

Proposal for FISA Congress

Linz, Austria

2 September 2019



Rowing's Challenge

We believe the inclusion of rowing within the Olympic and Paralympic program beyond 2028 is at significant risk.

We further believe that the size of the quota allotted to rowing at the Olympics specifically will be reduced for 2024 and again in 2028 to make way for new events that better meet the new criteria for events as laid out by the IOC.

While there are many positive attributes to our sport that continue to support our inclusion in the Olympic and Paralympic program, we believe that other sports are taking steps to better meet the IOC's enhanced requirements, and also those of the IPC.

We do not believe that current proposals include sufficient exploration or testing of new formats or program ideas.



Questions that we should be asking

1. How might we amplify aspects that make our sport compelling?
2. What steps could we take to significantly enhance the attractiveness of rowing as an Olympic and Paralympic events in the long-term?
3. If rowing were not an established Olympic sport what conditions would have to be in place for rowing to gain entry to the Games?



Future Direction of the International Olympic Committee

The IOC is changing the landscape of the Olympic Games by shifting **from a sport-based program to an event-based program.**

In this new paradigm, new Olympic events have a 'unique signature' or 'look and feel' which is readily apparent **to broad audiences** and the media as well as those more closely connected to the sport.



2019 Statements by IOC President Thomas Bach

“...in contemplating the sports program at future Games...a balance must be struck between tradition and progress...but tradition is of itself not a value as traditional sports need to adapt to modern consumer habits by looking to review their rules/format/presentation...otherwise those traditional sports will disappear...”

“...put another way...where the relevance and audience for a sport is bigger at the Games than it is between the Games...the Games cannot bridge that gap forever...”

“...where it used to be that the IOC would ask of bidders how they intended to adapt their city to accommodate the Games...the reverse now applies...and by way of example for P2024 and LA2028 90% of the facilities are already in place today”.

Source: Australia Olympic Congress (April 2019)



Decisions from the February 2019 FISA Council

**Meeting: Linz, Austria
2 September 2019**

1c. Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games

1n. Lightweight Rowing (i.e. 2024 Olympic Program Options)



1c. Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games

- The Council was presented with a proposal to study an **alternative venue** for the LA2028 Olympic Games.
- The bid proposal was to stage this regatta at Lake Perris, a reservoir on the east of Los Angeles which would require a satellite Olympic Village.
- LA2028 proposed that an existing venue in Long Beach, California be considered.
- The Long Beach Marine Stadium for the 1932 Olympic Games and hosting the Olympic regatta there would allow the athletes to stay in the main Olympic Village at UCLA.
- **The Council agreed to proceed with more detailed studies on the impact of the tides on fairness and the possible reduction of the race distance.**



1n. Lightweight Rowing (i.e. 2024 Olympic Program Options)

- The Council has made a preliminary decision to continue to study the future and position of lightweight rowing in World Rowing, studying the entries at the international level and the national level, leading to discussion and proposals at the 2020 Extraordinary Congress in October 2020 in London, Great Britain.
- It was also decided that **two options** for the Olympic programme of Paris 2024 need to be developed concurrently, **one being the status quo** of Tokyo and the **other substituting Coastal Rowing for the two lightweight events**.
- Discussion during 2019 and 2020 will centre on the IOC's position on rowing's events and competition categories, the quota reductions announced for 2024 and its decisions impacting the Olympic Games related to Olympic Agenda 2020 and the IOC's "New Norm".



Proposal to establish working group to address the Long-Term Future of Olympic and Paralympic Rowing

2019 FISA Congress

Meeting: Linz, Austria
2 September 2019



Proposal to the FISA Congress

The National Federations of Australia, Canada, Great Britain, and the United States of America propose that:

- An Independent Working Group be formed to assess what further options might be possible to secure Olympic and Paralympic inclusion for the long term (i.e. post- LA 2028) beyond those currently being considered by FISA.
- The Working Group is chaired by an independent sports business professional outside of the current FISA Council and includes representation from appropriate National Federations, athletes and FISA, as well as experts in developing sports media-centric properties.
- The Working Group's final report and recommendations to be submitted for consideration when National Federations are required to vote on the future Olympic and Paralympic programme for Paris 2024 in October 2020 (location TBD)
- The National Federations of Australia, Canada, Great Britain, and the United States of America will contribute up to SFr 40,000 to fund the Working Group.



Working Group Mandate

The working group will review and make bold recommendations for a ‘unique signature’ or ‘look and feel’, which is readily apparent and compelling to broad audiences.

The objectives of the working group is to develop a long-term vision for the Olympic and Paralympic Rowing Competition that addresses the following:

1. Reaffirm the Olympics and Paralympics as the pinnacle event, every 4 years, that showcases the skills and diversity of the best rowers from all parts of the world.
2. Olympic and Paralympic Events and formats are chosen to present the sport of rowing as a challenging but accessible and rewarding sport for participants from all countries, and as an engaging experience for spectators and remote audiences.
3. Establish international event format and competition calendar which provide an effective platform for promotion of the sport, and elite rowers, between each Olympics and Paralympics.
4. Create Option Three for final consideration at the 2020 FISA Congress.



Proposed Working Group Structure

September 30 – Working Group formed and consists of the following (for discussion):

- Two (2) independent advisors (selected by the NF and FISA representatives)
- Three (3) FISA representatives including Chair of the Athletes Commission

Additional representation up to five (5) including:

- NF executives from major sports media markets
- Continental Representatives from regions not represented above

PROPOSED NUMBER OF MEMBERS: ~10



Proposed Timeline

- October 18 – 20: Meeting One (proposed venue: Head of the Charles, Boston, USA)
- November 23 – 24: Meeting Two (Joint Commissions meeting, London, UK)
- April: Meeting Three (San Diego/LA, CA or EUROPE or ASIA)
- May 23-24: Initial presentation of Option 3 (venue: Lucerne, Switzerland)
- June – September: Final consultations with FISA members
- October 2020: Presentation of Option 3 to the FISA Congress

