

WORLD ROWING 2017 REVIEW PROJECTS

RULE 36 (WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAMMES)

Background

The start of the new Olympic and Paralympic cycle and 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

In light of the proposed changes to the Olympic programme made at the 2017 Extraordinary Congress in Tokyo and the fact that this programme will only be confirmed in July 2017, as well as the decision on the Paralympic race distance, it was agreed that the events to be included in the World Championships programmes, as stipulated in Rule 36, would be decided at the 2017 FISA Congress in Sarasota-Bradenton. The vote was deferred because the World Rowing Championships event programme is influenced to an extent by the Olympic programme, and a decision on this will only be taken by the IOC Executive Board on 9-10 July 2017. The review should take into account the Olympic programme, but should also consider which events to include, in order to achieve the statutory objectives of FISA.

A proposal is therefore needed for the boat classes to be included in the three World Championship programmes (World Rowing Championships, World Rowing U23 Championships and World Rowing Junior Championships) that will be voted on against the current events listed in Rule 36. The events should be represented as blocks of events that will apply for the three years 2018, 2019 and 2020. The review should consider the three programmes together, in terms of how they relate to each other and create pathways for athlete development from the junior to senior level.

Guiding principles

1. In assessing the possibilities for the World Championship programmes, the following should be assumed:
 - On 10 July 2017, the IOC Executive Board will decide on the Olympic programme proposed by FISA.
 - The World Rowing Championship programmes will apply for 3 years, until the next FISA Extraordinary Congress, whereafter any changes approved would apply for the following 4 years.
2. 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 Rule 36 review are:
 - **Excellence** – Platform for the world's best athletes to compete
 - **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
3. The programmes 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 of the different boat classes and how it reflects the history of the development of the sport
 - Presence of sculling and sweep rowing and how it reflects different development trends
 - The inclusion of Open, Lightweight and Para-Rowing events
 - Integrity/rowing values
 - Spectator Experience

Terms of reference

The working group shall prepare a proposal or set of alternative proposals/scenarios for the three World Championships programmes (senior, under 23, and junior) for the period 2018 – 2020. The first draft proposal, prepared after collecting input from National Federations (NFs), both in writing via the comment form provided on the [2017 Review Projects page](#) on the World Rowing website and at the NF meetings during the World Cup regattas and the European Championships, will be submitted to the FISA Council for their comment on 9 July. NF can send their comments in writing by 16 June 2017. A final draft, for inclusion in the FISA Congress Agenda Papers, must be prepared following the NF meeting at the World Rowing Under 23 Championships in Plovdiv, on or before 30 July.

A single proposal or a number of alternative proposals may be put forward for vote at the FISA Congress in Sarasota-Bradenton. The principle is that the delegates would firstly vote for the one proposal that will be put forward for vote against the Rule 36 programme in the current rules; this vote requires an absolute majority. The vote for the final Rule 36 programme will require a two-thirds majority to pass, in order to change the current Rule 36. (Note: The current Rule 36 event programmes are attached in Annex 1).

Whilst reviewing the World Championships programmes, consideration must be given to how the three programmes relate to each other and create pathways for athlete development from junior to under 23 to senior level as well as considerations on how it would impact continental and national rowing in terms of funding opportunities and governmental support.

Other considerations include:

1. What is the purpose of the World Rowing Championships? (consider all stakeholders e.g. NFs, organising committees, cities & sponsors, television)
2. What are the criteria for including a boat class in the WCH programmes? Refer also to the “Proposed Principles for Rowing Event Programmes (at 170216)
3. By when should we reach full gender equality in the WCH programmes? Is full gender equality actually an objective?

4. How does the senior WCH programme influence what is included in the Junior and U23 programmes? What is the pathway for athletes?
5. Should the natural death rule still apply?

Timeframe

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

Annex 1:

Rule 36 – World Championship Boat Classes [current situation]

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+

If, in any of the above events, excluding the events designated for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and all events for Olympic boat classes in Senior, Under 23 and Junior categories, there are less than seven starters in three consecutive World Rowing Championship regattas, then that event shall be automatically removed from the programme of subsequent World Rowing Championship regattas.