

**2017 WORLD ROWING REVIEW PROJECTS
NATIONAL FEDERATIONS MEETING
EUROPEAN ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS, RACICE – 27 MAY 2017**

The principles underpinning the World Championship Programme (Rule 36) and Olympic Qualification System Review Projects were presented. See presentation slides in the pdf document attached.

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

1. Rule 36 – World Rowing Championship Programmes

NF In the principles money and funding is mentioned, and it is the driver of many decisions. In the Netherlands most of our funding comes from the NOC, so it is driven by the Olympic events, and as soon as events are excluded the funding stops, which makes it difficult for the national federation to invest in those events. So if lightweight events are excluded from the Olympics they will slowly disappear.

FISA Noted. At the previous NF meeting, a suggestion was made to offer lightweight sweep rowing events up until the Under 23 level, after which these athletes would move to open sweep, open sculling or lightweight sculling events. Another comment was received by internet with the suggestion to reduce World Championship events at all competition levels to only the Olympic boat classes.

FISA An additional point to note is that in Aiguebelette (2015 World Rowing Championships), we were at the limit (in terms of the number of athletes) and we nearly overwhelmed the organising committee with the number of events and entries. We do not have too many organisers that have the capacity to cope with such large numbers and increased organisational costs, and we may need to consider introducing quotas for the World Championships at some point in the future.

NF Adding to the comment above, reducing the boat classes to only the Olympic events will likely increase the dropout rate of rowers because many of the spare rowers or substitutes for the Olympic events compete in the non-Olympic events.
Also, if we want to introduce quotas for the World Championships, we will have to limit the number of entries.

FISA The comment about reducing the World Championship events to Olympic boat classes only was a provocative comment, but it is good to consider all ideas.

2. 2020 Olympic Qualification System

NF In general it will be difficult to apply the scenarios to all events at the same time – I can imagine that we don't want to apply one scenario across all events as it might generate unwanted consequences, but we should look at which ones to apply to the different events.

FISA Noted.

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NF Can we have more places for Europe in the small boats – out of 32 singles only 12 were from Europe. In Europe we have small nations which don't have a lot of depth in their rowing programme but could have small boats.

FISA We know this is important and agree that it is critical that we don't lose the small and medium, developed federations from participation at the Games.

NF The reallocation of continental spots has been talked about already in Tokyo. Can we look at taking NZL, CAN, USA out of the European continental qualification group?

FISA A valid point – we will add it as a point for discussion.