

One of our newest innovations at World Rowing Events is Athlete Lane Selection (ALS). The ALS process allows crews to choose the lanes that they will use for racing. While it was first tested at a World Cup in 2019, a fuller test was scheduled for this year. The first plan was to use the Poznan World Cup 2 as a trial for ALS. After success in Poznan, the decision was made to further test ALS at World Cup 3 in Lucerne.

The concept of ALS grew out of athletes' displeasure with the Fairness Committees' Option 4 ability "To prioritise the lanes for each individual race using the placings from the previous round to put the crews with similar placings from the previous round into adjoining lanes and giving the crews having achieved better placings better lanes." (Bye-Law to Rule 63) They felt that this affected the crew's ability to control the outcome of their race. Their proposal was to allow the athletes to select the lane that they would race in and remove Option 4 from the choices available to the Fairness Committee.

World Rowing formed a task force composed of members of the Athletes, Competitive, Events and Umpiring Commissions supported by World Rowing Staff to develop the ALS concept. The result of the ALS task force was the procedure that was tested at the World Cups.

While the original concept was to have the athletes select their own lanes, it has evolved into a designated person (DP) who could be an athlete, coach or team manager.

Ideas about when the ALS process should take place have ranged from lane selections 1 hour before the race start time to allowing the athletes to select their lane as they arrived at the start for a race. The current procedure calls for the ALS to be done 45 minutes before a race's start time.

The current procedure is as follows:

- The designated person (DP) who will select the lane for a crew must be identified at least 3 hours before the Team Manager's Meeting/Draw. Only the DP or if the DP is not available, the team manager can make the lane selection for a team
- **Heats:**
  - o Lane assignment for heats is made based on the normal random draw process
  - o Results from the heats will be confirmed and published.
  - o Based on the results of the heats, crews are progressed into their respective next round race (repechage, quarter final, semi final).
- **For the ALS (next round of racing):**
  - o A preliminary start list is prepared but instead of Lanes it shows the order for lane selection using the designations of A, B, C, D, E, F (diagram 1)
  - o The highest ranked crew from the previous round would be allowed to select their lane first (A).
  - o The second ranked crew (B) from the previous round would be allowed to select their lane second, and so on...
  - o Where there is equal ranking from the previous round, the fastest timed crew will be allowed to select their lane first.
  - o If a DP (or Team Manager TM) does not attend Control Commission at the allocated time for ALS, the selection process will move on to the next crew.
    - The missing crew will be allocated the last available lane, or if two or more crews do not attend ALS a random allocation of lanes would be done by Swiss Timing.

- DP's arriving late will be considered as not attending

Diagram 1:



Poznan, Poland  
17-19 June, 2022

WRCUP II Poznan, Poland

16 - 19 June

### Preliminary Start List Summary

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

FRI 17 JUN 2022

REVISED 17 JUN 12:42											
Race	Start Time	Event		Round	Lanes to be selected						Lane Selection Time
		Code	Number		A	B	C	D	E	F	
51	15:00	LM1x	(16)	Repechage 1	USA	POL1	POR	JPN	GER		14:15
52	15:05	LM1x	(16)	Repechage 2	HUN	URU2	FIN	AUS			14:20
53	15:10	LW2x	(9)	Repechage 1	POL2	FRA	NOR	POL1	DEN		14:25
54	15:15	LW2x	(9)	Repechage 2	CZE	NED	GER	JPN2	JPN1		14:30
55	15:20	LM2x	(10)	Repechage 1	EST	FRA2	JPN1	NOR2	IND2		14:35

- **50 minutes before race start time**
  - DP's report to Control Commission and are verified by confirming the DP's identity. If the DP is not available at the time (e.g. traffic issues) then the Team Manager can select the lane on behalf of the DP
- **45 minutes before race start time**
  - The DP makes the lane selection and collects the corresponding bow number.
    - Each DP has a maximum of 30 seconds to make decision or the selection goes to the next DP
    - If a DP (or TM) does not attend Control Commission at the allocated time for ALS, the selection process will move on to the next crew.
    - DP's indicate their lane selection and sign the form. They then receive the bow number for their selected lane
    - After all selections, the Jury member confirms the process was correctly followed by signing the selection form for the race. (Diagram 2)

Diagram 2:



Poznan, Poland  
17-19 June, 2022

WRC II Poznan, Poland

17 - 19 Juni

**8** **Preliminary Start List** **M1x**  
(Event) **Men's Single Sculls** **Q**  
**Races 50-53**

World Cup Best Time:	NZL	MANSON Robert	Poznan (POL) 2017	World Cup	6:30.74
World Best Time:	NZL	MANSON Robert	Poznan (POL) 2017	World Cup	6:30.74
World Cup Winner 2021:	GER	ZEIDLER Oliver		World Cup	22.00

Select A	Select B	Select C	Select D	Select E	Select F
<b>Race 50 / SAT 18 JUN 2022 / 10:20 / Quarterfinal 1</b> Lane Selection Time 09:35					
<b>GRE</b> NTOUSKOS S.	<b>EGY</b> ELBANA A.	<b>VEN</b> BETANCOURT A.	<b>BRA</b> VERTHEIN FERREIRA	<b>ITA1</b> MARTINI S.	<b>NED2</b> KEUSER A.
Selected lane	Selected lane	Selected lane	Selected lane	Selected lane	Selected lane
Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature
ITO Signature	ITO Signature	ITO Signature	ITO Signature	ITO Signature	ITO Signature
<b>Race 51 / SAT 18 JUN 2022 / 10:25 / Quarterfinal 2</b> Lane Selection Time 09:40					
<b>BEL</b> VANDENBUSSCHE T.	<b>CZE</b> SYNEK O.	<b>BLR</b> PAVUKOU P.	<b>IRL</b> LYNCH D.	<b>GER1</b> ZEIDLER O.	<b>GER2</b> RIEMEKASTEN S.
Selected lane	Selected lane	Selected lane	Selected lane	Selected lane	Selected lane
Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature
ITO Signature	ITO Signature	ITO Signature	ITO Signature	ITO Signature	ITO Signature

- **40 minutes before race start time**
  - Lane Selection is confirmed and input into Swiss Timing system.

Note: - Each crew is responsible for putting the bow number on the boat and must have a bow number to go on outbound pontoons. If the DP did not participate in the selection process, the Control Commission will give them their bow number at the pontoon.

- GPS devices are put on the boats by control commission volunteers.

After the lanes are confirmed and entered into the Swiss Timing system, the start list for that event is sent to printers at the start, finish and control commission. The Umpires on the water receive the lane assignments by tablet computers.

World Rowing is now gathering feedback on these trials to determine the future of ALS.