

WORLD ROWING 2017 REVIEW PROJECTS

PARA-ROWING

Background

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

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

Purpose of the review

The new Paralympic cycle and new racing distance of 2'000 m bring an opportunity to reassess our para-rowing strategy and identify how to develop the discipline further over the next four years and beyond. The objective of the review is to prepare a strategic plan confirming the objectives for Para-rowing in the medium/long-term and proposing measures to be taken to achieve these objectives.

The para-rowing review will also provide valuable input to the Rule 36 review project, by advising on the most appropriate para-rowing events for inclusion in the World Championships programme.

Guiding principles

1. In reviewing para-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. The objectives of particular relevance and importance for the para-rowing review are:
 - **Universality** - Increase the number of rowing countries
 - **Equality** - Ensure equality is integrated in 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
2. The review should also take into account the principles discussed in the document "Proposed Principles for Rowing Event Programmes (at 220216)", and specifically:
 - Gender Equality as a model for society
 - Excellence vs. Universality balance
 - Attractive Programme over an established number of days
 - Balance between the different boat classes and how it reflects the history of the development of the sport

- Rowing is a sport that demands exceptional endurance capacity but also strength from its athletes
- Presence of sculling and sweep rowing and how it reflects different development trends
- Inclusiveness, not only in terms of the competing athletes, but how we ensure that our events and facilities are accessible for all stakeholders
- Integrity/rowing values
- Spectator Experience

Terms of reference

This review project should consider elements of para-rowing and rowing in general, however, for the purposes of providing input to the Rule 36 review project, the focus of the review should be considered as follows:

Phase One: Para-rowing from 2017 - 2020

1. Review how para-rowing 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 (World Championship Programmes) review project, prior to the publication of the final Council proposal on 2 August.
2. Advise on the Paralympic qualification process taking into regard universality and excellence.
3. Prepare initial proposals on research projects or further analyses needed.

Phase Two: Para-rowing post-2020 - Long term and fundamental considerations

1. Define if/why para-rowing is important to World Rowing and if/why it should continue to be recognised by FISA.
2. Deliver a Mission, Vision and Objectives statement for para-rowing.
3. Analyze if para-rowing should be integrated with mainstream rowing regarding coach education, regattas, governance, qualification process, voting rights etc.
4. Advise on how to best adjust athletes to the 2000m distance taking into consideration health, safety, attractiveness, equipment etc.
5. Analyse the role of para-rowing for member federations and National Paralympic Committees in terms of how they develop the sport and access funding within their countries and programs, and identify subsequent opportunities and/or threats.
6. Advise on the paralympic qualification process and Paralympic Programme considering both universality and excellence.
7. Advise how to best showcase para-rowing to our stakeholders (media, members, IPC etc.).
8. Determine the most appropriate boat classes and eligibility system, considering the classification system, events, eligibility rules, IPC code compliance etc.

9. Consider if any changes to boats and equipment are appropriate and what research needs to take place to ensure safety, attractiveness and equal access.
10. Advise on how to get more people into para-rowing taking into consideration the minimum disability criteria, new boat classes, and pathways for athletes.
11. Make proposals for changes to the FISA Rules and Regulations, event manuals and other documentation that will be required to support the strategic plan.

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 Para-Rowing rowing review is expected to continue through 2018 only activity dates for 2017 are currently included in the timeline.