



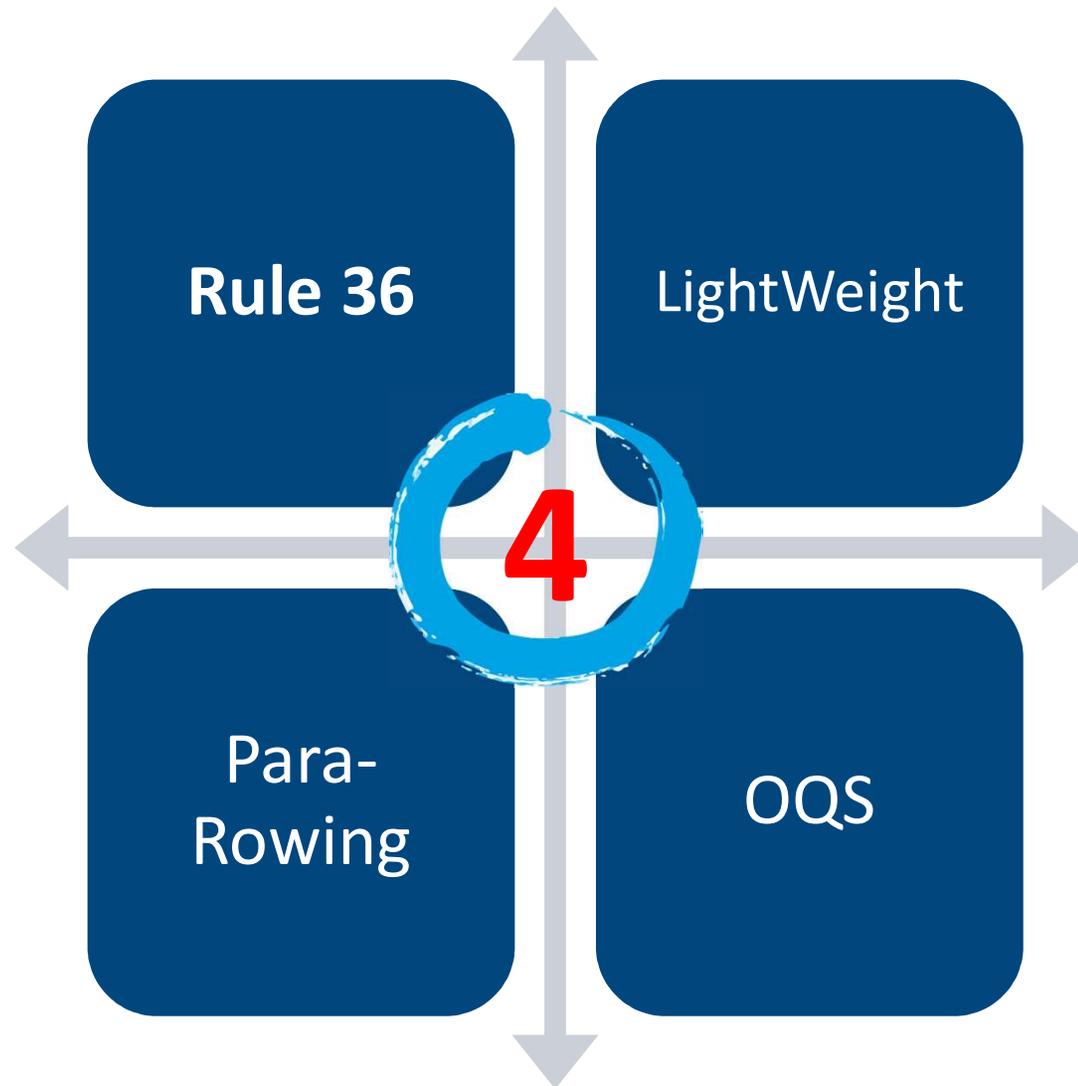
**2017 World Rowing
Review Projects**

National Federations Meeting

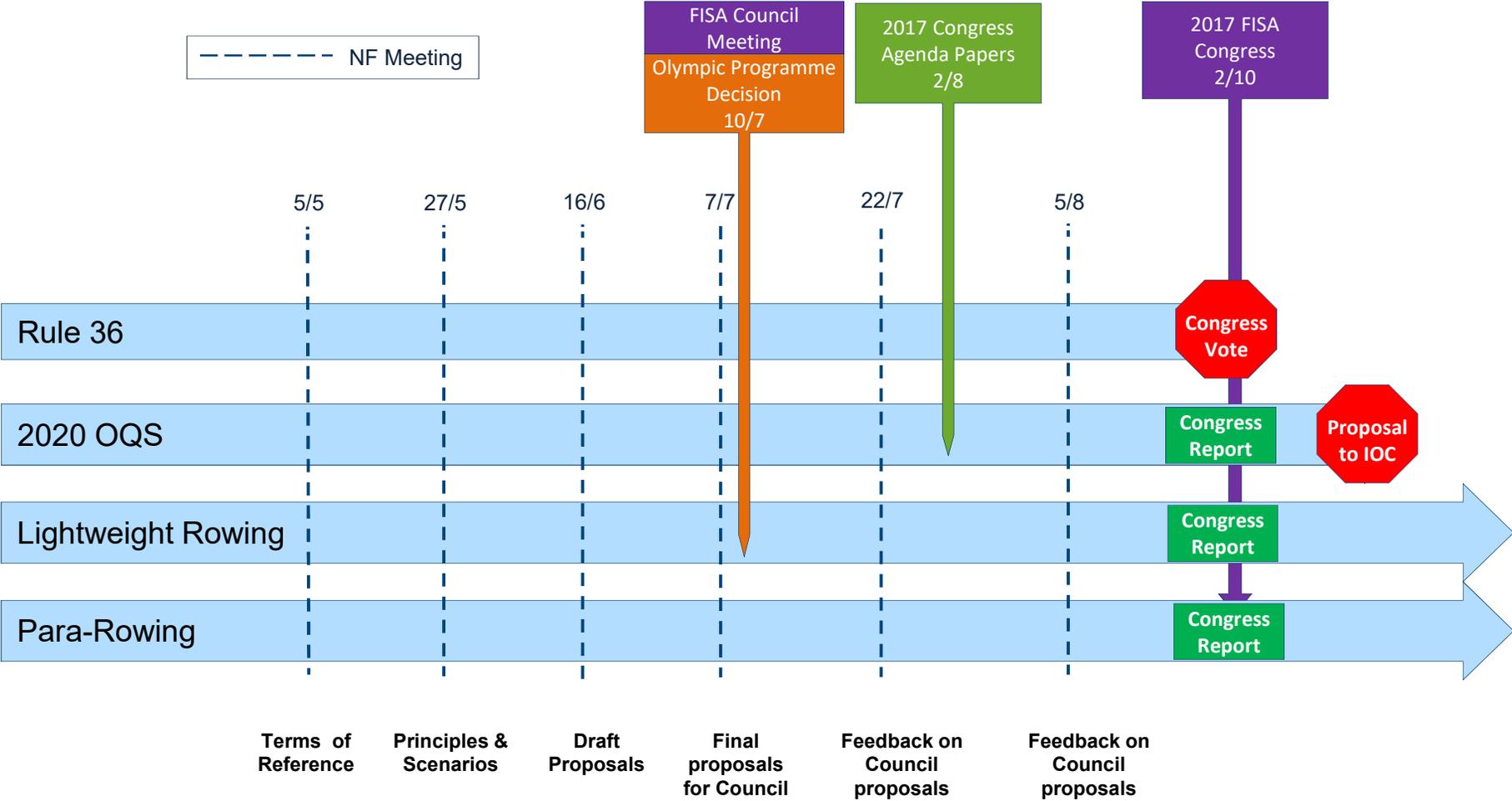
Racice, 27 May 2017

INTRODUCTION

2017 Review projects



Project Timeline



THE REVIEW PROJECTS PRINCIPLES & SCENARIOS

RULE 36: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAMMES

Terms of Reference



- Prepare a proposal or set of alternative proposals/scenarios for the three World Championships programmes (Senior, Under 23 and Junior).
- Input to the FISA Council proposal:
 - NF comments by 16 June
 - Working group proposal by 9 July
 - Council proposal by 2 August
- Congress vote on 2 October 2017
- A single proposal or a number of alternative proposals may be put forward for vote at the FISA Congress in Sarasota-Bradenton.
- The vote for the final Rule 36 programme will require a two-third majority to pass.

1. Olympic Programme Decision

The IOC Executive Board will decide on the Olympic programme proposed by FISA on 10 July.

2. World Championship Programme

The World Rowing Championship programmes voted on in Sarasota/Bradenton cannot be changed for the next three years. Changes could only take place at the next FISA Extraordinary Congress in 2021.

Current Rule 36



World Rowing Championships are currently held in the following events:

Men (M)	1x	2x	2-	2+	4x	4-		8+
Women (W)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-		8+
Lightweight Men (LM)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-		
Lightweight Women (LW)	1x	2x			4x			
Para-Rowing (APR)	PR1 M1x	PR1 W1x	PR2 Mix 2x	PR3 Mix 2x			PR3 Mix 4+	
Under 23 Men (BM)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-	4+	8+
Under 23 Women (BW)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-		8+
Under 23 Lightweight Men (BLM)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-		
Under 23 Lightweight Women (BLW)	1x	2x			4x			
Junior Men (JM)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-	4+	8+
Junior Women (JW)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-		8+

Key Principles to Address



1. Excellence
2. Participation
3. Gender equality
4. Attractive programme / spectator experience
5. Balance of the different boat classes, sculling and sweep rowing
6. The inclusion of open, lightweight and para-rowing events
7. Pathways from junior to senior

Principle 1: Excellence



- The World Championships should provide a platform for the world's best athletes to compete.
- Should a World Rowing Championship medal be won by having raced in a minimum of two rounds? If so, then seven entries should be the minimum level of competition to retain the “value” of the World Championship medal.
- The importance of pathways from Junior to Under 23 to Senior Championships.

Principle 2: Participation



- The World Championship programme should allow sufficient opportunities in a range of boat classes to enable participation by a broad range of NFs.

Principle 3: Gender Equality



- Sport is a key means for society to break down barriers and reduce gender discrimination.
- FISA supports the goal of gender equality in all FISA events.
- Gender equality (in numbers of athletes and boat classes) has been achieved at the Olympic, Youth Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as (in boat classes only) at the World University Championships.
- By when should we reach **full gender equality** in the WCH programmes in terms of events?

Principle 4: Spectator Experience / Attractive Programme



- The World Championships should offer an attractive racing programme to enhance the experience for both live spectators and TV viewers.
- The number of finals days should create interest and attractiveness for television and spectators, but should also be appropriate for the budgets of teams and OCs.
- An attractive racing programme should include a minimum number of crews racing in each event to ensure at least two rounds, but where the ideal is four rounds including semi-finals.

Principle 5: Balance of different boat classes / Sweep and Sculling



- Rowing is one of the few sports that offers different pathways for skill and endurance capacity development.
- Sculling and sweep rowing are parts of the tradition of the sport which require different skill sets or body types/height or weight.
- Different classes of boat require varying levels of co-operation i.e. some very individual, some requiring absolute partnership (pairs/doubles) and some requiring special teamwork (quads/fours/eights).
- Many rowing nations are able to enter singles and doubles but do not always have the depth of talent to enter fours, or eights.
- The variety of boat classes is a reflection of the breadth of rowing internationally within individual countries.

Principle 6: Inclusion of Open, Lightweight and Para-Rowing events



- Rowing should offer opportunities for rowers of different body types and abilities to participate.
- The lightweight category is a means to broaden participation.
- FISA supports rowers with an impairment (Para-Rowers) being fully integrated into the Senior World Championships programme.

Principle 7: Pathways



- The events offered should have a clear relationship to each other to allow logical pathways for athlete development and competition structures.
- The events offered should provide the best opportunity for developing pathway rowers to progress to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Principle 7: Pathways - Men



Male Rower Pathways for World Championship Programmes

Athlete Age	Event	Men's Sweep	Men's Sculling	Men's Lightweight	Seats				
	Olympics	M2- M4- M8+ 14 seats + 1 coxswain	M1x M2x M4x 7 seats	LM2x 2 seats	Sw	Sc	LWT	Cox	Total
					14	7	2	1	24
23+	World Championships	M2- M2+ M4- M8+ 16 seats + 2 coxswains	M1x M2x M4x 7 seats	LM1x LM2x LM4x LM2- LM4- 13 seats	Sw	Sc	LWT	Cox	Total
					16	7	13	2	38
22 21 20 19	World Under 23 Championships	M2- M4+ M4- M8+ 18 seats + 2 coxswains	M1x M2x M4x 7 seats	LM1x LM2x LM4x LM2- LM4- 13 seats	Sw	Sc	LWT	Cox	Total
					18	7	13	2	40
18 17	World Junior Championships	M2- M4+ M4- M8+ 18 seats + 2 coxswains	M1x M2x M4x 7 seats		Sw	Sc	LWT	Cox	Total
					18	7	-	2	27

Principle 7: Pathways - Women



Female Rower Pathways for World Championship Programmes

Athlete Age	Event	Women's Sweep	Women's Sculling	Women's Lightweight	Seats				
	Olympics	W2- W4- W8+ 14 seats + 1 coxswain	W1x W2x W4x 7 seats	LW2x 2 seats	Sw	Sc	LWT	Cox	Total
		↑	↑	↑					
23+	World Championships	W2- W4- W8+ 14 seats + 1 coxswain	W1x W2x W4x 7 seats	LW1x LW2x LW4x 7 seats	Sw	Sc	LWT	Cox	Total
22	World Under 23 Championships	↑	↑	↑					
21		W2- W4- W8+ 14 seats + 1 coxswain	W1x W2x W4x 7 seats	LW1x LW2x LW4x 7 seats	Sw	Sc	LWT	Cox	Total
20		↑	↑	↑					
19	World Junior Championships	W2- W4- W8+ 14 seats + 1 coxswain	W1x W2x W4x 7 seats		Sw	Sc	LWT	Cox	Total
18		↑	↑						
17		W2- W4- W8+ 14 seats + 1 coxswain	W1x W2x W4x 7 seats		Sw	Sc	LWT	Cox	Total
					14	7	-	1	22

Key Questions for Consideration



1. What is the **purpose** of the World Rowing Championships?
2. What are the **criteria for including a boat class** in the World Rowing Championship programmes?
3. Should we reach **full gender equality** immediately?
4. What is the minimum entry threshold to consider an event a true medal event of equal value? Should the **natural death rule** (less than 7 entries for three consecutive years) still apply? (implications for gender equality)
5. How are the programmes of the three Championships linked in terms of athlete pathways?

1. What is the purpose of the World Rowing Championships?

- To provide the best competition possible to showcase the best athletes
- Include as many National Federations as possible
- Promote the sport of rowing to the world
- Enable access to funding for National Federations
- Athletes and National Federations should be inspired to be competitive at World Rowing Championships.

2. What are the criteria for including a boat class?

- The event is on the Olympic programme
- Pathways from national and continental regattas
- Pathways from Juniors to Under 23 to Seniors
- Gender equality in boat classes
- Inclusion of Open, Lightweight and Para-Rowing events
- Balance of sweep and sculling events.
- Tradition and history
- Attractiveness of the events and of the event programme

3. By when should we reach full gender equality?

- Boat classes 50/50 by 2018?
- By what criteria will we measure gender equality?

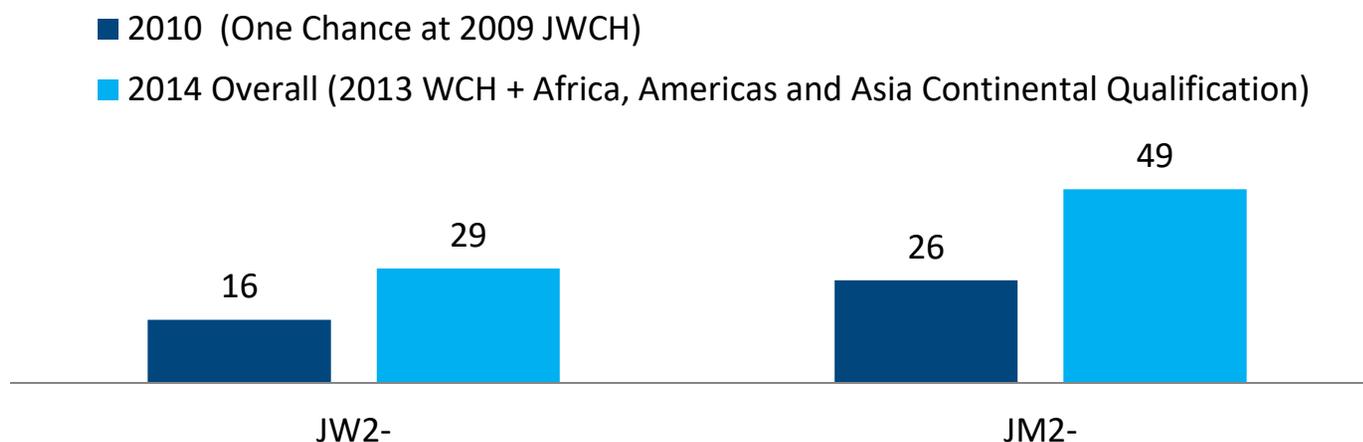
4. Entry threshold

- Should the Natural Death rule (less than 7 entries for three consecutive years) still apply? What are the implications of keeping or cancelling this rule?
- How do we encourage strong fields in all events?
- Is it better to take pre-emptive action on an event in danger due to low entries rather than allow it to die naturally?

5. How does the senior WCH programme influence the Junior & U23 programmes?

- Pathways from Junior to U23 to Senior Championships
- Example:

Effect on Participation in YOG Qualification Races for the JW2- and JM2- due to the introduction of Pairs at the YOG Continental Qualification Regattas from 2010 to 2014:



Comments?



Key Principles

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2. Participation
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5. How are the programmes of the three Championships linked in terms of athlete pathways?

2020 OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

Terms of Reference



- The 2020 Olympic Qualification System proposal should:
 - Allocate qualification places between events (number of boats in each boat classes)
 - Allocate qualification opportunities between the World Championships, the Continental Qualification Regattas and the Final Qualification Regatta
- Recommendation to the FISA Council by 9 July
- FISA Council proposal presented to the FISA Congress on 2 Oct
- FISA Council proposal to IOC in Oct/Nov 2017

IOC Qualification Principles – Key Elements



- Qualification systems must allow for the **participation of the best athletes** through a fair and transparent process within the framework of the Olympic Charter.
- The principle of **universality** shall be reflected in qualification systems **through continental representation**.
- Athletes/teams shall have **more than one opportunity to qualify**, however the qualification systems should not necessitate extensive and expensive travel requirements. Where possible, continental events should be used.

Key Principles to Address



1. Excellence vs. Participation weighting
2. Two chances to qualify for the Games
3. Attractive programme over eight days to ensure a good spectator / TV viewer experience
4. Maximising the number of NFs/NOCs participating in the Olympic regatta
5. Ensure a balance between sweep and sculling events

Principle 1: Excellence/Participation



“**Excellence**” is ensured through qualification of the top crews at the World Championships and the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta, ensuring that the best rowers in the world will participate in the Olympic Games.

“**Participation**” of as many NFs as possible is achieved through the Continental Qualification Regattas, thereby affirming the IOC principle that the purpose of continental qualification is to maximise participation of NFs/NOCs at the Olympic Games.

Principle 2: Two Chances to qualify



Historically, the principle of the Olympic Qualification System has been that all FISA Member Federations should have two opportunities to qualify for the Olympic Games in a specific event:

- The first opportunity is at the World Rowing Championships in the year before the Olympic Games
- The second opportunity, depending on boat class, is at either the Continental Qualification Regatta or at the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta.

Is this principle still relevant for all events? For example, is there a benefit to all of the eights qualifying at the World Championships?

Principle 3: Attractive Programme



Attractive Programme over Eight Days

In order to provide an attractive programme for spectators and TV audiences, it is important that the programme provides exciting and engaging racing over eight days. To this end, we must retain as many semi-finals as possible (i.e. events with 13 or more crews participating) to keep the programme attractive with the best crews racing during the middle of the week. We should also retain as many “medal days” as possible.

This is especially important for the rights-holding TV broadcasters to deliver compelling content to their viewers and for the ticket purchasing decisions of the spectators.

Principle 4: Maximising Participation



It is FISA's goal to increase the number of national federations that participate in the Olympic Qualification process and the number of entries, and thus increase the nations that compete at the Olympic Games.

To strengthen the sport of rowing within the Olympic Movement we should seek to enable as many of our National Federations to participate in the Games, which in turn provides opportunities for support through their National Olympic Committees and their Ministries of Sport.

- More National Olympic Committees taking part in rowing at the Olympic Games translates into more support within the Olympic movement for rowing.
- The FISA Development Programme increased the amount of support generated for athletes and coaches between 2012 to 2016 by 50% with the increase of number of quota places available for new NOCs.

Implementing Principle 4



There are a number of scenarios which can be implemented to support Principle 4:

A. Capping Participation on the upper end:

- I. Limit the number of the boats that an NF can qualify through the World Championships, but not overall.
- II. Limit the number of the boats that an NF can qualify and enter in the Olympic regatta, i.e. through all avenues: the World Championships, Continental Qualification Regatta and Final Qualification Regatta.
- III. Restricting participation at the Continental Qualification Regatta to those NFs that have not qualified a specified number of boats at the World Championships.

B. Broadening Participation at the lower end

- IV. Maintain the 2016 system, allowing NFs to qualify only one boat per gender at the Continental Qualification Regattas.
- V. Allow NFs to qualify only one boat (regardless of gender) at the Continental Qualification Regattas.
- VI. Allocating freed quota places of the Continental Qualification Regattas to NFs that have not yet qualified crews.

Provide more opportunities for other nations by limiting the number of boats an NF can qualify at the World Rowing Championships

An NF may qualify no more than a defined number of boats at the World Championships, however would still be allowed to participate in its Continental Olympic Qualification Regatta and/or the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta.

Limit the total number of boats an NF can qualify through all qualification opportunities

- Limit the total number of crews an NF can enter for the Olympic Games regatta, i.e. the total number of crews qualified via the World Championships, Continental Qualification Regatta and Final Olympic Qualification Regatta.
- An NF achieving the maximum quota through the World Championships would not be allowed to participate in its Continental Olympic Qualification Regatta or the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta.
- An NF achieving the maximum quota through the World Championships and Continental Qualification Regatta would not be allowed to participate in the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta. In the case of the European (plus AUS, NZL, USA and CAN) Continental Qualification event, which occurs at the same time as the FOQR, it must be decided which qualification places have precedence. An objective allocation system would be implemented.

Restricting participation at the Continental Qualification Regatta to those NFs that have not qualified a pre-determined number of boats at the World Championships

- Create a principle that those NFs that manage to qualify a large number of boats at the World Championships “would no longer be entitled” to participate at the Continental Qualification Regatta. The sole reason for the Continental Qualification Regattas is to increase participation, thus those that have a strong qualification result would not compete.
- They would however still be allowed to participate in the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta, as the qualification places attributed through this event fall within the ‘Excellence’ quota.

One boat per gender through the Continents:

In order to increase participation for the 2016 Olympic Games, for 2016, FISA changed the qualification system by only allowing one boat per gender per NF to qualify in the Continental Olympic Qualification regattas.

- The positive effect of this system was an increase of 20% in the participating nations at the Olympics.
- The negative effect was difficult selection decisions for several nations that had qualified two crews of the same gender.

If this system is maintained, an **objective system** should be created to determine which boat qualifies, e.g. 1) ranking, and then 2) if two or more boats had the same placing, a percentage against the World Best Time.

One boat per NF through the Continental qualification regattas:

- In order to further increase participation, a new idea is to change the qualification system by only allowing one boat per NF to qualify in the Continental Olympic Qualification regattas.
- The positive effect of this scenario would be a potential increase of 40% (from the Rio 2016 participation) in the number of nations participating at the Olympic Games in rowing.
- In the case of two or more crews from the same NF qualify at a continental regatta, an objective system should be created to determine which boat qualifies, e.g. 1) highest finish placing is selected, and then 2) if two or more boats had the same placing, a percentage against the World Best Time would be calculated and the highest percentage would be selected.

Allocating any freed quota places to NFs that have not yet qualified a boat for the Olympic Games

- In order to additionally further increase participation, a new idea is to allocate any qualification places returned to the pool due to the implementation of Scenario III or Scenario IV above only to NFs that have not yet qualified boats for the Games.
- The freed places would be reallocated within the continental group first and then within the general pool second.

Principle 5: Balancing sweep & sculling



Strengthen sweep rowing by including sweep events in the Continental Qualification Regattas

- Motivate participation in sweep rowing events by adding the pair (one M2- and one W2-) to the Continental Qualification Regattas.
- Strengthens the pathways for sweep rowing development. Pairs are a part of the Youth Olympic Games and significant attention is being given to the pairs in the youth categories.
- It would also serve as an additional effort to promote women's sweep rowing and strengthen participation in the W4-.
- Additional qualification opportunities at the Continental level means more access to NOC and OS funding.

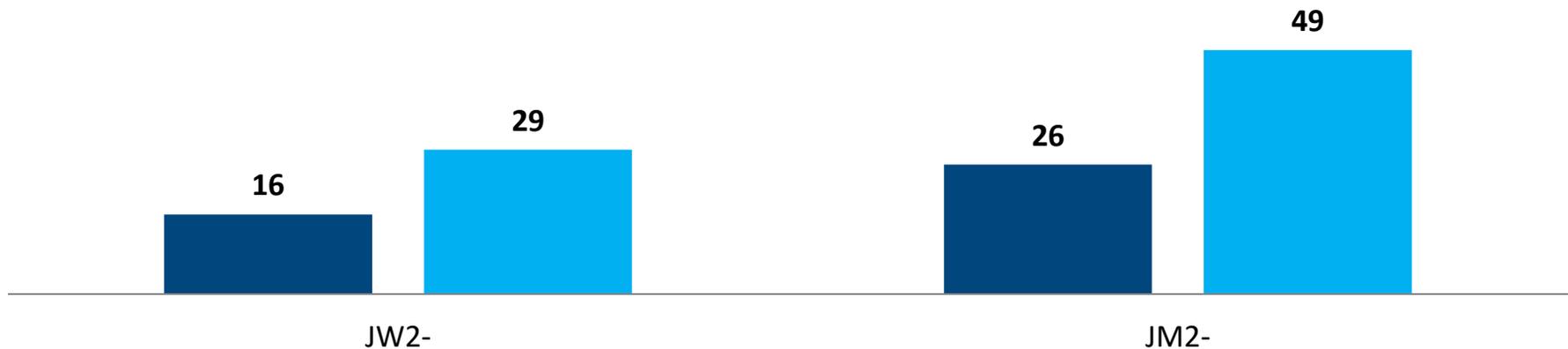
Increase in Sweep Rowing within YOG



Effect on Participation in YOG Qualification Races for the JW2- and JM2- due to the introduction of Pairs at the YOG Continental Qualification Regattas from 2010 to 2014

Participation in Sweep Rowing in Pairs in YOG

- 2010 (One Chance at 2009 JWCH)
- 2014 Overall (2013 WCH + Africa, Americas and Asia Continental Qualification)



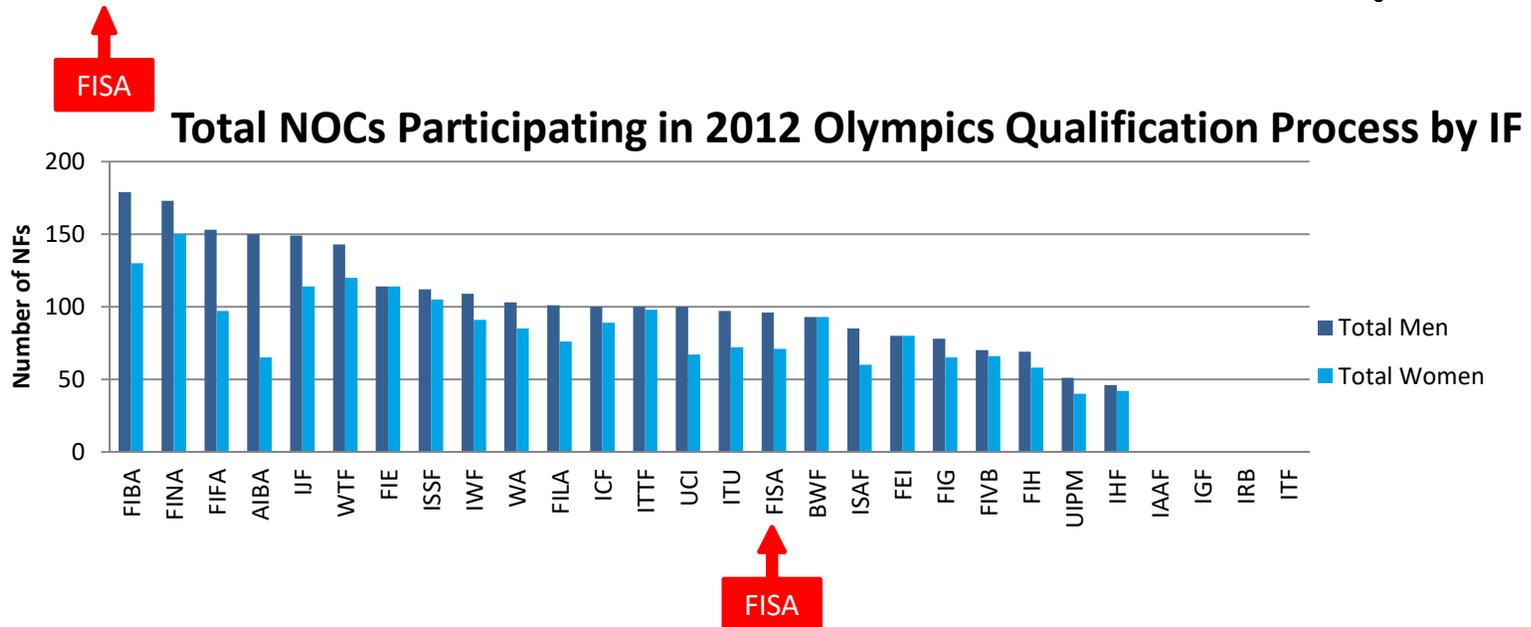
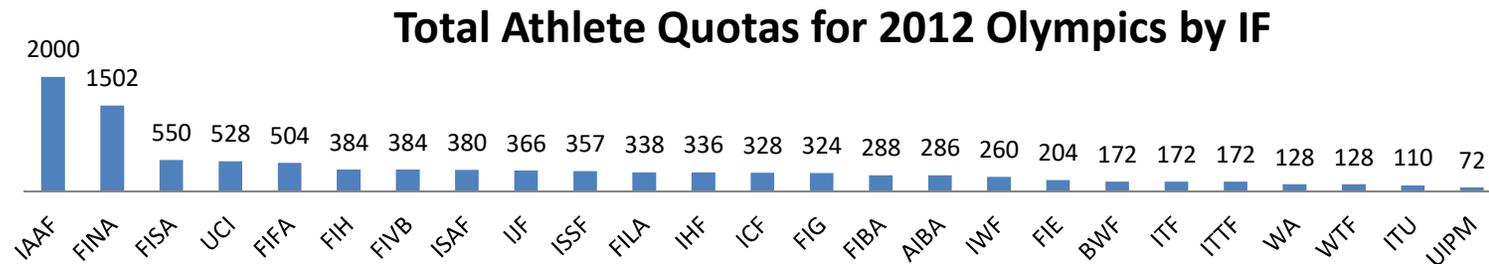


In recent Olympics, FISA has had the **3rd highest quota** but has ranked **16th or lower** in terms of the number of National Olympic Committees taking part in the Olympic Qualification Process.

If some or all of the scenarios above had been implemented for the 2016 Games, we estimate that rowing would have achieved 8th -10th rank.

Athlete Quota vs NOC participation

Comparison of Rowing to other International Federations at the 2012 Olympics in terms of athlete quota and NOC participation

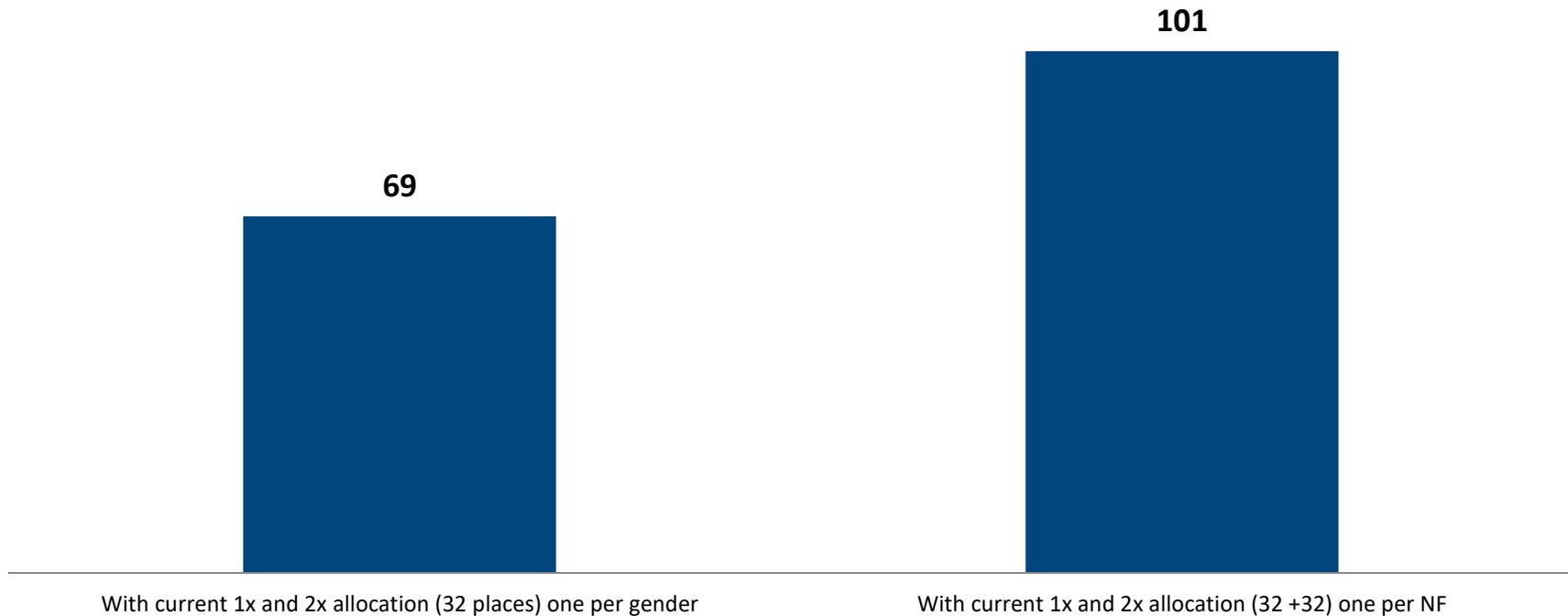


Effect of implementing principle 4



Scenarios with one boat per gender and one boat per NF/NOC

Number of NOCs at Olympics
2016 Rio OG Scenario (One Boat per Gender) Compared with New Scenario (One Boat per NF/NOC)

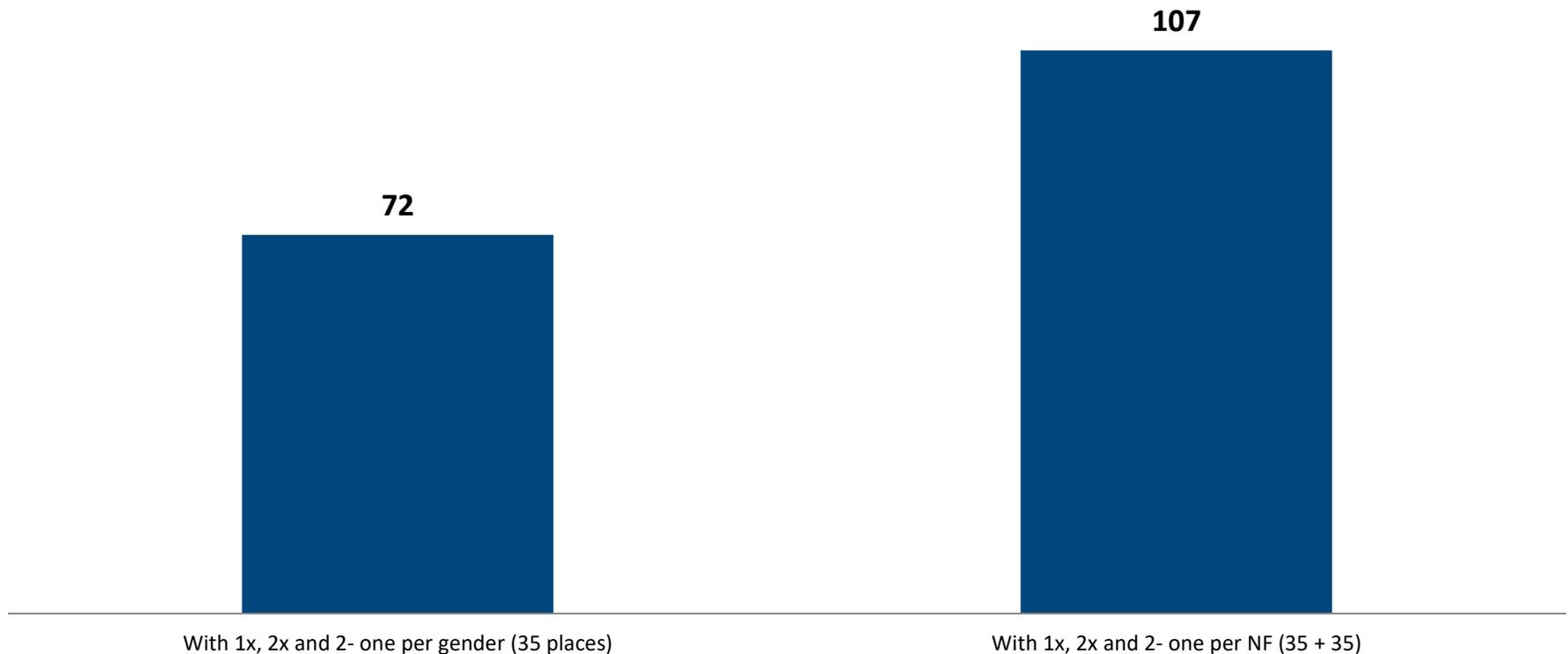


Adding the 2- to continental qualification



Scenarios with addition of pairs, one boat per gender and one boat per NF/NOC

Number of NOCs at Olympics
with Pair/One Boat per Gender, Compared with Pair/One Boat per
NF/NOC



Comments?



Key Principles

1. Excellence vs. "Participation" weighting
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3. Attractive programme over eight days to ensure a good spectator / TV viewer experience
4. Maximising the number of NFs/NOCs participating in the Olympic regatta
5. Ensure a balance between sweep and sculling events

Key Questions

1. What is the **purpose and mission** of the Olympic Qualification System?
2. Should there always be **two chances to qualify**?
3. Should we increase participation with **limits on qualification at continental** qualification regattas?
4. Should we set limits on the **maximum number of crews** an NF can qualify?
5. Should we add pairs to the continental qualification regattas to **stimulate sweep rowing**?

Send us your input...



Online via www.worldrowing.com

A screenshot of a web browser showing the URL www.worldrowing.com/fisa/about-fisa/world-rowing-2017-review-projects. The page features the World Rowing logo and a navigation menu with items: ROWING, EVENTS & RESULTS, ATHLETES, NEWS, and PHOTOS & VIDEOS. The main content area includes a paragraph about group members, a section titled "2017 Review Projects Working Groups", and a section titled "INPUT FROM NATIONAL FEDERATIONS". In the "INPUT FROM NATIONAL FEDERATIONS" section, the text says "The National Federations are invited to provide their comments and perspectives at the NF Meetings and/or by completing the comment form [here](#)." A red circle highlights the word "here" and a red arrow points to it from the right. Below this is a paragraph about updates on projects. The "TIMELINE" section is partially visible at the bottom.

<http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/about-fisa/world-rowing-2017-review-projects>