

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron

World Rowing Federation

Statutes

2013 Version

Declaration of Principles

A. ROWING

Rowing is one of the oldest sports and carries strong traditions. Over the years certain values and characteristics have become connected with rowing, which rowers protect and reinforce. These characteristics and values which should inspire all activities and decisions are the following:

A1. Development of the Individual

Individuals, through rowing, acquire a personal experience of determination, team spirit, respect, commitment, integrity and a sense of fair play. By applying these principles in all circumstances, rowers become independent and responsible individuals, prepared to face the realities of life and willing to share the values gained with others.

A2. International Understanding

International rowing events and meetings are organised in such a way as to be a means for friendly contact between the participants, contributing to a better understanding between people and nations, regardless of race, gender, frontiers or political systems. Rowers form a worldwide “family” based on the ideals of peace, friendship, fairness, understanding and mutual assistance. All rowers are encouraged to foster international understanding through the sport of rowing.

A3. Lifetime Sport for All

Rowing allows for the maintenance of physical fitness from youth through to old age. Rowing is a competitive and recreational activity for all, regardless of age, gender or ability.

A4. Environmental Responsibility

Rowing is a sport which requires clean air and clean water; the rowing community plays an important role in the responsible and sustainable management of the natural and physical resources especially those which are necessary for rowing.

B. FISA

FISA is the community of national rowing federations worldwide. It governs rowing by defending its principles and by acting in accordance with the following:

B1. Integral Part of World Sport

Founded in 1892, FISA was the first international sport federation to be established and rowing has been on the Olympic Programme since 1896, the first Olympic Games of the modern era. Para-Rowing has been integrated into the World Championships and has been on the programme of the Paralympic Games from 2008. FISA is an active participant in the world of sport and co-operates with the other international federations and the various world sports organisations. It encourages any steps which

serve to propagate sport and contribute to develop it, as well as to promote the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the various other international championships. It seeks the inclusion of rowing in multi-sport international competitions and a presence on important international sports bodies.

B2. Independence

FISA will keep rowing free from political and commercial restraints. Moreover, FISA undertakes, at all levels, to preserve the independence and autonomy of international sport.

B3. Priority to Sport

FISA directs its work in the interest of rowers and rowing. It opposes any attempt to subordinate sport to any other interests.

B4. Fairness and Equality of Opportunity

FISA always seeks to ensure that its competitions and participants respect the principles of fairness and equality of opportunity. It fights, in particular, against doping as well as competition and technical manipulation by enforcing strict rules. FISA carries out worldwide anti-doping tests, in and out of competition, and supports all appropriate measures taken in that field at the national and international level.

B5. Development of Rowing in all its Forms

FISA promotes and develops the sport. It establishes development programmes, organises training courses, and develops public relations and media opportunities. Thereby, FISA works to attract new rowers and members, improve the level, quality and appeal of its competitions, and ensure a leading position for rowing in world sport, in multi-sport events and, particularly, in the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

B6. Inclusion and Accessibility

FISA is committed to inclusion and accessibility. FISA promotes inclusive practices in the planning and staging of events. FISA encourages accessible design, construction and refurbishment of existing rowing facilities.

B7. Sound Environmental Practices

FISA is committed to practices that respect and safeguard the environment in which the sport of rowing is conducted. FISA endorses responsible and sustainable environmental practices in the planning and staging of events, the design and construction of new rowing facilities and the refurbishment of existing rowing facilities. FISA promotes awareness and community consultation on rowing-related environmental issues.

PART I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 – Foundation, Name and Legal Status

With the object of encouraging the development of the sport of rowing and of strengthening the bonds of friendship that unite those who practise it, the Adriatic, Belgian, French, Italian and Swiss Federations founded the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron (FISA) on 25th June, 1892, in Turin. FISA is a not-for-profit association governed by Art. 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code. It is endowed with legal personality. Its members, office bearers and employees are not responsible for its debts.

Article 2 – Objects

The objects of FISA shall be:

1. To establish and enforce FISA's Declaration of Principles, Statutes, Rules of Racing and Event Regulations.
2. To promote rowing in all its forms.
3. To encourage the universal development of rowing in all its forms.
4. To conduct World Rowing Championships, other world-level rowing events, and, within the limits of the authority of FISA, the regattas staged at Olympic, Paralympic, regional, and continental Games and multi-sport competitions.
5. To be the final authority for all international rowing competitions including at multi-sport competitions.

Article 3 – No Discrimination, Demonstrations or Propaganda

FISA shall not allow political, religious, racial or gender discrimination.

No demonstrations or political, religious or racial propaganda are permitted in any rowing venue or in connection with any rowing activity.

Article 4 – Autonomy of Member National Federations

FISA's member national federations shall be autonomous and organised democratically. When FISA determines these principles are being compromised, FISA may take any appropriate measures.

FISA shall have no other part in national rowing matters.

Article 5 – Headquarters

The location of the FISA headquarters is decided by the Council.

Bye-Law to Article 5 – Headquarters

The headquarters are currently in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article 6 – Emblem

The emblem of FISA is: the five oars, side by side, which are, from left to right coloured blue, yellow, black, green and red with or without the letters F-I-S-A.

The Executive Committee may create additional emblems for specific goals, events or activities.

Only the Executive Committee may authorise the use of the FISA emblems.

Article 7 – Languages

The official languages of FISA are French and English. In case of divergence, the English text prevails. The use of other languages may be authorised by the Executive Committee in Congress or by the chair of the meeting on other occasions.

Article 8 – Official Communications

Any communications required under these Statutes or Rules shall be made by post, fax or email. All communications to FISA shall be addressed to the Headquarters in one of the official languages of FISA.

Article 9 – Interpretation

The Executive Committee shall decide all questions of interpretation of the FISA Statutes, Rules of Racing, any related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations.

All references to the masculine in the Statutes, Rules of Racing, any related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations and in all FISA documents, shall include the feminine and all references to “rowers” shall include scullers and coxswains unless the context otherwise requires.

Article 10 – Binding Authority

FISA is bound by the signatures of two members of the Executive Committee, one of whom shall be the President. If the President is not able to sign, the President’s right shall pass first to the Vice President and, second, to the Treasurer.

PART II – MEMBERSHIP

Article 11 – Members

To be recognised as a member of FISA, a national federation shall, in principle, include the majority of rowing clubs in its country, its statutes may not be inconsistent with those of FISA and it must cover the territory of a country that is recognised as such and as an independent state by the international community. This requirement does not apply to members that were affiliated before 25 January 1993.

In considering a national federation’s membership of FISA, FISA may take account of the advice of the National Olympic Committee of that country.

Article 12 – Admission to Membership

To become a member of FISA, a national rowing federation shall:

1. Make a formal application to the Executive Committee at least one month before the date of the next Congress.
2. Submit with its application a copy of its Statutes with a certified translation in one of FISA’s official languages, evidence that the requirements for affiliation have been complied with, and a detailed report on the activities of the clubs that it represents.
3. Give a formal undertaking to observe the Statutes, Rules of Racing, any related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations of FISA.
4. Provide, upon FISA’s request, advice whether the National Olympic Committee recognises the federation as a member and whether the statutes of the federation are consistent with the principles of the Olympic Charter.
5. Undertake to accept as binding and final the decisions of the competent authorities within FISA and in this regard to recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne as the only possible external judicial authority.
6. Undertake to impose the obligations in 3 and 5 upon its affiliated clubs and their members in all those areas in which FISA has authority.
7. Provide details of the membership of its Committee and the design and colours of its racing uniform and blades.
8. Be admitted to membership by a vote of Congress for which a clear majority of the votes of members represented shall be required.

Article 13 – Retaining Membership Status

To retain its membership status, a member federation shall, at all times, fulfil all the conditions necessary for its admission. Therefore, it shall immediately notify the FISA Executive Committee of any material change made to its Statutes, change of President and/or Secretary General, its address and

contact details, or the design or colours of its racing uniform and blades, or of any other change which affects its ability to fulfil these conditions.

Article 14 – Resignation

A member federation wishing to withdraw from membership of FISA at the end of the current year shall give notice of resignation by registered post to the Executive Committee not later than 30th September. The Executive Committee shall immediately inform the remaining member federations of any resignations submitted to it.

Article 15 – Subscriptions

Member federations shall pay an annual subscription no later than 31st March of each year. The amount of the subscription shall be determined each year in advance by the Congress. Member federations have no responsibility for any financial liabilities of FISA.

Bye-Law to Article 15 – Subscriptions

- 1. Member federations in their first three years of membership shall pay no subscription.*
- 2. The amount of the subscription payable by each member federation shall be determined by reference to its level of participation in major events during the previous four year Olympic period in a formula proposed by the Council.*
- 3. The Executive Committee may waive past due subscriptions of inactive member federations.*

Article 16 – Debts

Member federations that have subscriptions in arrears or that have unresolved debts to FISA or to an organising committee of a FISA event may be suspended by the Executive Committee or expelled by Congress. In any event, their delegates shall forfeit their voting rights, and the federation's teams may be banned from competition by the Executive Committee.

Article 17 – Expulsion

If a member federation does not continue to fulfil the current conditions of membership of FISA and does not rectify the situation by a date fixed by the Executive Committee, or if there are other justifiable reasons, the Congress may expel that federation.

Article 18 – Recognition of Rowing Confederations

The Council may recognise and cooperate with rowing confederations which consist of a number of FISA members with a common geographical or other basis and may grant to these confederations permission to be represented at Congresses by observers.

PART III – GOVERNANCE

Article 19 – Governance

FISA shall be governed by:

1. the Congress (Art.20 and following)
2. the Council (Art. 38 and following)
3. the Executive Committee (Art. 47 and following)

PART III A. CONGRESS

Article 20 – Congress

The Congress shall be the supreme authority of FISA whose activities shall be subject to its control.

Article 21 – Composition and Presidency

The Congress shall consist of delegates of national federations that are currently members of FISA. The President of FISA shall preside or, if the President is not able to preside, the Vice President. The Council shall also participate in the Congress.

Article 22 – Delegates

Each member federation shall have the right to have a maximum of three delegates accredited. 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 represents. The delegate must be able to provide immediate proof of his authority to represent the member federation. In an exceptional case, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

Article 23 – Observers at the Congress

Observers may attend part or all of the Congress by invitation from the chair of the meeting.

Article 24 – Ordinary Congress

Delegates shall meet annually as an Ordinary Congress, preferably at a time and place at which a World Rowing Championship regatta is held.

Article 25 – Convening Notice and Agenda

The Executive Committee shall send a convening notice to member federations at least four months before the date of an Ordinary Congress. The convening notice shall include a draft agenda.

Member federations may submit specific proposals or other items for inclusion in the agenda, which shall be received by FISA, in English and/or French, at least three months before the date of the Congress. The Executive Committee shall send out the final agenda for the Congress at least two months before the date of the Congress. Where possible, the various reports, any observations on the agenda items, the accounts, the financial report, and the proposed budget shall be sent out with the agenda. Subsequent written material may be circulated by the Executive Committee.

Article 26 – Agenda for Ordinary Congress

The agenda for an Ordinary Congress shall include:

A. Mandatory items –

1. Opening of the session
2. Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority
3. Appointment of scrutineers for the period of Congress
4. Approval of the minutes of the last Congress
5. President's report and reports from the Executive Committee Members
6. Reports of the Chairs of the specialist Commissions
7. Reports of the FISA Continental Representatives
8. Accounts, financial report and auditors' report
9. Approval of accounts
10. Determination of entrance fee and annual subscription
11. Budget for the following year
12. Reports on future FISA events and Olympic regattas
13. Place and date of the next Congress
14. Attribution of future World Rowing Championships in accordance with Rule 5
15. Any other business

B. Additional items, as appropriate -

16. Reports on applications for affiliation and voting consequent thereon.
17. Reconsideration or confirmation of decisions (ref. Art. 32) taken by the Council in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Art. 44 or by the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Art. 50.
18. Council and Executive Committee elections in accordance with Articles 39 and 48.
19. Specific Proposals from the Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee.
20. Other items proposed by the Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee.
21. Any other business

Article 27 – Reports

The Executive Committee or the Congress may appoint individuals to report on matters brought before the Congress. The Congress may also require the Executive Committee to submit to it its views on questions to which it may wish to give further consideration.

Article 28 – Specific Proposals from Federations

A member federation may submit in writing to the Executive Committee additional agenda items and specific proposals to be included in the Agenda of a Congress, together with the reasoning behind the proposal. A member federation may also submit any specific proposal it proposes should be discussed under an existing agenda item. If these are received at the FISA headquarters at least three months before the date of the next Congress they will be included in the Agenda for that Congress. The Executive Committee will decide whether proposals received after that date may be included in the Agenda.

Article 29 – Proposals from the Council or Executive Committee

The Council or the Executive Committee may include on the Agenda any proposal which they consider to be appropriate.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, such proposal shall be included in the Agenda sent to the member federations in accordance with Art. 25. They may submit a proposal to the Congress at any time provided it relates to an item on the Agenda.

Article 30 – Reconsideration and Confirmation of Decisions of Council or the Executive Committee

Requests to reconsider decisions of the Council in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Art. 44 or of the Executive Committee in accordance with paragraph 3 of Art. 50 shall be submitted to FISA and, unless there are exceptional circumstances, received at least three months before the date of Congress. Each decision may be submitted only once to the Congress for reconsideration and shall be submitted within one year of the date of taking effect. Any alteration of a decision by the Council/Executive Committee following a vote for reconsideration by the Congress, will not have retroactive effect unless the Council/Executive Committee so decides.

The Council and/or the Executive Committee may, on its own initiative, seek confirmation by the next Congress of any of their decisions made within their own competence. If confirmed, this decision may not be submitted again to the Congress for reconsideration.

Article 31 – Extraordinary Congress

Delegates shall meet as an Extraordinary Congress when the annual Ordinary Congress or the Executive Committee shall so decide or when at least one-fifth of the member federations submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee giving reasons therefor.

The Executive Committee shall send a convening notice to all member federations within 14 days of deciding to hold an Extraordinary Congress or within two months of receiving a request, as mentioned above, to hold an Extraordinary Congress. This Extraordinary Congress shall be convened within two months of the date of the convening notice.

Article 32 – Alterations to the Statutes and Rules of Racing

The Statutes and Rules of Racing may only be altered by a Congress every four years in the year following the staging of the Olympic Games.

In cases of Force Majeure, a Congress may make an alteration at any time, and, if circumstances require it, the Council may make an alteration to take effect until the next Congress when that decision will be confirmed or changed.

Article 33 – Auditing of accounts

FISA's accounts shall be audited each year by a professional auditor appointed by the Executive Committee.

Article 34 – Quorum at Congress

Subject to the provisions of Art. 66, no quorum is required and the decisions of Congress shall be valid, irrespective of the number of member federations represented.

Article 35 – Voting at Congress

Voting at FISA Congresses shall be by a show of official voting cards which indicate the number of votes to which each member federation is entitled.

If the Executive Committee so decides, voting may take place by electronic means.

At a FISA Congress, voting shall be by secret ballot if the chair so decides, or if requested by a delegate supported by delegates of at least four other member federations.

Each member federation shall be entitled to one vote, irrespective of the number of delegates representing it. If a member federation fulfils the following conditions, it shall instead be entitled to three votes for a period of four years commencing 1st January of the year following the Olympic Games:

1. It has been a member of FISA for at least three years, and
2. It has competed at any of the following regattas with a total of at least 12 crews during the previous four year Olympic period:
 - a. World Rowing Championships;
 - b. World Rowing Junior Championships;
 - c. World Rowing Under 23 Championships;
 - d. Olympic or Paralympic qualification regattas;
 - e. Continental Games regattas.

The Council will notify all member federations of the voting entitlements of member federations by 31st December in the year of an Olympic Games.

Article 36 – Majorities

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Article and of Art. 66, decisions of Congress shall be taken on the basis of a majority of valid votes cast in each ballot. Blank, incomplete or spoiled voting forms and abstentions will not be considered “valid” votes. In the case of elections, if additional ballots are necessary, the candidate obtaining the smallest number of valid votes in each ballot shall be eliminated until one candidate obtains a majority of the valid votes cast.

In similar situations, for example the designation of a member federation for organising a FISA World Championship regatta, this method of voting shall also apply.

In the case of a tie, a new ballot shall be taken. If the vote is still tied after two ballots, the Council shall immediately carry out a vote to determine the decision.

Alterations to the Statutes and Rules of Racing shall be carried only if they obtain two-thirds of the valid votes cast in each ballot.

Article 37 – Date of Taking Effect

Elections and decisions of a Congress shall take effect from the 1st of January following that Congress unless Congress determines otherwise.

PART III B. COUNCIL

Article 38 – The Council

FISA shall be managed by the Council, consisting of:

1. the President
2. the Vice President
3. the Treasurer
4. the Executive Director
5. the Chairs of the specialist Commissions
6. the FISA Continental Representatives
7. the Co-Opted Members, up to two, each appointed for a two year term by the Council upon proposal by the Executive Committee

Candidates for the position of President, Vice President and Treasurer must have participated as a delegate/Council Member or competitor in the following FISA events a minimum of four times in total:

- a. FISA Congress, or;
- b. World Rowing Championships, or;
- c. Olympic Games, or;
- d. Paralympic Games.

Article 39 – Election of Members of the Council

The members of the Council, with the exception of the Executive Director, the Co-Opted Member(s) and the FISA Continental Representatives, shall be elected for four years by the Congress. They are eligible for re-election. Members of the Council can no longer hold office after the 31st of December following their 70th birthday. With the exception of the Executive Director, the members of Council are not remunerated by FISA but may receive reimbursement of expenses.

Bye-Law to Article 39 – Election of Members of the Council

1. *The President, Vice President and Treasurer are elected at the Ordinary Congress in the year following each Olympic Games.*
2. *The Chairs of the following Commissions are elected in the second year after each Olympic Games:*
 - a. *Competitive*
 - b. *Events*
 - c. *Events Promotions*
 - d. *Masters*
 - e. *Para-Rowing*
 - f. *Umpiring*
 - g. *Women's*
3. *The Chairs of the following Commissions are elected in the third year after each Olympic Games:*
 - a. *Athletes*
 - b. *Equipment and Technology*
 - c. *Rowing for All*
 - d. *Sports Medicine*
 - e. *Youth*
4. *The Executive Committee shall give notice of those positions on the Council which are due for election at the time of sending out the Convening Notice for the Congress.*
5. *The notice will call for nominations for the positions to be elected by the Congress. The nomination must be made by the member federation of the nominee and shall include a*

completed FISA Nomination Form. The nomination must be received at FISA headquarters no later than three months before the date of the Congress.

6. *No later than one month after the closing date for nominations FISA shall send to all member federations a list of all nominations received by the closing date.*

Article 40 – Appointment of the Executive Director

The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. He shall be supported by administrative staff. He is also the Secretary General.

Article 41 – Appointment of the FISA Continental Representatives

FISA shall have a FISA Continental Representative for each of the following continents or sub-continents: Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, South America and North America (including Central America and the Caribbean).

These representatives of FISA are appointed by the Council in the Olympic year for a four year term and may be reappointed. In making the appointment, the Council may consult the member federations concerned. Continental Representatives should become members or ex-officio members of the Executive Committee of the appropriate rowing confederations in their continent for the period of their appointment.

FISA Continental Representatives shall serve as liaisons between the Council and the member federations in their respective continents. The Executive Committee may entrust Continental Representatives with specific duties.

FISA Continental Representatives shall be ex-officio members of the Development Cross Commission.

Article 42 – Honorary Members

On the proposal of Council, Congress may confer the title “Honorary Council Member” or another appropriate Honorary title on a retired Council member who has rendered distinguished service to international rowing.

Honorary Council Members shall not, however, be entitled to participate in the work of Council. Specifically, they shall have no voting rights.

Article 43 – Decisions of the Council

Decisions of the Council shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast. In the case of a tie, the President, or in the absence of the President the chair of the meeting, shall have a casting vote. Voting shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested or may take place by correspondence. Determination of a majority shall be in accordance with Art. 36.

Article 44 – Duties of the Council

The duties of the Council shall be:

1. To ensure the observance of the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Event Regulations and any associated Bye-Laws.
2. To take such steps as may be necessary to achieve the Objects laid down in Art. 2 of the Statutes.
3. To ensure the execution of decisions taken by Congress and to establish the duties of the individual members of the Council and 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 Regattas and, in general, all events and competitions conducted under the authority of FISA.
6. To select the most suitable bids from candidate national federations for the organisation of World Championships and propose it (them) to the Congress for final approval (in accordance with Rule 5).
7. To propose three Commissions Chairs to Congress to be elected to the Executive Committee in accordance with Art. 48.
8. To appoint Continental Representatives in accordance with Art. 41 and members of the various Commissions in accordance with the proposals of the Chairs of the Commissions concerned and with the approval of the member federation of the person concerned.

Article 45 – Duties of the Council Members

The duties of the members of the Council shall be set out as Bye-Laws.

Bye-Law to Article 45 – Duties of the Council Members

a. Duties of the President

The President of FISA:

1. *leads and represents FISA;*
2. *chairs the Congresses, Council and Executive Committee meetings, Joint Commissions Meetings, and other meetings, where appropriate, and which are organised within FISA or by FISA. In the absence of the President meetings are chaired by the nominee of the President;*
3. *defines the policies to be followed by FISA in co-operation with the Council and the Congress;*
4. *suggests initiatives to promote FISA's goals, delegates tasks to members of the Executive Committee, the Council, Commissions and working groups, in addition to those outlined in the Statutes and Bye-Laws, and encourages the member federations to be active contributors to the advancement of rowing;*
5. *submits a report to the Ordinary Congress each year; and*
6. *may make necessary decisions in urgent circumstances, if it is not possible to consult the relevant parties within FISA. Such decisions shall be deemed to be decisions of the Council for the purposes of Art. 32.*

b. Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President of FISA:

1. *carries out such duties as are delegated by the President;*
2. *is responsible for representing FISA when the President is unable to do so, or when requested by the Executive Committee;*
3. *works on special assignments and working groups when requested to do so by the Executive Committee or the Council. These assignments or working groups may concern the internal affairs of FISA or FISA's relations with other bodies;*
4. *chairs the Development Cross-Commission; and*
5. *submits a report to the Ordinary Congress each year.*

c. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer of FISA:

1. *is responsible for the financial management of FISA;*
2. *prepares FISA's long-term financial plan having regard to the four year Olympic cycle;*
3. *is responsible for keeping the Executive Committee and Council informed of FISA's financial situation by means of management accounts;*

4. *oversees the management of FISA's assets, the adequacy of insurance, the financial terms of major contracts and staff remuneration in consultation with the President and the Executive Director;*
5. *oversees the preparation of the annual budget and the annual accounts, and presents them to the Ordinary Congress, liaises with the Executive Director in order to monitor the progress of income and expenditure during the year, and seeks approval from the Executive Committee for significant deviations from budget; and*
6. *submits a report to the Ordinary Congress each year.*

d. Duties of the Executive Director

The Executive Director of FISA:

1. *is responsible for the effective management of FISA, within the policies and objectives approved from time to time by the FISA Council;*
2. *is supervised by the President and operates within the limits of authority and budget approved by the Executive Committee and the Council;*
3. *selects and engages the staff of FISA within the human resources plan and budget approved by the Council, and is responsible for the direction and management of the staff;*
4. *prepares the annual Business Plan as well as the Olympic Cycle (four year) Business Plan in consultation with the Executive Committee for approval by the Council; and*
5. *submits a report to the Ordinary Congress each year.*

e. Duties of the Commission Chairs

The Chairs of the Commissions of FISA:

1. *advise, direct and represent the Council in their technical areas;*
2. *chair Commission meetings and allocate duties to the Commission members in accordance with the Commission Duty Statement;*
3. *prepare annual budget proposals with the Executive Director for approval by the Executive Committee;*
4. *propose appointments to their Commissions for approval by the Council; and*
5. *report to the Council on technical matters related to their Commissions and submit reports on their Commissions' activities to the Ordinary Congress each year.*

f. Duties of the FISA Continental Representatives

The FISA Continental Representatives:

1. *represent FISA within their continents;*
2. *promote rowing and maintain close and regular contact with the member federations and regatta organisers in their continents;*
3. *take any necessary action in cases of non-observance of the Statutes or Rules of Racing in their continents and, in all such cases, submit reports to the Executive Committee;*
4. *observe the major international regattas held within their continents; and*
5. *submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose they may request reports from the member federations within their continents.*

Article 46 – Council Meetings

The Council shall normally meet at least three times per year as decided by the Executive Committee or when at least seven Council members submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee giving the reasons therefor. It may also meet when so required by the President. The Council may make decisions by correspondence.

The Agendas for all meetings are established by the Executive Committee. Reports on Council meetings shall be circulated to all member federations and Council and Commission members within one month of the meeting.

PART III C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 47 – Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of

1. the President;
2. the Vice President;
3. the Treasurer;
4. the three Commission Chairs (elected according to Art. 48), and;
5. the non-voting Executive Director.

Article 48 – Election of the Three Commission Chairs to the Executive Committee

At the Ordinary Congress in the year following each Olympic Games, three Commission Chairs shall be elected individually to the Executive Committee based on a proposal from the Council.

If one or more of the proposed Commission Chairs does not receive a clear majority of valid votes cast according to Art. 36, there will be additional rounds of voting where all interested Commission Chairs shall be eligible for election to any unfilled position.

Article 49 – Decisions of the Executive Committee

Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be taken by a majority of the valid votes cast. In the case of a tie, the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote. Voting shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested or may take place by correspondence. Determination of a majority shall be in accordance with Art. 36.

Article 50 – Duties of the Executive Committee

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

1. To be responsible for the directional guidance of FISA's programmes with the relevant Council Members, Commission members, working group members, organising committees and member federations.
2. To be responsible for the administrative and financial management of FISA. To this end, the Executive Committee may establish administrative offices with remunerated personnel.
3. To make any decisions appropriate to the circumstances in the interests of the sport of rowing.
4. To decide all questions of interpretation of the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Event Regulations.
5. To impose penalties, at any time, as provided for in Art. 63, 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 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 ensure FISA is represented by its President or by 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, any related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations.
9. To assume all responsibilities which are not expressly attributed to another entity within FISA.

Article 51 – Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee shall normally meet at least three times per year as decided by the President or when at least three Executive Committee members submit a request in writing to the President giving the reasons therefor. The Executive Committee may make decisions by correspondence. The agendas for all meetings shall be established in advance by the chair of the meeting. Minutes of

Executive Committee meetings shall be circulated to all Council members within one month of the meeting.

Article 52 – Casual Vacancies

In case of a casual vacancy in the Council or the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee may replace the member concerned until the next Congress.

PART III d. COMMISSIONS

Article 53 – Commissions

The Council may establish Commissions having special duties and, in particular, in the following fields:

- Athletes
- Competitive Rowing
- Development
- Equipment and Technology
- Events
- Events Promotion
- Masters Rowing
- Para-Rowing
- Rowing for All
- Sports Medicine
- Umpiring
- Women's Rowing
- Youth Rowing

1. These Commissions shall consist, in principle, of four to eight members appointed by the Council for a period of four years which may be renewed, in addition to the Chair who shall be a member of the Council. The Council shall determine from time to time the size of each Commission.
2. The Council shall seek to achieve a gender balance for Commission membership consistent with that in the sport of rowing. The Commissions shall meet as required when so requisitioned by their Chairs. The Council may also create working groups for specific tasks and to entrust occasional assignments to non-members of the Council.
3. Commission members may no longer serve after 31st December following their 65th birthday.
4. The Development and Women's Rowing Commissions are cross commissions whose members are drawn from Council and/or other relevant Commissions. The Development Commission is chaired by the Vice President.
5. The Women's Rowing Commission is chaired by an elected Chair that shall be a member of Council and is not necessarily a member of another Commission.

Bye-Law to Article 53 – Appointments to Commissions

For all Commissions, except Cross Commissions, FISA will call for nominations for Commission membership in the year of election of the Commission Chair. Candidates shall be nominated in writing by their member federations no later than the end of the Congress of that year. Appointments of Commission members are made by the Council on the recommendation of the newly elected Commission Chair. Member federations nominating candidates are expected to commit themselves to provide financial support for the travel and work of the Commission members, if they are appointed. In case of a casual vacancy in a Commission, the Executive Committee may replace the member concerned.

Recognised Working Groups and Management Boards:

1. Working Group on Rowing and the Environment.
2. European Rowing Management Board.

Article 54 – Duties of the Commissions, Working Groups and Management Boards

The duties, authority and field of activity of each Commission, Working Group and Management Board shall be set out in the Bye-Laws.

Bye-Law to Article 54 – Duties of the Commissions, Working Groups and Management Boards

1. Terms of Reference

Each Commission:

- 1.1. *in principle, meets at least twice a year; one of the meetings is at the annual Joint Commissions Meeting. Meetings may be by conference call.*
- 1.2. *will liaise with the President, the Council and the Executive Director through its Chair.*
- 1.3. *will liaise with other Commissions generally and at Joint Commissions meetings.*
- 1.4. *will provide an annual report to the Council and any other reports as required.*
- 1.5. *is responsible for producing and circulating minutes of Commission meetings to the Council.*

2. Working Groups and Management Boards

- 2.1 *Working Groups, appointed for specific tasks, report to the Council through their Chair. The Environmental Working Group shall consist of four expert members appointed by the Council to serve two-year terms.*
- 2.2 *Management Boards, created for specific reasons as defined by the Council, report to the Council through their Chair.*

3. Specific Duties of the Commissions

(see Appendix 1)

PART IV – INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATIONS

Article 55 - Commitment

Any party that deals with FISA, is a member of FISA or shares in its activities including a party which:

- a. participates in an event under the authority of FISA;
- b. acts as an official (trainer, coach, team manager, delegate, representative etc.) of a team, a club, a member federation, or recognised confederation;
- c. officiates as an international umpire or in a similar role;
- d. organises or participates in a competition which is placed under FISA's authority, according to the Statutes and Rules of Racing;
- e. assumes any role within FISA, within its Council, its Executive Committee, one of its Commissions or another Committee or Working Group or Management Board;

recognises and accepts the following, subject to paragraph v:

- i. the FISA Statutes, Rules of Racing, any related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;
- ii. FISA's authority on all matters concerning international rowing;
- iii. the mandatory nature of the Statutes, the Bye-Laws and other Rules regulating FISA, in their current version and as amended from time to time;
- iv. FISA's jurisdiction to make any decision or impose any sanction within its field of competence;
- v. the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne as the only competent judicial authority external to FISA, to the exclusion of any ordinary court of law, any civil judicial authority of any country and any other arbitration body:
 - a) to settle any dispute which directly involves FISA, one of its bodies, one of its Executive Committee members, any person acting on its behalf (Council and

- Commission members, umpires, etc.), one of its members or an organising committee of a FISA event run under FISA's authority (see Art. 64);
- b) to review any decision alleged to violate any relevant law, any fundamental legal principles or FISA statutory clause (see Art. 65);
- c) to rule on any appeals from disciplinary sanctions or penalties of any kind, made by FISA or one of its bodies (see Art. 65).
- vi. the final and without appeal status of the decisions made by the CAS;
- vii. the requirement to abide by the decisions of FISA and CAS without attempting to hinder their application;
- viii. the application of Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure supplemental to FISA and CAS rules and regulations with Lausanne as the only place and seat of the arbitration.

Article 56 – Individual and Written Confirmation of Commitments

Although the commitment set out in Art. 55 is mandatory and automatic, FISA may, in addition, request individual and written confirmation of any commitment from the following individuals or entities, in accordance with the appropriate forms appended to these Statutes from:

1. any FISA member federation or from any national rowing federation which wishes to become a member;
2. any rower, club, official, or international umpire likely to participate in a competition under FISA's authority;
3. an organising committee of any event under FISA's authority.

These confirmations are valid unless and until they have been formally revoked in writing and this written revocation has reached the FISA headquarters. Such revocation shall not be retroactive and shall only be valid if the individual or entity has ceased all activities or relationships to which the commitment refers.

PART V – INTEGRITY OF THE SPORT

Article 57 – Code of Ethics

Any party which deals with FISA and/or shares in its activities, notably those referred to in Art. 55, commits to behave in a manner prescribed in the Bye-Laws and according to all generally recognised ethical principles including the principles of the Code of Ethics of the International Olympic Committee (Appendix 2).

Article 58 – Integrity in Competition

Any party which deals with FISA and/or shares in its activities, notably those referred to in Art. 55, shall be bound by, and be required to comply with the Bye-Laws relating to Manipulation of Competition and Betting by virtue of such participation or assistance (in Appendix 3).

Article 59 – Right of Complaint

Any party claiming to have a valid complaint in relation to Articles 57 and 58 concerning a party mentioned in Art. 55 may submit it to the Executive Committee or, in a case involving a member of the Executive Committee, to the IOC Ethics Commission

The Executive Committee has the authority to make decisions on all cases except cases involving members of the Executive Committee, in which case the IOC Ethics Commission has the authority to decide.

The relevant authority may make any decision it deems appropriate and the decision may be published.

Article 60 – Applicable Procedural Rules

The Executive Committee and the IOC Ethics Commission shall respect the principles stipulated in Art. 62.

PART VI – JUDICIAL PROVISIONS

Article 61 – Judicial Bodies of FISA

The following bodies of FISA have judicial powers in accordance with FISA Statutes, Rules of Racing, any related Bye-Laws or Event Regulations:

- the Congress
- the Council
- the Executive Committee
- the Board of the Jury
- the Doping Hearing Panel

With the exception of the Board of the Jury and a Doping Hearing Panel, the body concerned may delegate its power to a smaller number of its members to undertake any investigation, hearing or imposition of penalty. In all cases the provisions of Articles 62 and 63 shall be followed.

Article 62 – Procedural Rules Applicable to the Judicial Bodies of FISA

The judicial bodies of FISA shall provide fair procedures to all parties involved and shall respect their fundamental rights. They recognise in particular:

1. that a person who may have a conflict of interest shall not be a member of the decision-making body.
2. the right of the person charged to know what he is charged with and to examine his file.
3. the right to know the penalties which might be imposed.
4. the right to be heard, to present a defence, to produce evidence and to be assisted by counsel.

In addition, the following rules apply:

1. A protest or appeal shall be submitted in writing to the relevant body and shall set out the facts, reasons and evidence on which it is based. It shall be accompanied by a deposit of CHF 100 or equivalent, which amount shall be refunded if the protest or appeal is allowed.
2. A decision is considered as delivered when received by the person concerned or his member federation. A protest or appeal is validly made if it is received before midnight FISA headquarters time, on the last day of the deadline.
3. The lodging of a protest or of an appeal shall not have the effect of suspending the decision at stake or any penalty imposed.

However, the protester or appellant may submit a request for suspension of the decision or penalty and the body hearing the appeal or the protest shall rule on the request.

For all situations not covered by the Statutes, Rules, any related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations, the judicial bodies of FISA shall apply Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure.

Article 63 – Penalties and Financial Compensation

The judicial bodies of FISA have the power to make decisions and impose penalties in their areas of duty set out in the Statutes, Rules of Racing, any related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations. They can impose the following penalties (where provided under the Rules):

1. Reprimand, which may be a public reprimand;
2. Warning indicated by a “Yellow Card” (according to Rules 81 and 84);
3. Relegation;
4. Exclusion indicated by a “Red Card” (according to Rules 81 and 84);
5. Disqualification;
6. Ban from competition;
7. Fine;
8. Expulsion (according to Art. 17);
9. any other appropriate measure.

If appropriate, the judicial body concerned may suspend, in part or in whole, the ban from competition or the payment of the fine subject to the Anti-Doping Rules.

The judicial body concerned may also order payment of money as financial compensation or fine against those (in particular member federations, clubs, rowers, or officials) who have behaved in a negligent or inappropriate manner including where such conduct has caused financial loss or damage to another party or breached these Statutes, Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws or Event Regulations.

Article 64 – Ordinary Arbitration Proceedings

Any party that alleges that a decision made by a FISA judicial body that it has not supported violates fundamental legal principles or FISA statutory clause(s), or that has a dispute with FISA, may submit a claim to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne only, to the exclusion of any court of law of any country or any other arbitration body. The claim shall set out the facts and reasons upon which it is based. It shall be sent to CAS within one month from the day of delivery of the decision or, in the case of dispute, from the day FISA formally refused to accept its views or request. The CAS conducts the arbitration and rules over the dispute in accordance with its own regulations. In addition, the CAS applies Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure. The seat and place of the arbitration is in Lausanne. The decisions made by the CAS are final and may not be appealed.

Article 65 – Appeal Arbitration Proceedings

Any party penalised by a judicial body of FISA may appeal the decision to CAS in Lausanne only, to the exclusion of any court of law of any country or any other arbitration body. The appeal brief shall set out the facts and reasons on which it is based. It shall be sent to CAS within 21 days following receipt by the party of the decision in question. The CAS conducts the appeal and rules on it in accordance with its own regulations. In addition, the CAS applies Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure. The seat and place of the arbitration is in Lausanne. The decisions made by the CAS are final and may not be appealed.

PART VII – DISSOLUTION

Article 66 – Dissolution

The dissolution of FISA shall be valid only if carried by four-fifths of the valid votes cast at an Extraordinary Congress specially convened for the purpose. Furthermore, a quorum of two-thirds of the member federations is necessary.

Article 67 – Assets

If the motion for dissolution is carried, the Executive Committee shall be entitled to realise the assets of FISA which shall be divided equally between the member federations constituting FISA at the time the vote is taken.

Article 68 – Exceptions

In no other circumstances shall any member federation have any claim to any share whatsoever in the assets and any federation ceasing to be a member shall forfeit its claim to any assets of FISA.

PART VIII – CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 69 – Concluding Provisions

These Statutes were approved effective immediately by the FISA Extraordinary Congress from 15th to 16th February 2013 in Copenhagen, Denmark

Denis Oswald
President

Matt Smith
Executive Director