



11 February 2022  
Lausanne, Switzerland

**To:** Member Federations  
Council and Commission Members  
Recognised Continental Confederations  
Recognised Groupings of Member Federations  
Organisers of World Rowing Events  
National Rowing Magazines  
Partners

### **World Rowing Circular No. 2 of 2022**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Circular covers the following items:

1. 2022 Statute Bye-Law and Appendices Changes
2. 2022 Rules of Racing Bye-Law and Event Regulation Changes
3. 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Systems
4. Safeguarding Participants in Rowing from Harassment & Abuse – Education and Awareness Programme
5. World Rowing Member Federation Details

#### **1. 2022 Statute Bye-Law and Appendices Changes**

The Council has reviewed and approved changes to the World Rowing Statute Bye-Laws and Appendices which were submitted by the Governance Working Group. A summary of the substantive changes is provided below:

- **Appendix S5 Athletes Commission Regulations & Election Procedures**  
These new regulations have been reviewed as part of the implementation planning for the elections & appointments taking place in 2022. This review highlighted some sections which needed to be amended to provide a more practicable solution. The key amendments are listed here:
  - Athletes' Commission (AC) members must be eligible for membership at the time of the election and appointment process and may then serve a full four year-term. They will no longer be required to step down *during* their mandate as a result of them reaching the eighth anniversary of their last participation at a World Rowing World Championship or Olympic or Paralympic Games.
  - The AC Election Committee will now be known as the AC Election & Appointment Committee and this committee will oversee the entire election and appointment process.
  - The AC Election & Appointment Committee will recommend the appointed AC members to Council (not the Chair, as previously proposed, since the Chair appointment takes place at the end of the AC election & appointment process).
- **Appendix S9 Duties of the Commissions - Umpiring Commission Duties.** This change creates a new section on Commission membership to specify eligibility requirements for the Commission. Commission members will be required to have a valid International Umpiring Licence, be

recognised as experts in umpiring and have experience as members of Juries at World Rowing and International Events.

- **Gender Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (GEDI) Cross Commission**  
Following the approval by the 2020 Extraordinary Congress and the subsequent transition year in 2021, the bye-laws have now been updated to reflect the transition from the Women's Cross Commission to the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Cross Commission, including the inclusion of the duties of the GEDI Cross Commission. The changes relate to Bye-Laws to Art 39 Election of Council Members; Bye-Laws to Art 54 Commissions; Appendix S9 (Bye-Laws to Art 55) Duties of the Commissions.

The complete marked-up version of the approved changes can be found on the World Rowing website at the following link: <https://worldrowing.com/technical/rules/>

If you have any questions, please contact Lucy Trochet ([lucytrochet@worldrowing.com](mailto:lucytrochet@worldrowing.com))

## 2. 2022 Rules of Racing Bye-Law and Event Regulation Changes

The Council has reviewed and approved changes to the World Rowing Rules of Racing Bye-Laws and Events Regulations which were submitted by the Rules Working Group. A summary of the substantive changes is provided below:

- **Appendix R1 Men's and Women's Events (Bye-law to Rule 13).** The requirement for rowing in a men's event is modified to state that athletes must not be female. This allows athletes identifying as non-binary to compete in men's events.
- **Appendix R2 Boats and Equipment (Bye-law to Rule 28).** These changes address the ongoing technological development in the sport, definitions of fins and rudders are added to R2.
- **Appendix R13 World Cup Regulations.** These changes bring the World Cup Regulations in line with the World Championships with regard to minimum entries and medals, a World Cup event will now be cancelled when there is only one entry. When there are less than 4 entries in a World Cup, medals will only be awarded to one less crew than the number of crews entered.
- **Appendix R14 Para Rowing Competition Regulations.** These changes create the principle that adaptations to the equipment used by Para Rowers cannot improve the function of an athlete such that it is inconsistent with what was represented in the classification process or the athlete's Sport Class.
- **Appendix R18 Coastal Rowing Competition Regulations.** With the possibility Coastal Rowing (R18) or Beach Sprints (R19), being included in future Olympic Games, there is a focus on continued development of the Regulations for these disciplines. A progression system based on rankings

and not times is being developed for coastal races. The running start is eliminated for Beach Starts in coastal races. Instead, all rowers will now be standing beside their boat in the water with no part of their torso or legs in or on the boat at the start. For Water Starts, all crews committing a false start will be awarded a 2-minute time penalty and the race will not be stopped. If the crews committing a false start cannot be identified, the race may be stopped and restarted. In continuing the efforts to have the order of finish represent the final ranking of a race, no objections, protests or appeals will be allowed against the decision of an Umpire to impose or not to impose a penalty for interference.

- **Appendix R19 Beach Sprint Rowing Regulations.** The false start regulation is clarified so that when the starting command is given, the runners feet must be behind the start line and the rowers standing by their boats in the water must not have their torsos or legs in or on the boat. The penalty for not rounding the third buoy was increased to 120 seconds. There will be no penalty box in Beach Sprints and all “time” penalties will be added to a crew’s finish time.

The complete marked-up version of the approved changes can be found on the World Rowing website at the following link: <https://worldrowing.com/technical/rules/>

If you have any questions, please contact Prateek Gumber ([prateek.gumber@worldrowing.com](mailto:prateek.gumber@worldrowing.com) )

The updated version of the complete Rule Book will be available on the World Rowing website in pdf version in the coming days and the Rule Book App is expected to be updated by mid-March.

On behalf of the Council, we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Governance Working Group and the Rules Working Group for this excellent work.

### **3. 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Systems**

The internal analysis of the qualification rules and consequences continues. The IOC Executive Board will decide on the Olympic and the IPC Governance Board will decide on the Paralympic Qualification System in March 2022. Further information will be communicated when we have received these decisions from the IOC and the IPC.

### **4. Safeguarding Education & Awareness Programme - Athletes**

Following on from the World Rowing Safeguarding Webinar series which took place in March, two further webinars are planned for the Athlete community to discuss how rowers can contribute to a safer environment across our sport. To register for the webinars, please click on the links below:

- 7 March, 13h30 CET - Webinar 1, “Athlete Rights and Responsibilities with respect to Safeguarding: what you need to know”  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_g1Hrs2L4QsewJts2TS5RmQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g1Hrs2L4QsewJts2TS5RmQ)

- 14 March, 13h30 CET - Webinar 2, "Putting athletes' rights and responsibilities into action – a toolkit for athletes"  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7CT1VGqKRwmcc\\_ue\\_mxs\\_mw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7CT1VGqKRwmcc_ue_mxs_mw)

Please communicate this information to your athlete community and encourage their participation. For more information:

<https://worldrowing.com/responsibility/safeguarding/>

## 5. World Rowing Member Federation Details

We kindly ask that each Member Federation check their details presented on the website and inform World Rowing Headquarters ([info@worldrowing.com](mailto:info@worldrowing.com)) of any incorrect information. Please refer to this section of the website:

<https://worldrowing.com/about/organisation/member-federations/>

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Christophe Rolland  
President



Vincent Gaillard  
Executive Director

Attachments