



# Asian Rowing Federation

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To President Jean-Christophe Rolland

President,

FISA

In order to promote the universality of rowing in Asia and to help rowing meet the IOC's requirements, after consulting and combining the opinions from the whole Asia, the Asian Rowing Federation would like to put forward the following proposal on behalf of Asia:

Retain the existing lightweight events LM2x, LM4-, LW2x and replace M4- with LW4-.

Reasons:

1. This proposal provide similar options for gender equality.
2. This proposal will ensure a balance between sweep and sculling events.
3. Since their introduction in Asian competition, lightweight events have consistently attracted the highest number of

entries at the Asia Cup, Asian Championships and Asian Games. In 2016 Asian Rowing Championships, 67 lightweight athletes of total 197 athletes competed in the regatta, which was more than one third of the total number. Furthermore, in 2015 Asian Rowing Championships, 113 lightweight athletes of total 267 athletes competed in the regatta, which was almost half of the total number. In other Asian Rowing Regattas, this proportion can often be higher.

4. A large proportion of the entries in open category events in Asia are in fact made by lightweight crews doubling-up. Even for Olympic qualification in M1x and W1x, during the period since 1996, many crews have been lightweight rowers - due to the lack of sufficient seats in the lightweight events. In 2016 Asian Rowing Championships, many lightweight athletes doubled-up in open events and it is often the case athletes that competitors in Asian open events only meet the norms of lightweight athletes.
5. Apart from the Chinese Team, all of the best performances by other Asian countries at the world level have been made by lightweight crews - including all appearances in World Championships and World U.23 Championship A finals.
6. Anthropometric data on height and weight show that a high proportion of the Asian population meet the norms for lightweight rowing athletes - particularly in Southern China, East and South East Asia, and South Asia.

7. Considerable investment has been made over the past 15 to 20 years in building up lightweight programmes and developing selection pathways and funding structures for lightweight rowers. Cuts to the lightweight programme at the Olympic Games presents a serious risk of significant funding cuts to long-standing high-performance programmes in Asia and thus serious damage to the hard work and investment of the past years.

As lightweight events are very important to the development and universality of rowing in Asia, the reduction of lightweight events will cause harmful effects to the Asian rowing development. Please take the proposal from Asia into consideration and do not cut back lightweight rowing seats in the future Olympic Programme. Allow more people around the world to participate in this great sport!



Shi WANG

President

Asian Rowing Federation

