

WORLD ROWING 2017 REVIEW PROJECTS

LIGHTWEIGHT ROWING

Background

The start of the new Olympic cycle and the decisions made at the 2017 Extraordinary Congress in Tokyo present a number of opportunities to examine key areas of our sport. Four specific review projects for 2017 were identified in Tokyo:

1. Rule 36 – World Championship Programmes
2. 2020 Olympic Qualification System
3. Lightweight Rowing
4. Para-Rowing

Purpose of the review

The vote to change the Olympic programme raised the questions, “What will be the future direction for lightweight rowing and how should it be positioned to support the future growth and development of our sport?” This review should consider the objectives of having the lightweight category in our sport – at all levels – and what needs to be done to achieve these objectives over the longer term, whether that be Rule changes or additional analyses and research projects. The Lightweight review will also provide valuable input to the Rule 36 (World Championship Programmes) review project, by advising on the most appropriate lightweight events for inclusion in the senior and under 23 World Championships programmes and to the 2020 Olympic Qualification System review.

Guiding principles

In reviewing lightweight rowing, consideration should be given to FISA’s Strategic Plan as presented at the 2015 National Federation Conference, to ensure that outcomes of the review realise greater benefits for the whole of rowing that are aligned to FISA’s overall goals and objectives. Objectives of particular relevance and importance for the Lightweight Rowing review are:

- **Universality** - Increase the number of rowing countries thereby strengthening rowing’s position in the Olympic movement
- **Equality** - Ensure equality is integrated into all development activities
- **Participation** - Increase the sustainable participation of member federations in leading events
- **Quality** - Improve the quality of rowing and coaching worldwide
- **Opportunities** - Increase the number of rowing opportunities through clubs, schools, universities and other entities
- **Integration** - Integrate and expand all forms of rowing
- **Marketing** – promote the values of rowing and our rowers in all FISA activities, and consider how lightweight rowing can be positioned and marketed to expand the reach and presentation of the sport of rowing to the widest international audience.

Terms of Reference

This review project should consider elements of Lightweight rowing and rowing in general, however, for the purposes of providing input to the Rule 36 review project and the 2020 Olympic Qualification System review, the focus of the review should be considered as follows:

Phase One: Lightweight rowing from 2017 - 2020

1. Define if/why lightweight rowing is important to World Rowing and if/why it should continue to be recognised by FISA
2. Review how lightweight events contribute to pathways for athletes from local to international level, and recommend what events should be contested at the World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas to maximise this. Recommendations should be made to the working group of the Rule 36 review project, prior to the publication of the final Council proposal on 2 August.
3. Review how Lightweight events contribute to pathways for athletes from local to Olympic level, and recommend how this should relate to the quotas and balance of events for the 2020 Olympic Qualification system, based on the potential changes to the Olympic programme. Recommendations should be made to the working group of the Olympic Qualification review project, prior to the publication of the final Council proposal to the IOC.
4. Prepare initial proposals on research projects or further analyses needed.

Phase Two: Lightweight rowing post-2020 - long term and fundamental considerations

1. Analyse how lightweight rowing strengthens Rowing on the whole within the Olympic movement, by assisting existing and new member federations to develop the sport and access funding within their programs, and identify subsequent opportunities and/or threats.
2. Review the current FISA Rules and Bye-Laws relating to lightweight rowing and whether they are the most appropriate to showcase and govern these events.
3. Identify whether 'weight' is the most appropriate method of defining a category for smaller stature athletes and, if appropriate, recommend alternative approaches such as changes to weight limits, equipment or processes.
4. If appropriate, develop action plans to implement the strategies, actions and opportunities identified from the review.
5. Prepare an interim report for the 2017 Congress and a final report for the 2018 Congress, both to be presented as "Additional topics for discussion".

Timeframe

Please consult the [2017 Review Projects page](#) on the World Rowing website for the timeline of the review process.

It is noted that while the Lightweight rowing review is expected to continue through 2018 only activity dates for 2017 are currently included in the timeline.