

**2017 WORLD ROWING REVIEW PROJECTS
NATIONAL FEDERATIONS MEETING
WORLD ROWING CUP, GAVIRATE – 13 MAY 2017**

The background and terms of reference of the World Rowing Review Projects were presented – FOCUS ON PARA-ROWING.

The following comments were received from the national federations (NFs) present:

1. Para-rowing:

NF	In NED there is more men than women – so why don't we offer more opportunities for men to participate, for example by offering a PR2 M1x – because we have many men competing for a seat in the PR2Mix2x.
FISA	This is a relevant point for Rule 36. We can think about how we can allow more opportunities for participation.
NF	Follow up: we should offer the same opportunity for the women as well as this would also help participation in the women's category.
NF	In PR1 singles you have very different disabilities in one class. Maybe if we split it into two classes, there could be more athletes participating. Right now, the selected athlete is maybe the less impaired in that category.
FISA	This is something to be discussed when reviewing classification, and whether our classification classes are the most appropriate ones.
NF	Should we review the weight and size of the boats, to make them smaller and lighter. This could also cost less.
FISA	We are looking at equipment in this review, but our priority will always be the safety of the athletes. We also have to look at the effect of the equipment on the athletes, and the attractiveness of the sport, but the priority is safety.
NF	In the year before the Paralympics, maybe it should be compulsory that the rowers first participate in a world cup event. This way we can be sure their classification is confirmed so that there is no uncertainty and disruption to the athlete's preparation and performance during the Paralympic competition.
FISA	This is theoretically how it should work as we had a no classification policy in Rio, meaning that the athletes were all classified before the Games. But your point is noted.
NF class	My PR2 female rower is already training in a normal single – without pontoons in summer and with pontoons in the winter. The longer we wait, the more Para boats are built. I would like to have normal boats used for this class

FISA	Noted and will be discussed further by the working group.
NF	Could we implement a system where the boat, seat, other safety, and regulation, are done systematically? And could we take pictures of the athletes, to show them what is right/wrong set-up, to avoid confusion in the future about equipment?
FISA	Noted and will be discussed further.
NF	As it has been suggested to have a PR2 1x, should we do the same for the PR3 four and offer a PR3 2-? It is difficult to create a full crew for the four, so having pairs would allow the athletes to compete while building the crew.
FISA	We will discuss this alongside the PR2x 1x discussion.
NF	Does FISA plan to increase the number of para rowing events? Maybe include more para rowing events during other events, like the European championship for example. Asians have para-rowing in the Asian championships. Our priority would be to add para-rowing events to the European Championships, rather than to the World Cups.
NF	The risk is that not everybody would participate in all regattas if we add too many events.
FISA	Noted and will be discussed.
NF	[After meeting] Should we consider including para-rowing events in the Junior World Championships?
FISA	We will put the question to the working group.