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*Driving Rowing Future*

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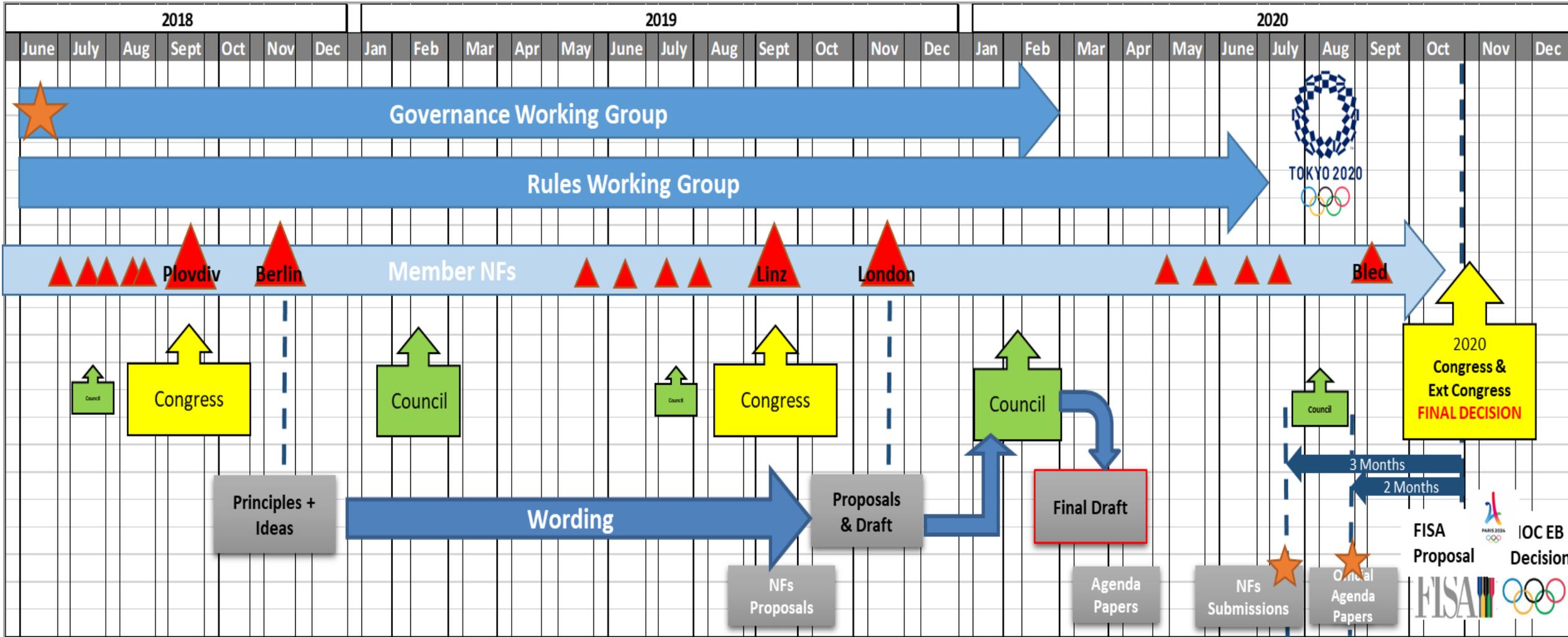
# Proposals for Statute and Rules Changes for 2021

## **Statutes, Rules and Regulations**

- a. Proposals for 2021 Statutes changes for the October 2020 FISA Extraordinary Congress

# Proposals for 2021 Statutes changes

## TIMELINE



2019:

- April - publish preliminary positions
- May/June - consultations with NFs & development of ideas
- July - additional review of feedback to date by Council
- September - review at Linz Congress
- November - NF Conference, further consultation

2020:

- February - final proposals from Council
- March - publishing of proposals
- October - Extraordinary Congress

For discussion and progress:

- Congress Delegates -who is admitted as delegate, e.g. NF employee, even if not a national/resident?
- Council & Executive Committee - roles & responsibilities. Consider recommendations of external report from lawyers.
- Commissions - include listing in Article or Bye-Law?
- Art. 50 Election of the Three Commission Chairs to the EC
  - Should candidates for the Executive Committee already be on the Council?
  - Should the opportunity to stand for election be open to all Council Members?
  - Other suggestions?

## Proposals to be presented at July Council meeting:

- Declaration of Principles - consistency with Strategic Plan (language, etc.)
- Commissions - detailed description of how new structure will work, Commission membership and x-membership
- Nominations Oversight Panel - detailed proposal
- Introduction of confidential reporting mechanisms for all integrity matters (for whistleblowers) - evaluation/proposal
- Judicial provisions - review to assess necessity for any changes and, if deemed appropriate, make proposal for July Council meeting

## FISA STATUTES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Congress (Art. 21)
- Council & Executive Committee (Arts.39 & 49)
  - Clarity & transparency on where ultimate accountability and, in particular, where fiduciary responsibility lies
  - Clarity on their role and responsibilities (Arts.46 & 52)
  - **Legal analysis underway**
- Commissions (Arts.55 & 56 and related Bye-Laws)
  - Clarity on their roles
  - Clarity on their relationship with FISA staff
  - Representation on Council; structure should reflect strategic direction of FISA

Proposed rewordings: *(agreed in principle by Council)*

## ○ Congress (Art.21)

The Congress is the general assembly of the member federations and the supreme authority of FISA ~~whose activities shall be subject to its control as set out in the Statutes.~~

## ○ The Council (Art.39)

~~FISA shall be managed by the Council, consisting of...~~ The Council coordinates all sport activities, in general, of FISA and makes all decisions attributed to it in accordance with the Statutes and Rules approved by Congress, and under the financial and managerial direction of the Executive Committee. The Council shall consist of...

...

~~With the exception of the Executive Director, the members of Council are not remunerated by FISA but may receive reimbursement of expenses. Except for the members of the Executive Committee, the FISA~~ Council Members have no responsibility for any financial liabilities of FISA.

## ○ Council & Executive Committee (Arts.39 & 49)

- Clarity & transparency on where ultimate accountability and, in particular, where fiduciary responsibility lies

### ***Report of the auditor***

#### ***to the Congress of Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron (FISA)***

##### ***Lausanne***

● Rectangular Snip

On your instructions, we have audited the financial statements of Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron (FISA), which comprise the balance sheet, income statement and notes, for the year ended 31 December 2017.

##### ***Executive Committee's responsibility***

The Executive Committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Swiss law. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Executive Committee is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Proposed rewordings: *(agreed in principle by Council)*

## ○ The Executive Committee (Art.49)

The Executive Committee ~~consists of...~~ is responsible for managing the administration, finances and governance of FISA and for making urgent decisions, including on sport-related matters, in accordance with the Statutes and Rules. It guides the activities of the Council, Commissions and Working Groups. The Executive Committee shall consist of ...

The Executive Committee has responsibility for financial oversight of FISA.

## ○ The Commissions (Art.55)

The Council may establish specialist Commissions to advise on and undertake sport-related activities as required and on terms defined by the Council. The fields covered by FISA Commissions include: having special duties and, in particular, in the following fields:  
*(inclusion of listing of specific Commissions as Statutes)*

## ○ DRAFT: Council & Executive Committee - Duties (Arts.46 & 52) *(agreed in principle by Council)*

### Council

The duties of the Council shall be:

1. To ensure the observance of the Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;
2. To approve the strategic plan and take such steps as may be necessary to achieve the Objectives laid down in Art. 2 of the Statutes;
3. To adopt and amend Bye-Laws made under the Statutes and Rules of Racing and to adopt and amend Event Regulations;
4. To ensure the execution of decisions taken by Congress ~~and to establish the duties of the individual members of the Council~~ and of the duties of the Commissions;
4. ~~To adopt and amend Bye-Laws made under the Statutes and Rules of Racing and to adopt and amend Event Regulations;~~
5. To ensure the maintenance of proper standards in the organisation of ~~FISA Events, International regattas, Olympic, Youth Olympic and Paralympic regattas~~ and, in general, all FISA events and events ~~and competitions~~ conducted under the authority of FISA;
- 6a. In accordance with Rule 6, to select the most suitable bids from candidate member federations for the organisation of World Championships and propose it (them) to the Congress for attribution final approval (in accordance with Rule 6);
- 6b. To attribute the most suitable bids for World Rowing Cup, Coastal and Indoor Championships, and Masters Regatta;
7. In accordance with Art. 50, to propose three Commission Chairs to Congress to be elected to the Executive Committee ~~in accordance with Art.50;~~
- 8a. In accordance with Art. 42, to appoint Continental Representatives and Co-opted Members;
- 8b. In accordance with Art. 4255, to appoint and members of the Commission members ~~in accordance with Art.55.~~

### Executive

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be (inter alia):

1. To decide all questions of interpretation of the Statutes and Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;
2. To ~~provide be responsible for~~ the overall directional guidance of FISA's programmes with the relevant Council Members, Commission members, working group members, organising committees and member federations;
23. To ~~provide be responsible for~~ the overall administrative and financial management of FISA in accordance with applicable standards. To this end, the Executive Committee may establish administrative offices with remunerated personnel;
34. To impose penalties, at any time, as provided for in Art. 65, on member federations, clubs or individuals who breach the Statutes, Rules of Racing, any related Bye-Laws or Event Regulations or who refuse to conform to instructions given, or who behave in a negligent or inappropriate manner; To make any decisions appropriate to the circumstances in the interests of the sport of rowing;
45. To issue convening notices and the relevant Agenda Papers for Congresses and Council meetings, and to keep member federations informed of the affairs of FISA; To decide all questions of interpretation of the Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;
5. ~~To impose penalties, at any time, as provided for in Art. 65, on member federations, clubs or individuals who breach the Statutes, Rules, any related Bye-Laws or Event Regulations or who refuse to conform to instructions given, or who behave in a negligent or inappropriate manner;~~
6. To perform all other duties of the Executive Committee as established in FISA's Statutes, Rules of Racing, any related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations; To issue convening notices and the relevant Agenda Papers for Congresses and Council meetings, and to keep member federations informed of the affairs of FISA;
7. To make any decisions appropriate to the circumstances in the interests of the sport of rowing; To ensure FISA is represented by its President or one of its Council members at important events and meetings of other organisations;
8. To perform all other duties of the Executive Committee as established in FISA's Statutes, Rules,

# FISA STATUTES - ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



## ○ DRAFT: Council Structure - scenario under review

<b>Specialist Commissions</b>	<b>3 Disciplines (elected Chairs):</b> (initially as working groups, 5-8 experts)	River & Lake (replaces Competitive)
		Coastal
		Indoor
	<b>7 Technical (elected Chairs):</b>	Equipment & Technology
		Events, including promotion
		Recreational, including touring (replacing R4All)
		Para Rowing
		Sports Medicine
		Umpiring
		Diversity (formerly Women's Commission)
	<b>3 'Community' (elected Chairs):</b>	Athletes (elite)
		Masters
		Youth
<b>Continental Representatives</b>	<b>Geographic representation (appointed)</b>	Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, Oceania (5)
<b>Co-opted Council Members</b>	<b>Specific skill set (appointed)</b>	(2)
<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>(appointed Executive Committee member)</b>	Executive Director(1)
	<b>(elected Executive Committee members*)</b>	President, Vice President, Treasurer (3)

*Event Promotion: proposal to replace with Working Group comprising CEOs/key representatives of organising committees of future World Championships, reporting to the Executive Director.*

*\*The FISA Executive Committee consists of 7 members in total: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Director plus 3 elected Specialist Commission Chairs*

# FISA STATUTES - ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



## ○ Council Structure - scenario under review

Specialist Commissions		River & Lake*	Coastal*	Indoor*
	Membership (current)	Up to 8 core experts (Competitive currently 9)	Up to 8 core experts	Up to 8 core experts
Equipment & Technology	6			
Events	11			
Recreational, including touring (formerly R4All)	6 (R4A)			
Para Rowing	8			
Sports Medicine	9			
Umpiring	11			
Diversity (formerly Women's)	Chair as champion, leader; responsibility integral to every individual's role at FISA			
Athletes (elite)	9			
Masters	7			
Youth	7			

*Event Promotion: proposal to replace with Working Group comprising CEOs/key representatives of organising committees of future World Championships, reporting to the Executive Director.*

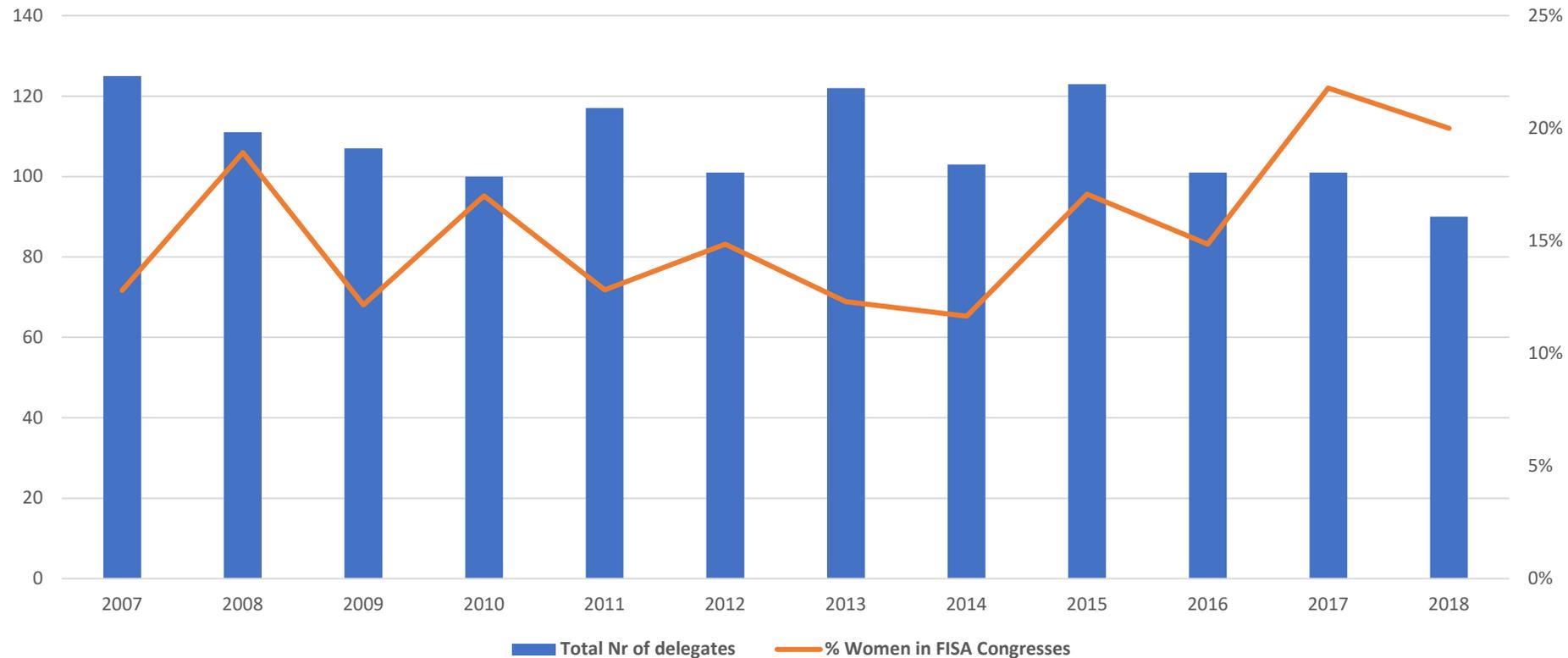
- Code of Ethics - 2019 updates to incorporate procedures relating to the new FISA Policy on Safeguarding Participants in Rowing against Harassment & Abuse.  
⇒ *safeguarding updates agreed by Council and now published*
  - Confidential reporting mechanisms for 'whistleblowers' (for all integrity issues, including doping, manipulation of competition, safeguarding) *(under review)*
  - Judicial Provisions: general review for 2020: *(under review)*
    - Consider restructure of FISA disciplinary procedures; consolidated section in Rule Book
- (Arts.59 to 67 and related Bye-laws)

- Membership requirements (Arts.12 & 14) *(agreed in principle by Council)*
  - Art.12 Admission to Membership: proposal to include 2 new requirements:
    - 6. A formal undertaking to accept and comply with the FISA Safeguarding Policy and apply any supplementary guidance issued by FISA as a condition of their affiliation and require clubs and any individuals (members, officers, representatives, etc.) to accept them as a condition of their membership.
    - 7. A formal undertaking to organise, manage and carry out activities in a safe and responsible manner and with due regard to any guidance, policies or similar advice issued by FISA or other safety or regulatory bodies.
  - Art.14 Obligations of Member Federations: proposal to modify point 7:
    - 7. To fulfil at all times all the conditions necessary for **its** admission to membership and to comply with all the undertakings, ~~given on that occasion~~ in accordance with Art. 12;

- Diversity in representation; inclusivity
  - Membership; Congress delegates (Art.23)
  - Council & Commissions & Staff
- Election criteria for representatives on decision making bodies (Arts.40&50)
- Nominations process; provision for greater scrutiny of the process (Art.40)
- Appropriate management of Conflict of Interest

## Membership; Congress Delegates (Art.23)

### Delegates at FISA Congresses



- Membership; Congress Delegates (Art.23) - proposal, based on 2017 Extraordinary Congress, option 1 *(agreed in principle by Council)*

Each member federation shall have the right to accredit a maximum of three delegates, subject to the following:

For a member federation to accredit more than one delegate at Congress, both genders must be represented in the member federation's delegation.

Member federations may at any time change their delegates but they may not be represented by a delegate who is the representative of another member federation or by a member of the Council. Each delegate shall satisfy the Executive Committee that the delegate is a citizen or bona fide resident of the country or territory of the member federation he proposed to be representeds, or an employee of that federation. The delegate must be able to provide immediate proof of his-the authority to represent the member federation. The President of the member federation shall be responsible for its delegates and that they meet the above requirements. In an exceptional case, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

Under review: Election criteria for representatives on decision making bodies (Arts.40 & 50)

- Art.40 Election of Members of the Council *(agreed in principle by Council)*
  - Should there be specific eligibility criteria for all Council members, as for the President, Vice-President and Treasurer? Proposal (for the Article or the Bye-Law?):
    - Candidates for all Council positions should be recognised experts in their field and have relevant experience for the position for which they are nominated.
- Art. 50 Election of the Three Commission Chairs to the Executive Committee
  - Should candidates for the Executive Committee already be on the Council?
  - Should the opportunity to stand for election be open to all Council Members?
  - Other suggestions? *(for discussion)*

Under review: provision for greater scrutiny of the nominations process (Art.40)

## ○ Art.40 Election of Members of the Council

- Consider feasibility and benefit of introduction of a Nominations Oversight Committee, including defining the role and membership of the committee. Role would include the following:
  - Review of nominations, validate eligibility
  - Meet/interview the nominees, ensure understanding of requirements of the role (commitment, expertise, language skills)
  - Provide summary report to members

*Proposal to be presented to July Council Meeting*

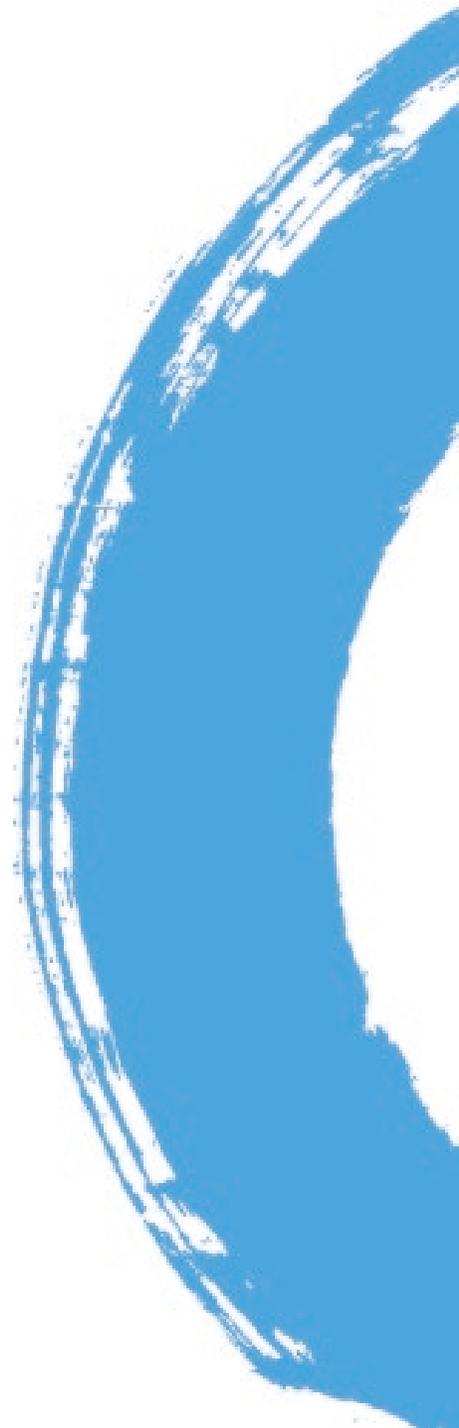
## **Statutes, Rules and Regulations**

- a. Proposals for 2021 Rules changes for the October 2020 FISA Extraordinary Congress

# Ideas Received for Possible Rule Changes at the 2020 FISA Extraordinary Congress

## **Initial Rule Change Ideas received**

This is a summary of the major rule changes that have been received up to now and are being reviewed by the Rules Working Group for further development of the ideas and further proposals to the stakeholders.



## Complete review of the new WCH Programme after entries of 2018 and 2019 World Championships

### Rule 36 – World Championship Boat Classes

World Rowing Championships are held in the following events:

Men (M)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-		8+	
Women (W)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-		8+	
Lightweight Men (LM)	1x	2x	2-		4x				
Lightweight Women (LW)	1x	2x	2-		4x				
Para Rowing (APR)	PR1 M1x	PR1 W1x	PR2 M1x	PR2 W1x	PR2 Mix2x	PR3 M2-	PR3 W2-	PR3 Mix2x	PR3 Mix4+
Under 23 Men (BM)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-	4+	8+	
Under 23 Women (BW)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-	4+	8+	
Under 23 Lightweight Men (BLM)	1x	2x	2-		4x				
Under 23 Lightweight Women (BLW)	1x	2x	2-		4x				
Junior Men (JM)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-	4+	8+	
Junior Women (JW)	1x	2x	2-		4x	4-	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.

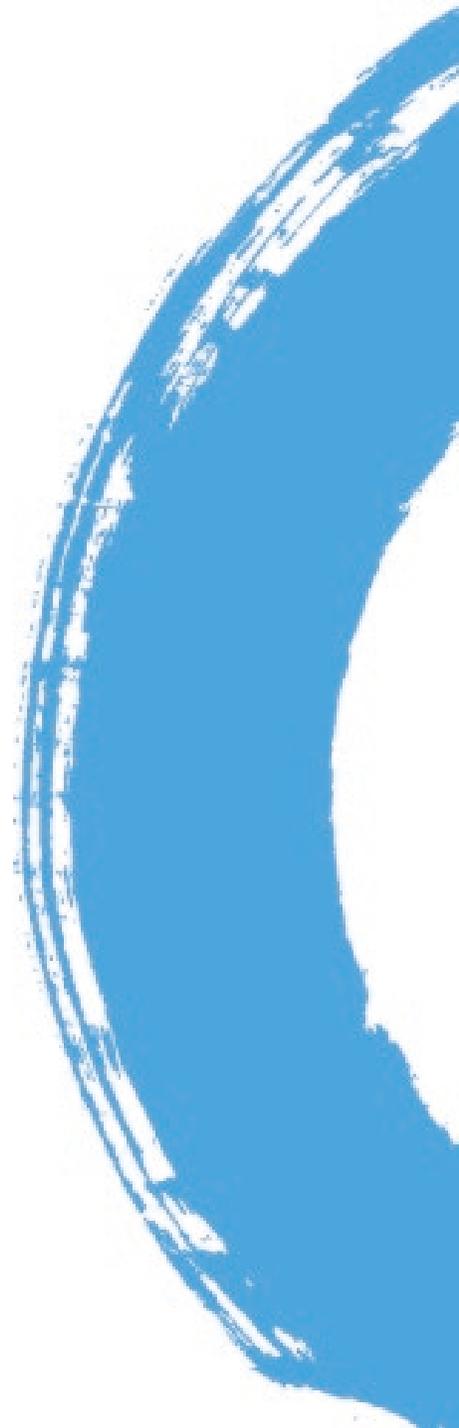
## Numbers of Entries / Numbers of Medals

### Minimum number of entries for WCH, WCups?

- If a minimum number of entries is not achieved (e.g. a minimum of 4 or 6) by the close of entries for an event, should our Rules require that that event be cancelled for that regatta?
- Should this be different between World Cups and World Championships?
- Should there be an additional (or alternative) requirement for a minimum number of crews to actually start in the event or it would be cancelled?

### Number of Medals awarded depends on no. of entries?

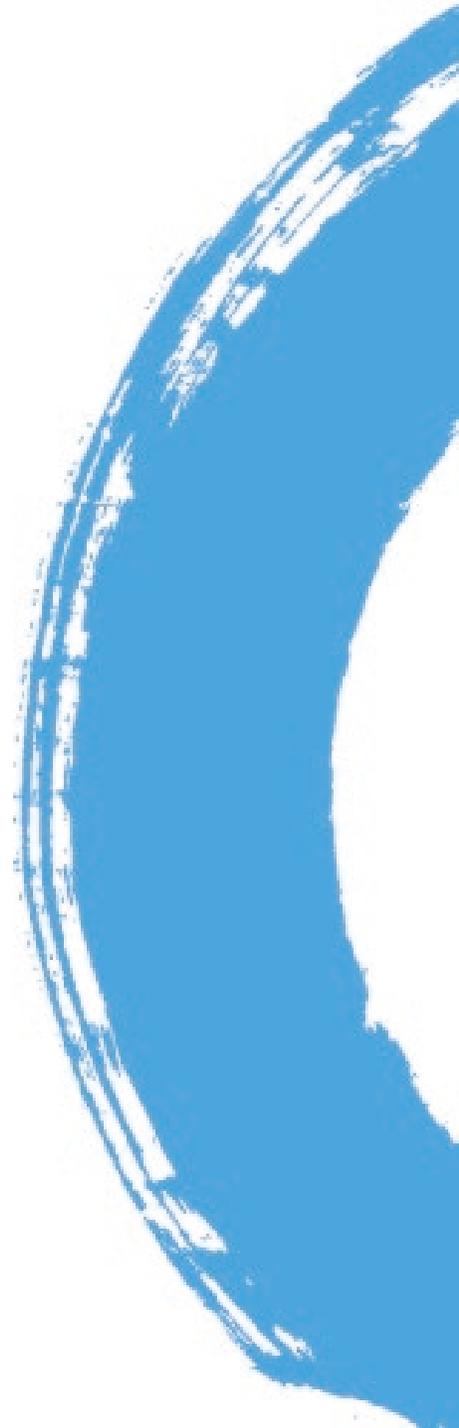
- How many entries should be required for certain medals to be awarded?
- For example, should you be required to beat at least one crew to win a medal, e.g. if only 3 crews race in a Final, then there would be no bronze medal awarded?



## Time Trials

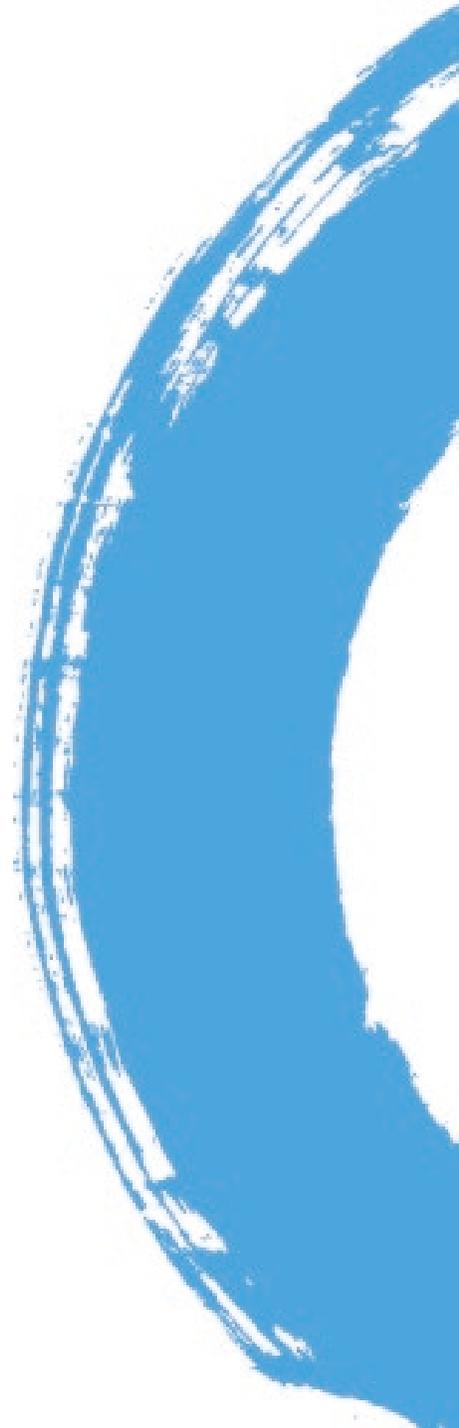
- Scenarios for when Time Trials should be run?
  - *When required by the progression system – 41 entries or more require it*
  - *For heats, when weather does not or will not allow fair racing, at the latest, the day before the finals?*
  - *For other rounds, when weather does not allow fair racing the day before the finals?*
  - *If, on a final day, several lanes are unrowable*

Separate the Provisions and Protocols between the scenarios of (1) having more than 40 entries in an event (Progression System requires one Time Trial for all crews as first round), or (2) as a contingency for adverse weather



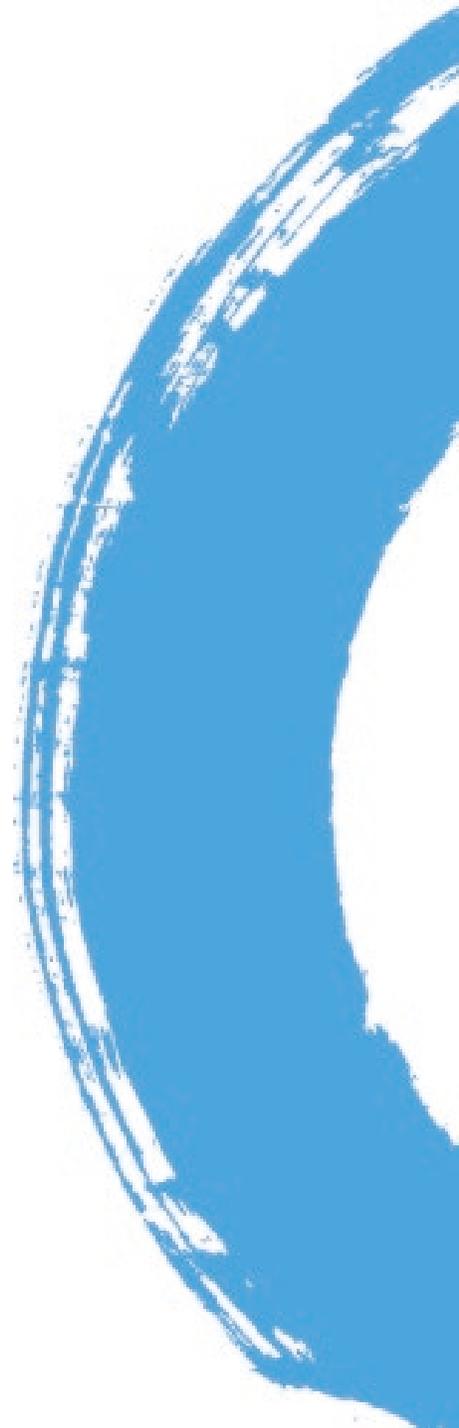
## Coaching during Racing

- Current Rule 79 prohibits use of any electric, electronic or technical device.
- Shouting from the bank is allowed – is it a problem that the difference for crews in lanes closest to bike path can hear better than crews in farthest lanes?
- Whistling at crews to signal a race plan – is it considered coaching and should it not be allowed? –any difference between use of a whistle (technical device) or natural whistling?
- Is it even possible to try to control this at all?
- Is it a problem?



## Automatic Start System

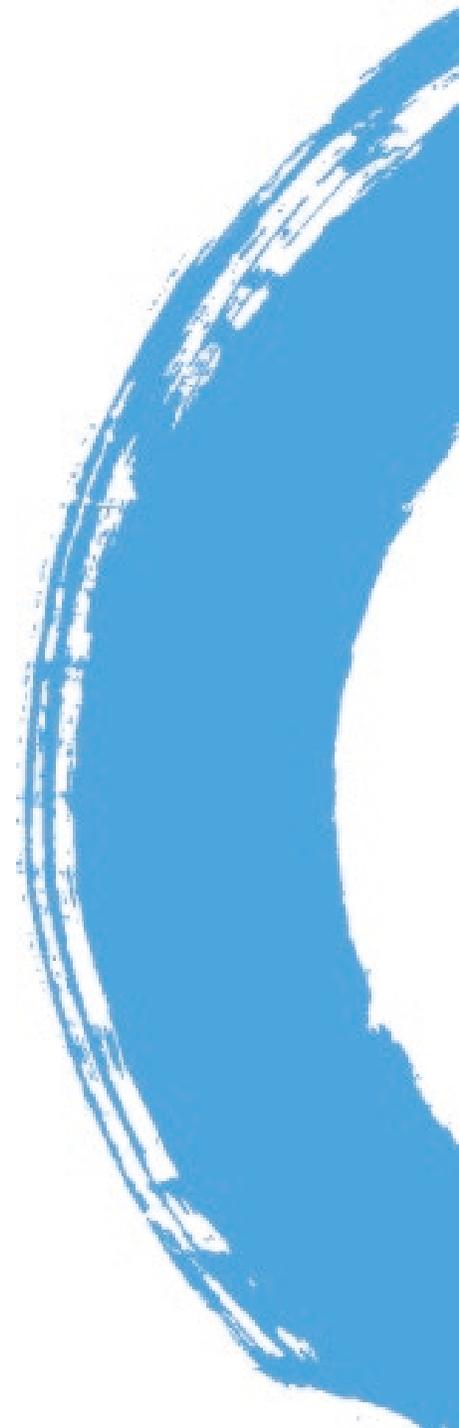
- Current Rules state that it is only required for an Olympics and Paralympics (although in practise is usually provided for World Championships).
- Should we change Rules such that the system is mandatory at World Championships?
- Should this be required at other FISA events, e.g.,
  - World Rowing Cups,
  - Under 23 Championships, and
  - Junior Championships?
- Cost impact for OCs?



## Junior Age Cut-off date

Current cut off for being a Junior rower ('Under 19') is 31 December. Should a different cut off date be looked at?

- Should it be by a certain and fixed date after the Juniors (e.g. 31 August)?
- Is there a developmental advantage to those born immediately after the 31 December cut off?
- Would any such advantage be any different if a different age cut-off was adopted?



## Swimming Ability – Confirmation?

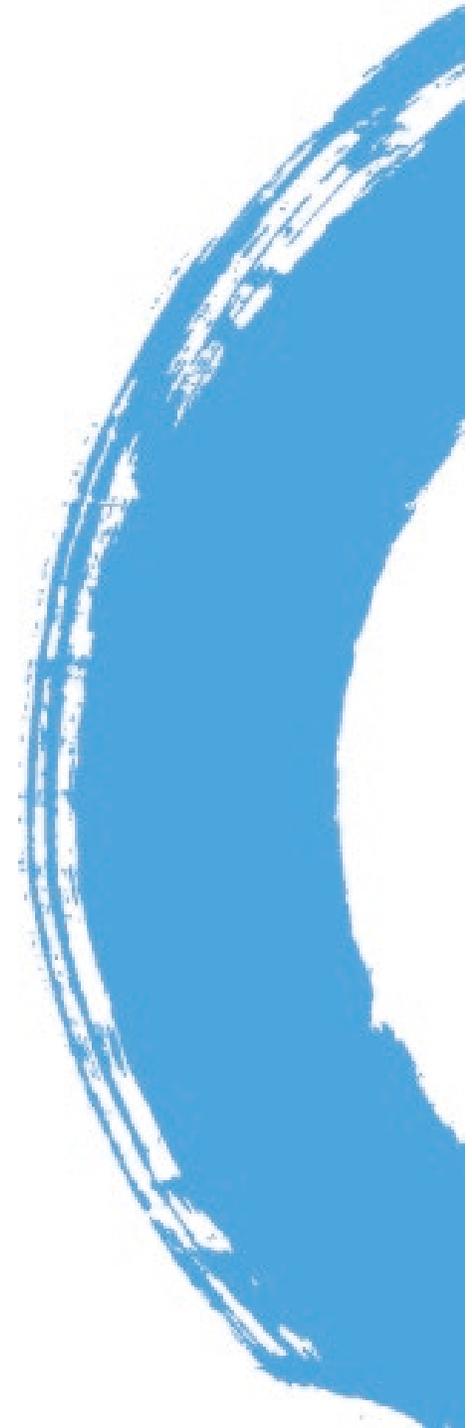
Should a commitment from NFs be required that all athlete's participating in "World Rowing" events be able to swim to a suitable standard?

Potential proposal – be able to tread water unaided for 2 or 3 or 5 minutes and be able to swim 50 metres unaided?

Should this be extended to:

- Development Camps and regattas?
  - Continental Qualification regattas?
  - Continental Games regattas?
  - Continental Championships?

How could it be a fundamental rule for anyone wanting to try rowing?

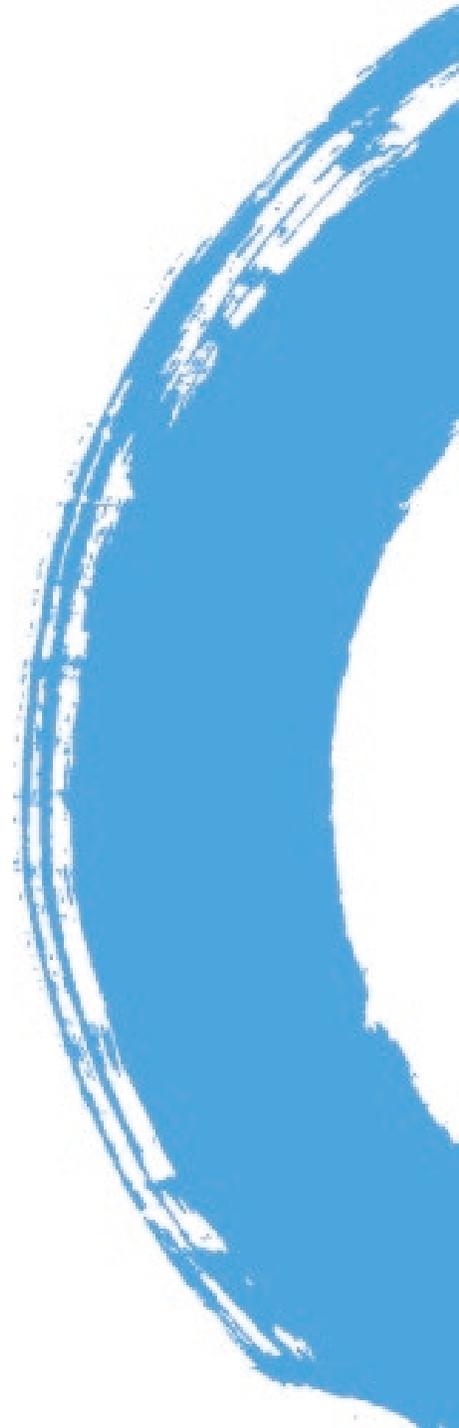


## Definition of an Oar

Innovations in oar design arise from time to time.

Where should the line be drawn on oar technology?

- Are better definitions of what makes an oar required, e.g., 'all parts of an oars shall be fixed while rowing'?
- The shaft of the oar shall be straight with no mechanical or electronic elements?
- Should the blade be one surface?
- How can we keep this simple to keep costs down?





Thank you !