**Option 5: eliminate LM2-, LM4-, BLM4- add BLW2-**

<b>Men</b>				
<b>World Champs</b>	LM1x	LM2x	LM4x	
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLM1x	BLM2x	BLM4x	BLM2-
<b>Women</b>				
<b>World Champs</b>	LW1x	LW2x	LW4x	
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLW1x	BLW2x	BLW4x	BLW2-

**Option 6: add LW2-, BLW2-**

<b>Men</b>					
<b>World Champs</b>	LM1x	LM2x	LM4x	LM2-	LM4-
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLM1x	BLM2x	BLM4x	BLM2-	BLM4-
<b>Women</b>					
<b>World Champs</b>	LW1x	LW2x	LW4x	LW2-	
<b>Under 23 Champs</b>	BLW1x	BLW2x	BLW4x	BLW2-	

### 3.3. Options for the Para-Rowing category:

Status quo:

Men					
World Champs	PR1 1x				
Women					
World Champs	PR1 1x				
Mixed					
World Champs		PR2 2x	PR3 2x	PR3 4+	

Option i: add PR2 M1x, PR2 W1x

Men					
World Champs	PR1 1x	PR2 1x			
Women					
World Champs	PR1 1x	PR2 1x			
Mixed					
World Champs		PR2 2x	PR3 2x	PR3 4+	

Option ii: add PR2 M1x, PR2 W1x, PR3 M1x, PR3 W1x

Men					
World Champs	PR1 1x	PR2 1x	PR3 1x		
Women					
World Champs	PR1 1x	PR2 1x	PR3 1x		
Mixed					
World Champs		PR2 2x	PR3 2x	PR3 4+	

Option iii: add PR2 M1x, PR2 W1x, PR3 M2-, PR3 W2-

Men					
World Champs	PR1 1x	PR2 1x	PR3 2-		
Women					
World Champs	PR1 1x	PR2 1x	PR3 2-		
Mixed					
World Champs		PR2 2x	PR3 2x	PR3 4+	

Option iv : add PR2 M1x & W1x, PR3 M2- & W2-, PR3 M1x & W1x

Men					
World Champs	PR1 1x	PR2 1x	PR3 2-	PR3 1x	
Women					
World Champs	PR1 1x	PR2 1x	PR3 2-	PR3 1x	
Mixed					
World Champs		PR2 2x	PR3 2x	PR3 4+	