

NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL FEDERATIONS MEETING DURING THE WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN AMSTERDAM ON 31/08/2014

Goals of the meeting

- Provide the NF's with information on the IOC report and its consequences for FISA
- Have group discussions around three questions:
 - Two key issues for the Olympic movement and FISA
 - What can you do as a National Federation to help increase universality in international rowing
 - What can you do as a National Federation to increase the number of women in international rowing
 - One on an organisation issue
 - How to encourage more bids for U23 & Junior championships
- Provide networking opportunities

Follow-up

- Discussion in Council meeting
- NFs meeting in London - March 2015

Q1: What can you do as a National Federation to help increase universality in international rowing

- How / What:
 - At local / regional / continental level
 - Actively participate in regional / continental confederation
 - Organise, participate in continental coaches conferences
 - Share experiences at regional / continental level
 - Give / create more competition opportunities
 - Increase the number of local / regional / continental competitions
 - Provide assistance in preparing the athletes
 - Provide assistance with / share organisation
 - Enhance NF collaboration
 - Exchange programs "Adopt a developing country"
 - Can be done
 - In host country
 - In the "adopted" country
 - Types of activities
 - Training of coaches / Mentoring program
 - Training camps
 - Access to material
 - Second hand boats
 - Boats exchange
 - Sharing of information
 - Communication
 - Either directly NF to NF
 - or with FISA as facilitator
 - Developing costal rowing to provide new opportunities for some countries
- How to find the means to achieve goals
 - Identify specific programs at international level
 - Identify government funding
 - University rowing
 - Identification of opportunities

- Observations
 - There are two dimensions
 - Increasing the number of federations
 - Developing the active participation of current members
 - It englobes four aspects
 - Structures
 - Know-how
 - Competition
 - Material
 - There is a need for country specific development plans; it is therefore important to understand
 - Culture
 - Opportunities
 - Goals
 - Obstacles
 - It is not the core business of national federations and therefore requires to work at two levels
 - FISA
 - NF: to be included in overall NF plan
 - There is a need for long term plan to ensure continuity and sustainability

Q2: What can you do as a National Federation to increase the number of women in international rowing

- How
 - Promotion of women's rowing
 - Use role models to change the idea concept for some that it is a male sport
 - Use social media
 - Prioritise women talent ID
 - Organise specific rowing camps
 - Educate coaches:
 - More female coaches
 - Give specific information to male coaches to better understand the needs
 - Promote female coaches
 - In terms of events
 - Olympic program
 - A there is only one lightweight women's event, add a lightweight women's event
 - It is importance to anticipate possible changes => have a plan ready for 45% (or 50%) by 2020 and 50% beyond
 - Review the World Championships program
 - Have the same number of men & women events
 - Introduce a 50/50 rule: NF have to enter an equal number of male and female rowers to be allowed to start
 - Introduce mixte events
 - Flexibility with rules
 - Bring women in at young age
 - Rowing in girls education system
 - School rowing
 - Can it be made compulsory?

- Develop school connection with clubs
 - University rowing
 - Opportunities for women in universities as a point of entry
 - Interesting programs, competing with handball/basketball/volleyball
 - Develop university connection with clubs
 - Ensure university champs include rowing
- Find ways to retain and develop athletes 19-21 (too many drop-outs)
- Provide structure to enable more women to row
 - No club fee for girls
- Include women's rowing in 'Adopt a developing country' program (see Q1)
- Means to achieve goals
 - Identify specific government funding for women's projects
 - Observations
 - Understand why there are less women who row and/or why they stop earlier?
 - Cultures
 - Obstacles
 - Goals in life
 - Incentives
 - Two dimensions
 - Increase number of NF participating in women's events
 - Activate existing NF
 - Work has been done at both levels
 - FISA: top-down: change of Olympic and WCh program
 - NF: bottom-up, create a larger base of pyramid => include in NF plans
 - Need for long term plan to ensure continuity and sustainability

Q3: How to encourage more bids for U23 & Junior championships

- How
 - By reducing costs
 - In the bidding process
 - Reduce or remove bidding and hosting fees, be realistic about commercial value of event
 - Simplify bid book, make it a single piece of paper instead of an entire bid book
 - Identify cities keen to host international events
 - Reduce exigencies
 - For sports presentation
 - No obligation for large screen
 - Alternative / less costly TV standards
 - For social events
 - No obligation to organise
 - Creative ideas, e.g. cultural exchanges for athletes, coaches and NF volunteers
 - Reduce FISA costs
 - In terms of transport / Hotel
 - Reduce the number of FISA consultants by using locals and/or volunteers

- No obligation to use Swiss timing, giving the possibility to use local systems
 - Allow to produce the medals locally
 - Teams
 - Allow teams to organise their own transport
 - Allow teams to organise their hotels
 - Request entry fee for teams
- In terms of organisation
 - Keep the formats short and simple
 - Package events by including in obligation to host World Championships or combining with National Championships
 - Provide more help on how to organise, e.g. provide training for forthcoming OC's
 - Increase the number of potential rowing courses
 - Promote organisation outside Europe e.g. obligation to have events in every continent over 5 years
 - Infrastructures
- Means
 - As there is a need for sponsors, have to
 - Ease rules
 - Help to identify
 - Reduce constraints due to FISA partners
 - Provide incentives for country that organises
- Observations
 - Prices raise, incomes diminish for the organisation of events
 - Periodicity
 - Some NF's are in favour of keeping an annual event, other not
 - Some NF's are in favour of combining U23 & Junior championship, other not