

# 2020 OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION SYSTEM FOR ROWING

*DRAFT at 2 September 2017*

*For discussion at the NF Conference in Sarasota/Bradenton*

## A. Agreed principles of the Qualification System

### 1. General Qualification Principles

#### 1.1. Excellence versus Participation

The Council generally agreed that the ratios between “excellence” and “participation” achieved in Rio (70:30 for boats and 85:15 for athletes) are appropriate targets. However, these ratios should not be considered as absolute requirements.

Since 1996, the excellence to participation ratios at the Games have been:

Atlanta: 77/23, Sydney: 71/29, Athens: 75/25, Beijing: 72/28, London: 72/28, Rio: 70/30

The Council believes that these numbers define the limits within which we should be operating, i.e. between 70 - 77% excellence and 23 – 30% participation.

The total number of NOCs participating in the Games should be considered as a key indicator of success in terms of participation.

#### 1.2. Excellence quota per boat

The process to allocate the number of boats per event that qualify through the “excellence” route (i.e. at the World Championships or the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta) started by defining an “in-principle” position. This position was: 13 places for the small boats (singles, pairs and doubles), 13, 10 or 7 places for the fours and quads, and 7 places for the eights. In applying the agreed principles however, it became apparent that there were some incompatibilities between the principles. For example, achieving a 70:30 ratio between excellence and participation boats cannot be achieved with 13 excellence places in all of the small boats and 13 boats in the fours. Some compromise was necessary and adjustments had to be made to the excellence places per event. The Council has therefore determined that the following allocations should be made:

M1x, W1x	11	This is an increase of two places from the 2016 Rio Games. A further increase to 13 places would result in an unacceptable restriction to the number of participation places available in light of broad acceptance that the single sculls event is critical for increased participation.
M2-, W2-	13	
M2x, W2x	13	
M4-, W4-	10	
M4x, W4x	10	
M8+, W8+	7	
LM2x, LW2x	9	The number of excellence places is reduced from 11 places at the Rio 2016 Games to 9 in Tokyo. This is to ensure an acceptable level of participation places. Increase in participation is one of the main arguments that has been accepted by the IOC for supporting lightweight doubles in the Olympic programme.

### **1.3. Including pairs in the Continental Qualification Regattas**

During the review process, a proposal was made to include pairs in the Continental Qualification Regattas. The rationale was to develop sweep rowing in the continents, and particularly to stimulate women's sweep rowing. The Council recognises the positive elements of this proposal but does not see a way to include pairs in the Continental Qualification Regattas without negatively impacting the achievement of the other key objectives. Consequently, it is confirmed that there will be no pairs in the Continental Qualification.

### **1.4. Doubling up**

A suggestion was received to include compulsory doubling up as a feature of the Olympic Qualification System.

The Council would like to make a clear statement on this topic. A system of compulsory doubling up is very complex and has the potential to be unfair when some would have to double up and others not. Although remote, it could also raise the risk of gaming, in that there may be an incentive to hold back in one event in order to improve chances in the other event.

In discussions with the IOC on the event and athlete quota, FISA's position has been that each of the seven Olympic boat classes is unique and requires specialised skills and a specific training regimen. Based on this principle as well as a number of other factors, the competition format currently planned for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic regatta does not support compulsory doubling up, and is structured on the basis that athletes are selected for and training in one boat class only. Compulsory doubling up, therefore, will not be considered for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic racing programme.

### **1.5. Limiting the number of places that an NF may qualify through the World Rowing Championships and the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta**

There will be no limit imposed on the number of qualification places that an NF can achieve via the World Championships and/ or the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta.

### **1.6. Countries qualifying a certain number of boats at the World Championships may not be allowed to participate at the relevant Continental Qualification Regatta to gain places reserved for maximising "participation"**

Considering that the purpose of the Continental Qualification Regattas is to achieve the highest number of NFs possible competing at the Olympic Games, the Council is of the view that countries qualifying **two or more** boats at the World Championships should not be eligible to enter crews in the Continental Qualification Regattas. These countries would still be eligible to compete for the qualification places in the singles and lightweight doubles at the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta.

Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA – if eligible and not excluded by the above-mentioned principle – shall participate in their own Continental Qualification Regattas (for Asia/Oceania and the Americas) rather than in the European Qualification Regatta, as was the case under the qualification system for the Rio 2016 Olympics.

### **1.7. There should be two chances to qualify for each event**

The principle of previous Olympic Qualification Systems was that there should be two chances to qualify for each qualification place.

The Council now proposes that, under the 2020 Qualification System, a NF may have *at least* two chances to qualify for each event and there will be no restriction on who may participate in the Final Qualification Regatta. This means that those NFs that have participated in the Continental Qualification Regatta in an event but not qualified may compete again in that event at the Final Qualification. The restriction on participation exists *only* for the Continental Qualification Regattas, where only those NFs that have qualified less than two crews at the 2019 World Rowing Championships are eligible to participate (point 1.6 above).

### **1.8 Type of allocation of quota places**

As for previous Games, for quota places obtained at the African, Asian/Oceania, American and European Continental Qualification regattas and the Final Qualification regatta, the rowers that qualified the boat(s) at these events have to compete in the same boat class should they compete at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

For quota places obtained at the 2019 World Rowing Championships, the NOC may enter a boat with different rowers at the 2020 Olympic Games than those who qualified the boat.

## **2. Qualifying through the Continental Qualification Regattas**

The paragraphs below define certain restrictions on the number of crews that an individual NF can qualify from the Continental Qualification Regattas. These restrictions will result in certain crews that have achieved qualifying places at the Continental Qualification Regatta not being eligible for the Games.

### **2.1 Limiting qualification through the Continental Qualification Regatta to one boat per gender per NF or one boat per NF or two boats per NF**

Considering again that the purpose of the Continental Qualification Regattas is to achieve the highest number of NFs possible competing at the Olympic Games, NFs will be allowed to qualify a maximum of **one boat** through the Continental Qualification Regatta.

The Council believes however, that the winner of the Continental competition should, in principle, qualify for the Games. Therefore, as an exception, if two crews from an NF each win at the Continental Qualification Regatta, both crews shall qualify. In the case that three or four crews from the same NF win, the NF shall select two crews to qualify for the Games, one from each gender.

The Council believes that applying this principle to the Continental Qualification Regattas will greatly increase the number of NOCs participating in the Games in Rowing. Based on observations from previous Games and reports from the FISA Development personnel, the Council also believes that having one crew competing at the Games from a new NOC will have a greater impact on the development of rowing overall than allowing a second crew to qualify from an already-qualified NF, noting increased opportunities for access to funding for developing rowing in the country and promotion of the sport.

### **2.2 Eligibility of crews for qualification through the Continental Qualification Regatta**

If an NF achieves more than one qualifying place at a Continental Qualification Regatta, it is the highest-ranking crew from the NF that would qualify for the Games. If two or more crews have equal rank in qualifying places (other than first place, which is dealt with in 2.1 above), then the NF must select the crew that will qualify for the Games.

The Council strongly recommends that national federations should publish clear selection policies and that the athletes should be informed of the selection criteria well in advance. FISA will provide a sample set of criteria that national federations may use as a basis for their selection policies.

### **2.3 Unused qualification places obtained at the Continental Qualification Regattas should be reallocated to the next-ranked crew at that regatta from an NF that has not yet qualified any boats for the Olympic Games**

The Council agreed in principle with this suggestion. However, it should be clarified that, in the case where an NF has qualified one boat at the World Championships (and is therefore still eligible to participate in the Continental Qualification Regatta), that NF may still qualify a boat if it achieves an automatic qualification place at the Continental event. It is only in the case of a reallocation of a qualification place that an NF that has already qualified a boat will not be considered for the reallocated place.

### **2.4 Unallocated participation places from Continental Qualification Regattas are added to the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta**

After applying the above principles to increase participation, and where there are no further crews at the Continental Qualification Regatta to which qualifying places can be allocated, unallocated places will be added to the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta in the relevant boat classes for qualification.

This principle becomes more relevant in the case where qualification through the continents is limited to one place per NF, as the number of competing crews may not be sufficient to allocate all the Continental places.

## **3. Other qualification elements**

### **3.1 Reallocation of unused Host Nation places**

Unused Host Nation places (Japan) shall be reallocated to the Asian/Oceania Continental Qualification Regatta.

### **3.2 Reallocation of unused Tripartite places**

Unused Tripartite places shall be reallocated to the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta.

## **B. Qualification scenarios: allocation of qualification places between events and qualification regattas**

Following the confirmation of the Qualification System principles, a number of options for the allocation of the 526 athlete quota places between events and qualification regattas were considered by the Council. In analysing the different options, the Council removed those that it found did not adequately adhere to the principles. The remaining selection was then narrowed down to one option that the Council believes adheres to the principles and best promotes FISA's objectives for the Olympic Qualification System.

The chosen scenario is based upon the decision to allocate 32 qualification places to the single sculls for both men and women. Within the 32 places, there are 11 excellence places, 18 participation places, one host nation place and two tripartite places. The single sculls is the event that most effectively increases participation, and reducing the number of places to less than 32 would impact the number of NOCs participating in the Games, with the negative effects that this would in turn have on the development of our sport.

With the number of single sculls fixed at 32, pairs and open doubles at 13 and eights at 7, the remaining athlete quota had to be distributed among the lightweight doubles, the fours and quads. The Council decided that the allocation that will best achieve FISA's goals for our sport is 10 fours, 10 quads and 18 lightweight doubles.

Applying the above decisions creates the scenario presented on the following page. The Rio 2016 Qualification System is included after Scenario A as a reference.

## Qualification Scenario A

<b>Qualification places:</b>				<b>Excellence places:</b>		<b>Participation places:</b>	
32	1x	10	4-	11	1x (Rio = 9)	60 (29%)	Boats
18	L2x	10	4x	9	L2x (Rio = 11)	78 (15%)	Rowers

	World Champs	Asia/Oceania (+AUS, NZL)	Africa	Americas (+CAN, USA)	European	Host Nation Places	Tripartite Places	Final OQR	Total Boats	Total Rowers
<b>Men</b>										
M1x	9	5	5	5	3	1	2	2	32	32
M2-	11							2	13	26
M2x	11							2	13	26
M4-	8							2	10	40
M4x	8							2	10	40
M8+	5							2	7	63
<b>Men LWT</b>										
LM2x	7	3	1	3	2			2	18	36
<b>Total Men Boats</b>	59	8	6	8	5	1	2	14	103	263
<b>Women</b>										
W1x	9	5	5	5	3	1	2	2	32	32
W2-	11							2	13	26
W2x	11							2	13	26
W4-	8							2	10	40
W4x	8							2	10	40
W8+	5							2	7	63
<b>Women LWT</b>										
LW2x	7	3	1	3	2			2	18	36
<b>Total Women Boats</b>	59	8	6	8	5	1	2	14	103	263
<b>TOTAL</b>									<b>206</b>	<b>526</b>
<b>Excellence</b>									<b>146</b>	<b>448</b>
<b>Participation</b>									<b>60</b>	<b>78</b>

	Boat		Rower	
<b>Excellence</b>	71%	146	448	85%
<b>Participation</b>	29%	60	78	15%
<b>Total</b>	100%	206	526	100%

Seat/boat Analysis				
	Sculling boats	Sweep boats	Sculling seats	Sweep seats
Men	73	30	134	129
Women	73	30	134	129
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>258</b>

Lightweight Analysis				
	Open Seats	LWT Seats	Open Seat %	LWT Seat %
Male	227	36	43.16	6.84
Female	227	36	43.16	6.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>86.31</b>	<b>13.69</b>

## 2020 Olympic Qualification Scenarios

### Rio 2016\* (Reference)

<b>Qualification places:</b>				<b>Excellence places:</b>		<b>Participation places:</b>	
32	1x	13	4-	9	1x	64 (30%)	Boats
20	L2x	10M/7W	4x	11	L2x	82 (15%)	Rowers

\*Adding the W4- in place of the LM4-

	World Champs	Asia/Oceania (+AUS, NZL)	Africa	Americas (+CAN,USA)	European	Host Nation Places	Tripartite Places	Final OQR	Total Boats	Total Rowers
<b>Men</b>										
M1x	9	7	4	6	3	1	2		32	32
M2-	11							2	13	26
M2x	11							2	13	26
M4-	11							2	13	52
M4x	8							2	10	40
M8+	5							2	7	63
<b>Men LWT</b>										
LM2x	11	3	1	3	2				20	40
<b>Total Men Boats</b>	66	10	5	9	5	1	2	10	108	279
<b>Women</b>										
W1x	9	7	4	6	3	1	2		32	32
W2-	11							4	15	30
W2x	11							2	13	26
W4-	11							2	13	52
W4x	5							2	7	28
W8+	5							2	7	63
<b>Women LWT</b>										
LW2x	11	3	1	3	2				20	40
<b>Total Women Boats</b>	63	10	5	9	5	1	2	12	107	271
<b>TOTAL</b>									<b>215</b>	<b>550</b>
Excellence									151	468
Participation									64	82

### Rio Reference

	Boat		Rower	
Excellence	70%	151	468	85%
Participation	30%	64	82	15%
Total	100%	215	550	100%

Seat/boat Analysis				
	Sculling boats	Sweep boats	Sculling seats	Sweep seats
Men	75	33	138	141
Women	72	35	126	145
Total	147	68	264	286

Actual Rio Lightweight Analysis*				
	Open Seats	LWT Seats	Open Seat %	LWT Seat %
Male	239	92	43.45	16.73
Female	179	40	32.55	7.27
Total	418	132	76.00	24.00

\*Includes LM4-, LM2x and LW2x