



20 February 2020  
Lausanne, Switzerland

**To:** Affiliated Federations  
Council and Commission Members  
Organisers of World Championships  
National Rowing Magazines  
Partners

### **Circular No. 1 of 2020**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Circular covers the following items:

1. Outcomes from the February 2020 FISA Council Meeting
2. Modification in the 2020 Paralympic Qualification System
3. Coronavirus situation
4. 2020 Provisional World and European Rowing Event Programmes
5. 2021 to 2024 Long Term Planning Calendar
6. 2020 World and European Rowing Event Information Bulletins
7. 2020 Seminars and Exams for International Umpires
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#### **1. Outcomes from the February 2020 FISA Council Meeting**

The FISA Council had its three-day annual meeting from 31 January to 2 February 2020 in Budapest, Hungary.

Hosted by the Hungarian Rowing Federation and the State Secretary for Sport, the European Rowing Board also had a one-day meeting. The key outcomes from the meetings were:

**FISA's Strategic Plan** – The Council reviewed the current strategic plan ([http://www.worldrowing.com/mm/Document/General/General/13/55/04/WorldRowingStrategicFramework2018\\_Neutral.pdf](http://www.worldrowing.com/mm/Document/General/General/13/55/04/WorldRowingStrategicFramework2018_Neutral.pdf)) and approved the proposal to change goal five from being focused only on the environment, to also include sustainability which encompasses the environment along with economic and social sustainability. This revised plan will be published shortly.

**2019 Key Performance Indicators** – The KPIs for 2019 were presented by the management for discussion and review by the Council. This report can be found at this link: <http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/publications/>

**FISA's Olympic Strategy** – The Council reviewed the latest developments with the Olympic and Youth Olympic Games (see update on Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games below). Masakuni Hosobuchi, Co-opted member of the Council, made a report. Hosobuchi stated that the rowing regatta at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games is on track in terms of preparations. The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) individual sport evaluation system, used since London 2012, was reviewed and the media team's plans to work strategically were introduced. FISA will organise a means for National Rowing Federations to be informed and contribute to this effort for the sport.

For the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the IOC has recently issued a questionnaire to International Sports Federations seeking to add a new discipline or event to the Paris 2024 Olympic Programme. The Council re-confirmed their intention to propose an Olympic Programme which includes three boat classes of coastal rowing to the October 2020 FISA Extraordinary Congress. Generally, for rowing, the preparations for Paris 2024 are proceeding well.

For the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, the Council received the latest update on the possibility of moving the rowing venue to Long Beach, the 1932 Olympic rowing venue. After a recent site visit, it was determined that the only possibility at Long Beach would be a 1500 metre, seven-lane regatta course. Due to the bridge and other significant issues, it is not possible for a longer course. FISA is still studying a few more issues before a final decision will be taken.

**2022 Youth Olympic Games (YOG), Dakar, Senegal** – On 3 December 2019, the IOC confirmed that Coastal Rowing Beach Sprints will be an official event at these Games. The IOC approved an athlete quota of 120 rowers (60 men, 60 women) and five boat classes (men's and women's solo, men's and women's double sculls and mixed double sculls: CJM1x, CJW1x, CJM2x, CJW2x and CJMix2x). FISA is now preparing a draft qualification system for the event (in close cooperation with the IOC) and will be proposing qualification opportunities through the 2021 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and a series of continental Beach Sprint regattas in 2022.

**Coastal Rowing** – To help teams prepare for the Dakar 2022 YOG qualification, the Council has decided to add the same five junior category championship events to the 2020 World Rowing Beach Sprints Finals, scheduled for September 2020 in Oeiras, Portugal. As is the case with the Senior WRBSF boat classes, only one entry per member federation in each junior boat class will be permitted. Complete information will follow in the event bulletin which will be published soon.

**FISA Continental Representative for Asia** – During last year's World Rowing Championships in Linz, Liu Aijie, Continental Representative for Asia, announced that he would step down due to his work responsibilities in China. After consultation with Member Federations and an internal selection process, a number of very qualified candidates were identified. Following interviews with the shortlisted candidates by the Executive Committee, the Council voted to appoint Fay Ho from Hong Kong, China to serve as FISA's Asian Continental Representative. This appointment takes effect immediately, to complete the current two-year term ending in December 2020. Fay Ho will continue as Chair of the Para-rowing Commission through the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and an election for her successor will be held at the FISA Congress in October 2020.

**Event Attribution** – The 2019 European Rowing Extraordinary General Assembly empowered the European Rowing Board (ERB) to attribute the two remaining events needing hosts, following the Strategic Event Attribution Process

of 2019. Three well-prepared bids were received for the 2024 European Rowing Championships; Linz-Ottensheim, AUT, Sabaudia, ITA and Trakai, LTU. The ERB reviewed all aspects, including a comprehensive risk assessment, and awarded the event to Sabaudia. The same applied to the 2021 European Rowing Under 23 Championships. Three quality bids were received: Krefeld, GER, Kruszwica, POL and Sabaudia, ITA. The ERB awarded this event to Kruszwica, POL. Due to the awarding of the 2024 European Rowing Championships to Sabaudia, the first World Rowing Cup of 2024 remains open for bidding and any interested member federations may contact FISA to express interest.

**Preparation for the 2020 FISA Extraordinary Congress** – The Council has now prepared draft “three-column” proposed changes to the FISA Statutes and Rules of Racing for consultation by the member federations. These are intended to be the main changes that will be proposed by the Council on 15 August 2020, two months before the Congress. These documents are available at this link: <http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/about-fisa/congress>

**2020 Statute and Rules Bye-Law Changes** – Due to the requirements of compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code, a new WADA Athlete Data Consent Form will have to be signed by all rowers at FISA Events starting in 2020. The new form is found at this link: [http://www.worldrowing.com/mm//Document/General/General/14/18/00/WADAAthleteDataConsentform2020\\_Neutral.pdf](http://www.worldrowing.com/mm//Document/General/General/14/18/00/WADAAthleteDataConsentform2020_Neutral.pdf)

**Finances** – The Treasurer made a review of FISA’s financial situation and proposed budget changes for 2020. The Executive Committee had approved 2019 additional expenditures of an estimated CHF 621,000 against estimated additional income of CHF 951,000. For 2020, the Executive Committee has approved additional expenditures of CHF 870,000 with an expectation of approximately CHF 425,000 of additional income. The current estimation on long-term reserve is CHF 3,800,000 for the end of the 2017 to 2020 four-year cycle.

### **Safeguarding from Harassment & Abuse in Rowing - Education and Awareness Programme**

Following the launch of the FISA Safeguarding policy in February 2019, FISA has introduced a number of initiatives to raise awareness of the policy and educate rowing communities on the subject of safeguarding. This includes the publication of a comprehensive web page with links to additional resources, the introduction of Event Safeguarding Officers at World Rowing events and an education programme.

In 2019, several education sessions were held for staff, coach educators, Council and Commission members, Organising Committees and member federations. This approach continues in 2020 and at the Council meeting in Budapest, a specifically designed session for Council members was held and facilitated by Anne Tiivas, Chair and Director of Safe Sport International. The session provided the opportunity to discuss the role of the Council with respect to safeguarding, to discuss a number of example scenarios and possible approaches/outcomes. The session also highlighted the crucial role of the member federations in ensuring that at a national level there are policies, procedures and a designated responsible person, as well as local education and awareness programmes. FISA and the member federations must work together in cooperation to help ensure a safe environment for all involved in rowing.

**Anti-Doping / Russian Rowing Federation** – The Council reviewed the situation with Russia and its anti-doping agency (“RUSADA”), and noted that the WADA’s Executive Committee (ExCo) unanimously endorsed the recommendation made by the independent Compliance Review Committee

(CRC) that the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) be declared non-compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) for a period of four years. This recommendation includes a series of strong consequences and conditions of reinstatement in accordance with the [International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories](#) (ISCCS).

Complete recommendation can be found at the WADA website:  
[https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/20191209\\_crc\\_recommendation\\_final.pdf](https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/20191209_crc_recommendation_final.pdf)

As RUSADA disputed WADA's allegation, the matter has been therefore referred to the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS") (ISCCS Art. 10.4.1). Further to Article 23.5.9 of the Code, the CAS decision in relation to the non-compliance, the proposed consequences and/or the proposed reinstatement conditions will then be binding and must be recognized and enforced by all Signatories.

In anticipation of the CAS decision and following the course of action taken by FISA regarding rowers of the Russian Rowing Federation (RRF) in 2016, 2017 (example: <http://www.worldrowing.com/news/stage-two-2017-russian-rowing-participation>) and 2018, whereby:

- eligibility was carefully assessed individually,
- fees were charged for additional anti-doping controls,
- anti-doping education was mandatory, and
- the RRF was required to declare all rowers who may compete in a FISA event of the year by February of 2017 and 2018,

the Executive Committee is now working closely with the Russian Rowing Federation to reassure all stakeholders that all Russian rowers competing at FISA events are closely monitored and tested appropriately. More information will follow when the decision at CAS is final.

## **2. Modification in the 2020 Paralympic Qualification System**

FISA and the IPC have identified a lack of precision in the Host Country Allocation paragraph on page 3 of the Paralympic Games Qualification System for Rowing. The updated version is found here:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/events/2020-paralympic-games-regatta/event-information>

The full IPC qualification system document is found here:

[https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/2020\\_01\\_24%20Tokyo%20QG%20new.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/2020_01_24%20Tokyo%20QG%20new.pdf)

## **3. Coronavirus situation**

FISA has received the following statement from the Chinese Rowing Association

*"The recent outbreak of coronavirus is a very big challenge in China. The Chinese government and the Chinese people are fighting against the virus effectively.*

*Fortunately, the Chinese National Rowing Team has been training out of China since November 2019. First in USA and then all moved to Portugal.*

*Even out of China, to protect the athletes, the most stringent precautionary measures have to be taken in the team. The team will not come into contact with anyone travelling from China and all team members are subjected to temperature scanning and daily disinfection. All team members will continue their training in Europe until the virus in China is contained."*

FISA is closely following this situation to ensure the safety at regattas and that appropriate anti-doping testing continues despite being out of the country for such a long period of time.

#### **4. 2020 Provisional World and European Rowing Event Programmes**

Following consultations with organising committees, television broadcasters, and member federations, the 2020 Provisional World and European Rowing Event Programmes, subject to entries, are confirmed for the following events:

1. World Rowing Cup I, Sabaudia, ITA
2. European Olympic and Paralympic Continental Qualification Regatta, Varese, ITA
3. World Rowing Cup II, Varese, ITA
4. Final Paralympic Qualification Regatta, Gavirate, ITA
5. Final Olympic Qualification Regatta, Lucerne, SUI
6. World Rowing Cup III, Lucerne, SUI
7. European Rowing Junior Championships, Belgrade, SRB
8. European Rowing Championships, Poznan, POL
9. Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Regatta, Tokyo, JPN
10. World Rowing Senior, Under 23 and Junior Championships, Bled, SLO
11. Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Regatta, Tokyo, JPN
12. European Rowing Under 23 Championships, Duisburg, GER

These regatta programmes can be found at this link:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/publications/fisa-circulars>

#### **5. 2021 to 2024 Long Term Planning Calendar**

Following consultations, the above-mentioned calendar was approved in terms of dates. This can also be found at this link:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/publications/>

#### **6. 2020 World and European Rowing Event Information Bulletins**

The 2020 Event Bulletins are nearly completed and will soon be available at this link:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/publications/2020-event-bulletins>

Please refer to the Bulletins for all information on entries and scheduling.

#### **7. 2020 Seminars and Exams for International Umpires**

The FISA Umpiring Commission will be conducting a number of seminars and examinations during the year 2020. This listing is available on the Umpiring Noticeboard at this link:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/publications/umpiring>

Any Member Federation wishing to submit candidates for the examinations or the names of umpires who wish to attend a seminar are invited to advise FISA Headquarters ([prateek.gumbar@fisa.org](mailto:prateek.gumbar@fisa.org)) no later than **one month before the date of the seminar or exam**. The exact location of the meetings will be available at the regatta venues.

## 8. 2020 National Federations Meetings Schedule

Please note the times and dates for the following NF Meetings taking place in 2020:

Rio Americas O&PQR	Friday 3 April from 16:30 hrs
Sabaudia World Rowing Cup 1	Saturday 11 April, 13:30 hrs
Chungju Asia & Oceania OPQR	Wednesday 29 April after the TM meeting
Varese World Rowing Cup II	Friday, 01 May, 15:00 hrs
Lucerne Final OQR	Sunday 17 May 17.00 hrs
Lucerne World Rowing CupIII	Friday 22 May 14.00 hrs
Poznan European Rowing CH	at the General Assembly
Bled World Rowing CH	Friday 21 August, 12:30-13:30hrs
Oeiras World Rowing Coastal CH	Friday, 02 October 17:30 hrs

## 9. FISA Member Federation Details

We kindly ask that each Member Federation check their details presented on the website and inform FISA Headquarters ([info@fisa.org](mailto:info@fisa.org)) of any incorrect information. Please refer to this section of the website:  
<http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/national-federations/>

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Christophe Rolland  
President



Matt Smith  
Executive Director

Attachments