

Annual report 2020



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PRESIDENT

Jean-Christophe Rolland (FRA)

Introduction

2020 was an exceptional year...but not in the way we were expecting it to be...

Only time will tell how we finally define 2020 and how history books recount these times which we have experienced as a period of major crisis. At the time of writing this report, it is still too early to truly assess the extent of the impact and to define what the post COVID-19 era will look like, but we can already agree that this crisis is long, very long and that 2021 seems to be following a similar path.

Some might say that 2020 was the worst year in the history of humanity. Indeed, for some of us, this statement has proven true within the scale of our own lives. However, we must not forget to look at things in perspective. Take the situation of the year 536 or the more recent World War periods or even some epidemics which have been much more destructive and deadly.

So, what distinguishes today's crisis from those of the past? Information, communication, and globalisation have been determining factors. The crisis became the main point of focus and affected a large part of the world. Governments took unprecedented decisions such as lockdowns which turned lives and activities upside down for the great majority of people throughout the world.

Here I would like to spare a thought for all the people who have been impacted, whose families or relatives have been affected, and who have endured terrible times. I would also like to extend my compassion to our athletes. Not only have training conditions become extremely difficult for many of them, but the uncertainty linked to the evolution of the pandemic and the decisions relating to the international competition season added pressure which was particularly hard to endure.

The year 2020 was certainly challenging and complex for our organisation and all our Member Federations (MFs). However, the hardships and challenges we have faced will also result in opportunities and progress as we move forward. The unique and special role sport holds in society, for physical and mental well-being, for our everyday lives, and for the wider global economy has been reaffirmed during this difficult period.

Crisis management

Right from the beginning of the pandemic we put in place a regular, nearly daily, monitoring system to anticipate the potential impacts. As the 2020 season preparations were progressing, the Executive Committee conducted no less than three conference calls per week throughout the first months of the crisis. Athletes' Commission Chair, Frida Svensson, took part in all these meetings.

Together with the teams, we undertook extensive consultations with each of our organising committees for the international events as well as with the MFs prior to the final decision being taken to cancel the events planned for April and May, World Cup regattas and Olympic and Paralympic qualification regattas. Numerous scenarios were developed until the announcement by the IOC, on 24 March, to postpone the Olympic Games to 2021.

I hereby wish to express my gratitude to all the parties involved and the contributors who, day after day, as the situation evolved, worked relentlessly to adjust to the context. The FISA teams were under constant pressure.

Thank you to the members of the Executive Committee and to the Chair of the Athletes' Commission for their availability and their commitment in the management of this monumental crisis. The responsibility of the decisions and the tremendous pressure linked to the uncertainty of the evolving pandemic made the efforts particularly challenging and tremendously demanding.

I commend the support provided by the Council members and our MFs who supported us all the way. My special thanks go out to the Sports Medicine Commission members and its Chair Juergen Steinacker for their crucial contribution throughout the process and the huge amount of work undertaken to deliver essential documents such as protocols and guidelines for the staging of events.

Travel restrictions forced us to adjust. Online meetings and teleconferences replaced face-to-face meetings. Whilst we appreciate the significant contribution of new technologies in the way we work and communicate, we will certainly need to readjust our way of working after the crisis is over. Personal interaction cannot disappear completely, and although we were able to pursue our activities thanks to such tools, we were deprived of essential human interactions. I hope that we will be able to find the right balance in the future for optimal efficiency.

2020: an almost regatta-less racing season

2020 was set to be a great sporting year, culminating as each quadrennial with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The reality was an exceptional and unprecedented year due to other reasons: a quasi-inexistent racing programme, except for the 2020 Indoor Rowing Championships in Paris (FRA) in February, just before the pandemic, and the European Rowing Championships in Poznan (POL) in October.

In last year's report, I commended the outstanding organisation of the 2020 Indoor Rowing Championships in Paris and thanked the organising committee and the French Rowing Federation for the remarkable organisation and the success of the event. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 Championships were successfully held online from 23 to 27 February. I hereby praise the creativity and the technical achievements of our teams. As I have said on many occasions, this discipline provides huge potential, magnified by fast-evolving technical opportunities. I will return to this later in my report when discussing the decisions of the Extraordinary Congress, but the rapid development of this discipline has now led to the creation of a technical commission dedicated to indoor rowing. Peter Cookson was appointed Chair of this Commission by the Council until the next election which will take place at the 2021 Ordinary Congress.

Coming back to the 2020 season: in the first instance we took a pragmatic approach to assessing and monitoring the evolution of the pandemic situation with a final decision taken two months prior to the event for the World Cup regattas. It was finally decided to cancel all intercontinental regattas while leaving some leeway for the Continental Confederations with regards to "intra-continental" events.

Please let me thank all the Organising Committees of the 2020 regattas with whom we exchanged at length throughout the crisis. I commend the constructive relationships despite the particularly unfavourable context which ultimately resulted in inevitable cancellations.

Postponement of the Tokyo Games

Although hopes were still high at the beginning of the crisis, the IOC, the Japanese authorities and the TOCOG made a joint decision on 24 March 2020 to postpone the Games to the summer of 2021, following numerous consultations with stakeholders and notably with the World Health Organisation (WHO). An unprecedented and difficult decision, in particular due to the monumental analysis, evaluation, consultation and coordination exercise required to reach such a decision. The IOC and TOCOG teams undertook the remarkable task of ensuring that all Olympic venues, and namely the Olympic village, whose apartments were due to be reallocated at the end of the Paralympic Games, would remain available for the staging of the event. Obviously, the postponement led to significant additional costs; efforts and compromises were required from all parties and in all areas, those linked to the performance of the athletes excepted.

On behalf of World Rowing, I wish to praise the work of the dedicated team in Tokyo, led by our competition manager Nathalie Philips, whose assignment was extended by a year due to the postponement of the Games.

The consequential rescheduling of the World Rowing 2021 regatta season, within the constraints of continental qualifications, was not an easy task. Here too, a big thank you to everyone involved, and especially to the organising committees, to their partners and to the authorities for their flexibility and adaptability.

Athletes

Let me express, once again, my compassion for all the athletes and rowers of all countries. The uncertainty around the evolution of the pandemic, its implications for the international season, and the difficulty of training during lockdowns resulted in an unprecedented challenge for this generation. The lack of events and the postponement of the Olympic and Paralympic Games will have been difficult to endure. My wish is for all to come through this period with strong or even greater motivation, and that opportunities soon arise to take part, perform and compete in their sport and reach their objectives.

I would like to reiterate our total commitment throughout the crisis to push the limits in the name of our athletes, and to believe, as I like to say, that "as long as it is not impossible, it remains possible". I think I may say that we fought, in the knowledge that it is our duty to do so.

Finance

Allow me to move on to the financial aspects of this report. You will find the details of our financial situation in the Treasurer's report and the financial pages of the Agenda Papers. Let me once again insist on the careful and rational management of our resources. Here too the context of the pandemic and the postponement of the Games, which are our main source of income, led us to take on a more conservative approach. With no guarantees for our revenues we implemented some relatively strict budget restrictions, limiting expenditure to the essentials. Budget cuts were also made, led by the Executive Director, and endorsed by the Executive Committee.

The situation of each of the International Federations varies greatly. As far as we are concerned, we are indeed in a delicate position, but things remain under control. Our financial reserve, which was established precisely in case of hardship, can carry us through one whole year of activity. We benefited from support and loans from the Swiss Federal Government and from the IOC to get us through this period until the postponed Olympic revenues come in, assuming the Olympic Games take place.

Governance

At its online meeting held on 23 April 2020, the Council decided that the 2020 FISA Ordinary and Extraordinary Congresses, originally scheduled to take place in London, would be held virtually by video conference on 16, 17 and 18 October 2020 to adjust to the pandemic context and the uncertainty regarding travel restrictions. This decision was based on the application of force majeure as the grounds for derogation from the Statutes. In addition, today's technology enables high quality meetings and provides all the guarantees to ensure secure online electronic voting. Let me clarify that we will continue, in future, to organise face to face Congresses unless otherwise constrained by exceptional circumstances.

My thanks go out to all the Member Federation delegates for their 'presence' at the Congresses in this new environment. Member Federation participation numbers were good although with no travel costs and few constraints, I had expected a higher participation rate. You will find the details of all the points discussed in the Congress minutes.

With regards to the Ordinary Congress, I will mention the election of Paola Grizzetti as Chair of the Para Rowing Commission following the appointment by the Council of Fay Ho as Continental Representative for Asia.

With regards to the Extraordinary Congress, this is the occasion, once every four years, to propose modifications to our Statutes and our Rules of Racing. Our organisation must continuously adjust to an ever-evolving context. As was already the case for the 2017 Extraordinary Congress in Tokyo, over a period of nearly three years, two working groups, one dedicated to the Statutes and one to the Rules of Racing, conducted a thorough and significant revision in consultation with all stakeholders, in particular the Member Federations.

I hereby wish to thank the members of these working groups for this challenging task, and for all the time spent on it. Thanks to Annamarie Phelps, Algirdas Raslanas, Tricia Smith, and to the coordinators Lucy Trochet and Matt Smith. Thanks to Kris Grudt, Patrick Rombaut, Lee Spear, Mike Tanner, and Mike Williams, with the support of Cameron Allen. A special mention and my deep gratitude go out to our Honorary President Denis Oswald, for his availability and willingness to provide support when so requested, and whose expertise and experience provide highly valued contributions.

In addition to working hand in hand with the Federations and Confederations throughout those three years and exchanging during conferences, video presentations were made available to the delegates and several video conferences were held with Member Federations in the lead up to the Congress. Questions and debates were mostly anticipated, and no surprises were sprung on the delegates during the Congress.

It thereby resulted, that all the Council's proposals were adopted, and I wish to thank once again the federation delegates. Allow me to highlight several significant or substantial developments:

- The inclusion of the Chair of the Athletes' Commission as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, which is now therefore made up of eight members, and a change to the appointment process for members of this Commission whose members are now partly elected by their peers during the World Rowing Championships.
- Encouragement of the involvement of women in governance with both genders being represented if more than one delegate attends Congress.
- The creation of the Indoor Rowing Commission and Coastal Rowing Commission in compliance with our development strategy.

- The creation of an Internal Audit Committee.
- The use, throughout all communication channels of "World Rowing" although "FISA" and the five coloured blades remain our official name and emblem.

As a reminder, the date of the Extraordinary Congress was brought forward to October despite this Congress dedicated to Rules and Statute changes usually taking place in February of the post-Olympic year. This was because the IOC's Executive Board decision about the Olympic programme was brought forward to December 2020 (whereas the decision for Tokyo 2020 had been taken in June 2017) to enable national Olympic Committees and National Federations to benefit from a full Olympic cycle for preparation.

Therefore, voting on FISA's recommendation on the Olympic programme for rowing at the Paris 2024 Games was also on the agenda. I will come back to the background and substance of this issue when I go over our Olympic strategy later in this report, but here too I wish to thank the federations for their strong backing (92%) of the Council's proposal.

Assessment of governance – the ASOIF questionnaire

In June 2020, the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) released its third report on the assessment of governance. This process is conducted on the basis of a self-assessment questionnaire which covers five areas: transparency, integrity, democracy, development and control mechanisms. The auto-assessment is then moderated by an external expert.

The FISA report was published in its entirety on the World Rowing website. I will highlight our ongoing progression in terms of good governance with several noteworthy aspects such as gender equality in our Executive Committee and the Council. New criteria now place us at the top of Group B (4 groups: A1, A2, B and C), although the purpose of this exercise is not to rank the international federations among each other but rather to provide a tool for progression and for sharing good practices in terms of governance. We pursue our efforts to progress within the scope of our limited resources, with the aim to continuously improve.

Olympic strategy

2020 had been announced as crucial in determining rowing's future Olympic programme, with the highly anticipated IOC Executive Board's decision on the Olympic programme for Paris 2024. I have discussed and shared our 2024 Olympic strategy (launched in 2017 following on from the adoption of the programme for Tokyo 2020) on numerous occasions, in view of addressing its challenges and implications. The letter from the IOC's Director General in 2017 gave a clear message.

Since then, I have shared its progress in my previous reports. We have shifted from a "defensive attitude" during the first phase to address the challenge of our lightweight boat classes, towards an ambitious and proactive approach with the introduction of coastal rowing.

In February, FISA submitted an initial proposal to include coastal rowing to counterbalance the loss of the two lightweight events. This proposal fitted perfectly within the IOC's criteria and the 2020 Olympic Agenda which imposes gender equality without increasing the number of athletes and with the use of existing competition venues for all new disciplines.

The dialogue on this matter with the IOC and its sports department was both open and constructive. We held further discussions and exchanges with OBS (Olympic Broadcasting Services), the official broadcaster of the Olympic Committee in charge of production at

the Olympic Games. I may say that the feedback was very positive with OBS confirming the attractiveness of this event.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 came along, and the IOC's resources were allocated to managing its impacts, and namely the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic Games, without moving the date of the final decision for the programme scheduled in December 2020. Discussions then centred around the technical aspects and the complexity of costs with the Paris 2024 organising committee. The Marseille sailing venue posed some logistical challenges, adding complexity to the organisation. Square footage, cohabitation with sailing, athlete and officials housing...all of this within the context of the COVID-19 crisis and cost cutting measures, and at the same time the OGOC was working towards a 10% reduction in its operational budget, equating to €350M.

Convinced of the relevance of this strategy, and the undeniably strong advantages of the proposal, the Council maintained and put forward the recommendation to the Congress, in accordance with Rule 37. The recommendation was largely endorsed.

In such an unfavourable setting, negotiations with the IOC finally led to the compromise to continue the lightweight events for a further Olympic cycle and to defer any developments to the rowing programme until after Paris 2024. We can be truly satisfied with the IOC's Executive Board decision, which, in view of the situation, is pragmatic and reasonable. We now have additional time to carry on developing coastal rowing. The postponement of the Dakar Youth Olympic Games from 2022 to 2026 will also provide scope for development. I do encourage all MFs to follow their commitment to develop this form of rowing. Discussions with the IOC will resume, and we intend to pursue our strategy, encouraged by the very positive feedback received from the IOC's Sports Director at the press conference which followed the Executive Board meeting, qualifying our proposal as "a solid proposal which will need to be considered for future Games".

Anti-doping

The fight against doping has always been a priority for FISA, which is recognised for its proactive and innovative approach in this area. Our experience in this area includes the introduction of the first blood tests used in anti-doping, forensic investigations and the no-needle policy, among many other examples, and we can collectively be proud of our approach and progress.

Regulations in this area have greatly evolved over the past years, enriched, and made more complex with the World Anti-Doping Code issued by WADA (World Anti-doping Agency) and the eight international standards. The administrative load has grown significantly and requires ever more resources. This has led us to reassess our internal organisation and to adjust. In addition, repeated scandals in the world of sports have unfortunately discredited sports organisations and therefore with the aim of putting an end to the perception of conflicting interests, the question of independence has become a focal point.

All these reasons have led to the Executive Committee taking the decision to outsource the management of anti-doping and to appoint the ITA (International Testing Agency) in this respect as of April 2021.

My sincere gratitude and recognition to Dr Alain Lacoste and Natalie Schmutz for their dedication and their outstanding work over the years at the service of our sport and to the fight against doping. Dr Alain Lacoste, who also chaired our Sports Medicine Commission for many years, was a pioneer in this field and was at the forefront of numerous developments. A true expert, he greatly contributed to the reputation of our organisation within a number of institutions such as ASOIF or FIMS (International Federation of Sports Medicine).

Allow me to briefly mention the governmental reforms taking place within WADA, and the publication of the new WADA Code on 1 January 2021, as well as the ongoing saga of doping in Russia with TAS's decision of 17 December upon appeal on the sanction of non-conformity of the Russian anti-doping agency (RUSADA) following tampering of data by the Moscow laboratory. Russia shall be banned from taking part in, bidding or hosting any events covered by this decision over the next two years, including two editions of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and numerous other events.

Human resources

2020 was a challenging year. I wish to express personally, but also on behalf of the Council, our gratitude to the staff for their commitment and professionalism to carry out their duties under such difficult circumstances and with increased workload.

I wish above all to highlight the immense professionalism and full commitment of our Executive Director, Matt Smith. As announced during Congress, Matt Smith has stated his intention, for personal reasons, to resign from his role as Executive Director. We have therefore launched a recruitment and discussion process in view of establishing an appropriate transition period.

This is a major milestone in the life of our Federation, as Matt Smith has been in office as Executive Director for nearly 26 years. He was appointed in 1995, having previously been in charge of development for FISA since 1992. Together with President Denis Oswald, he led the development of FISA, turning this organisation into what it is today, an organisation recognised for its governance and its management aimed solely at the benefit of the sport and its athletes.

Several other major changes shall occur within the near future, and we aim to put everything in place to ensure the smooth transition for the good of our organisation.

On a more general note, I wish to highlight the involvement of members of the rowing family in the world of sport. I commend the many rowers who hold key positions within sports governing bodies and organisations and in particular within the Olympic movement, as part of National Olympic Committees and the IOC. We have unique representation within the IOC's Executive Board with Anita de Frantz, Vice-President, John Coates, also elected Vice-President and Denis Oswald. We can be very proud of such representation and their multiple commitments which add value to our sport.

My thanks and gratitude to all those who contributed to the smooth operation of our federation throughout 2020: commission members, members of the Council and of the Executive Committee. The individuals who devote so much time to our sport are an invaluable asset to our organisation.

Conclusion

Unfortunately, the pandemic lingers in 2021. But despite predictions from experts that the virus shall continue to spread and mutate over a long time, some positive signs of hope must still be considered.

First, science has progressed considerably and quickly provided a vaccine, a major milestone towards resolving the issue. Secondly, this crisis has also provided opportunity for society to adjust, and, as stated in my introduction, sport is definitely one of the answers to many of the challenges resulting from this pandemic. Let us grab this opportunity and, despite all the uncertainty, start to reflect on the post-COVID-19 era.

VICE PRESIDENT

Tricia Smith (CAN)

The role of the Vice President is to:

- Carry out such duties as are delegated by the President;
- Represent World Rowing when the President is unable to do so, or when requested by the Executive Committee;
- Work on special assignments and working groups when requested to do so by the Executive Committee or the Council. These assignments or working groups may concern the internal affairs of World Rowing or its relations with other bodies;
- Oversee the work of the Development Programme; and
- Submit a report to the Ordinary Congress each year.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

As Vice President I continue to support the President, the Executive Committee and Executive Director, this past year particularly in all matters related to the many necessary changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including decision making protocols regarding the hosting of events and the creation of new policies and procedures regarding health and safety at events.

In addition, significant time was spent as part of the small working group on finalising the statutes and rule change proposals and wording. Frankly, virtual meetings were helpful in this regard allowing more regular meeting times between the members. Thanks to the Governance Manager, Lucy Trochet for guiding the process.

I also continue to gather helpful information and represent the interests of international sport and of World Rowing, where appropriate, at the numerous other sport-related meetings I attend during the year as Canadian NOC President, ANOC EB Member, Pan Am Sport EB Member, ICAS Member and IOC Member, including contribution to the fight against doping, and promotion of women in sport and of rowing in the many regional Games. I continue as a member of both the IOC Women in Sport Commission, where I have presented on behalf of World Rowing and the IOC Legal Affairs Commission. I have also presented at a Pan Am Sport Conferences for women in leadership, equity and inclusion.

The Vice President's role in World Rowing Development continues to be on an advisory and consultative basis only. The World Rowing Development Program has evolved and is managed on a day-to-day basis by the World Rowing team led by the very able Development Director, Daniela Gomes da Costa who has taken over from Sheila Stephens Desbans. We are fortunate to have had Sheila at World Rowing for over 20 years. Her work has been nothing short of tremendous and I thank her. We look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role with Olympic Solidarity at the IOC.

Meetings and events attended in 2020

Meetings in person and virtual include, but are not limited to, the following:

- January 2020, IOC Session, Lausanne (SUI)
- January 2020 Attendance at Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne (SUI)

- January 2020 FISA Executive Committee Meeting, Lausanne (SUI)
- January 2020 ANOC Executive Board meeting, Lausanne (SUI)
- February 2020 FISA Council meeting, Budapest (HUN)
- February 2020 Pan Am Junior Games Coordination Commission Meeting Cali (COL)
- March 2020 Pan Am Sport Exec Board Meeting San Juan (PUR)
- April 27, 2020, PANAM Executive Board Meeting,
- World Rowing Executive Committee calls,
- World Rowing Council Meeting calls,
- May 25, 2020, PANAM call IOC members of the Americas,
- May 27, 2020, IOC virtual meeting,
- PANAM Executive Board meeting calls,
- July 17, 2020, 136th IOC Session Meeting,
- July 21, 2020, 2020 Tokyo Olympics discussion Ambassador KAWAMURA (JPN),
- September 1, 2020, call WADA Stakeholder Perception Research Interview,
- September 2, 2020, call with PANAM, introduction to Session 1 of 8 weeks LTAD Webinar Series run by Sport for Life - 300+ participants from the Americas (and Nigeria),
- September 7, 2020, panelist on the IOC IF Gender Equality Webinar Series,
- September 16, 2020, webinar – conversation with Dr. Mike Wilkinson,
- September 17, 2020, videoconference for the Junior Pan American Games Cali 2021 Coordination Commission,
- September 17, 2020, speaker at the Loughheed College Lecture Series re International Sport,
- September 22, 2020, International Council of Arbitration for Sport meeting,
- September 24, 2020, panelist at the 4th Women in Sport Law conference,
- September 25, 2020, 2020 FISA Congresses MFs Consultation meeting,
- September 28, 2020, Milano Cortina 2026 - Briefing call to the Coordination Commission & in-camera session,
- September 29, 2020, Milano Cortina 2026 - Coordination Commission Plenary Session,
- October 1, 2020, guest speaker at Anastasia Bucsis Podcast on sport leadership;
- October 8, 2020, Virtual 1st Congress on Active Cities – Guatemala,
- October 16, 2020, FISA 2020 Ordinary Congress,
- October 17, 2020, FISA 2020 Extraordinary Congress Day 1,
- October 18, 2020, FISA 2020 Extraordinary Congress Day 2,
- October 22, 2020, Meeting with Consulate General of Japan,
- October 27, 2020, IOC call,
- 2020 World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting calls,

- November 3, 2020, IOC Women in Sport Commission,
- November 4, 2020, Sport Leadership Conference: Leadership in a Volatile World,
- November 10, 2020, IOC Legal Affairs Commission meeting,
- November 18, 2020, Women's Education Group guest speaker,
- December 1, 2020, Official launch of the gender equity research hub (CAN) Panelist,
- December 2020, PANAM LVIII General Assembly and Elections,

This has obviously been an extremely challenging year for all involved in sport. I wish to thank all the members of the World Rowing family for your extraordinary work for our athletes and for our sport this past year. Thank you to our athletes and coaches for their resilience. Thank you in particular to our president Jean Christophe, to Matt and our incredibly talented, creative and dedicated team at World Rowing. You have been world leaders in addressing and managing this year's many challenges and always with utmost integrity, care and intelligence. I feel extremely fortunate and proud to be working with all of you.

TREASURER

Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED)

The role of the FISA Treasurer is to:

- Be responsible for the oversight of financial management of FISA and preparation of FISA's long-term financial plan having regard to the four-year Olympic cycle;
- Be responsible for keeping the Executive Committee and Council informed of financial situation by means of management accounts;
- Oversee the management of the FISA's assets, the adequacy of insurance, the financial terms of major contracts and staff remuneration in consultation with the President and the Executive Director;
- Oversee the preparation of the annual budget and the annual accounts, and present them to the Ordinary Congress, liaise with the Executive Director in order to monitor the progress of income and expenditure during the year, and seek approval from the Executive Committee for significant deviations from budget; and
- Submit a report to the Ordinary Congress each year.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

Apart from participation in Executive Committee Meetings, my principal activities in 2020 continued to be oversight of World Rowing's financial activities in coordination with the Executive Director Matt Smith and the Controller Emilio Pastorello. The accounts appear elsewhere in the agenda papers so I will not go into detail here. Given uncertainty around income arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, costs were reduced where possible, leading to a positive operational result of CHF 1'303'008 versus the budget. This was partly offset by a negative result on our investment portfolio, driven by a reduction of World Rowing's (limited) stock exposure in the first weeks after the COVID-19 pandemic and by some of the bond positions still being valued below purchase price, resulting in the overall result of CHF 996'164 versus budget.

Meetings and events attended in 2020

- Executive Committee and Council meeting, Budapest (HUN), January
- Council virtual meetings: 2 April; 13, 20, 27 June; 25 July; 2 October
- 2020 FISA Ordinary & Extraordinary Congresses, 16-18 October

Summary

From a financial point of view, 2020 was a challenging year for World Rowing. The postponement of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games meant that the budgeted Olympic revenue inflow for Q4 2020 was postponed by a year, with also uncertainty on the overall amount that would be received. Next to that, not being able to stage events negatively impacts commercial income for World Rowing.

Given the above uncertainty we have pushed hard on i) cost cutting where possible, and ii) attracting loans where possible to create sufficient financial headroom in case of further negative developments. I am grateful to the Executive Director Matt Smith and his team on successfully delivering on the cost cutting measures whilst maintaining all activities, resulting

in the abovementioned CHF 1'303'008 better result than budgeted. Also, I am grateful to both the Swiss Confederation (CHF 786'000) and the IOC (CHF 2'150'000) in granting World Rowing loans in this challenging situation.

As a result of the above measures and thanks to the permanent reserve that was built up, World Rowing is financially still in a healthy position whilst having been able to continue almost all its activities. However, depending on whether the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games take place, the height of the Olympic revenue, and the development of other commercial revenue streams in the 'post COVID-19' world, World Rowing may need to decrease its cost base further. Hopefully this is not needed, as it would severely impact the ability of World Rowing to deliver its current level of activities and events. We deem this scenario unlikely, but given the uncertainty it is a scenario we need to keep in the back of our mind.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Matt Smith (USA/SUI)

I am pleased to report to you on the FISA (now World Rowing) operations and provide you with an overview of the general activities. It was a difficult year for the office, as for all of us, but we have made all efforts to stay safe but efficient. We appreciate very much the excellent cooperation with the Member Federations (MFs) which enables us to work efficiently and constructively.

Headquarters Operation

The headquarters' staff continues to work on the areas identified in our Strategic Plan found here:

<https://worldrowing.com/technical/publications/>

Development continues to be one of our primary goals with creation and delivery of the related initiatives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank two individuals who have left our staff in 2020: Sheila Stephens-Desbans after 20 years working with us has been hired as the Head of the Sport Development Unit, a newly created role at Olympic Solidarity and Yihuan Chang who left us after five years to take up the job of Sports Director at the Special Olympics World Games 2023 in Berlin.

Daniela Gomes has been promoted to be Development Director in early 2021 and is assisted by Development Manager Paolo Mattana in Lausanne, and a team of part-time development consultants. Gianni Postiglione continues as our Coaching Director on a part-time basis alongside his coaching activities.

Liz Soutter continues as Sport Manager and follows the development of the disciplines of Indoor Rowing and Coastal Rowing as well as Para Rowing and is managing the event bidding process.

In the Events department, Svetla Otzetova, is the Events Technical Director. Nathalie Phillips, Senior Events Manager, continues in Tokyo serving as Sport Manager for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games with her stay having been extended due to the COVID-19 postponement of the Games. Cameron Allen and Matt Evans continue as Events Managers and Daniela Oronova continues as Events Manager – Teams, and Prateek Gumbar is Events Services Manager. The event management team were joined by Tine Jacobsen remotely to help cover all events on the calendar. I would also like to recognise the untiring work of our Swiss Timing Sport Service Manager Ralf Hoffmann and his very dedicated team.

The Communications and Marketing areas work carefully to make sure their efforts are well-coordinated. Andy Couper continues as Marketing Director along with Melissa Bray, Communications Manager – Content. Brian Orsini is Digital Communications Manager, having joined the office team in early 2020. They are assisted by a team of part-time communication contributors seen mostly at events.

The Governance and Administration area includes Governance Manager Lucy Trochet, Controller Emilio Pastorello, Natalie Schmutz, Anti-Doping Coordinator and Ludovica Caprino as Administrative Coordinator. Olivier Caillet, our information technology consultant, continues as well as Jean-Maurice Mordasini, our asset manager.

The headquarters are located in the "House of International Sport" since October 2006 and we continue to benefit from the close contact with the International Federations of Archery, Boxing, Canoe-Kayak, Fencing, Triathlon, WADA and several other organisations including, notably, ASOIF, GAISF, and the World Master's Games Association. This allows our staff to exchange ideas and share experiences with other IF staff.

Development

In 2020 the World Rowing development team continued to focus its work on the key areas identified in the world rowing strategic plan: participation, integration, opportunities, quality & education, and universality.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, multiple regional and continental development activities were delivered in close cooperation with the continental stakeholders and MFs, led by the continental coaching teams and supported by the contribution of World Rowing continental representatives, confederations and organising committees (OCs). In Africa, Americas and Oceania a series of training and competition opportunities occurred to assist in the preparations for the 2020 qualifiers. These took place in Tunisia, Chile and Vanuatu.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought both challenges and opportunities to the development programme. With the onset of the global pandemic in 2020 all our training camps in addition to regattas had to be cancelled and we pivoted towards coach education. The development team focused on designing the new Coach Development Programme (CDP) structure supported by the expertise of coaching education director Rosie Mayglothling, and discipline specific education leads Guin Batten (coastal rowing) and Simon Goodey (para rowing). Their valuable contribution led to the development of the syllabus, scheme of work and teaching resources for the new classic, coastal and para rowing level one coaching certificate. The development team continued its efforts to integrate and expand all forms of rowing through education with the publication of the second edition of the "learn to row" booklet which now fully integrates classic and para rowing; the new learn to row coastal booklet was published in July 2020.

Our continental coach educators have been able to provide educational sessions across all continents to give coaches guidance around supporting their athletes and themselves to manage during the confinement periods. These specifically focused on individual training, reconfiguring goals and expectations, mental well-being, general hygiene and nutrition, high performance and women's development. Towards the end of the year a coach education roll-out targeted coaches who had previously delivered the former FISA coach education courses or who had attended the FISA Coach Academy training in the past as a means to provide an update on the new scheme of work. Extended support was provided to the delivery of the World Rowing Coaches Conference in close co-operation with the Competitive, Coastal, Para, Sports Medicine, and Youth Rowing Commissions and several staff members.

Multiple development projects with MFs were delivered in close cooperation with Olympic Solidarity and the respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to develop and strengthen the respective coaching structure and sports system at national level. Coaching education, athlete development and guidance for administrators continue to be our main focus, with safety and safeguarding as fundamental pre-requisites of all activities. Continuous support was given to the MFs "in need" and to our most recent MFs which received the initial equipment welcome package and individualised administration and coaching support.

The development team cooperated with Olympic Solidarity through the management of Olympic Scholarships for Athletes "Tokyo 2020" allowing assistance to athletes with the greatest need in their preparations and qualification for the Games.

In 2020 the group of test indicators, introduced by World Rowing Coaching Director Gianni Postiglione for the assessment of rowers participating in the Development Programme, continues to help coaches adjust their training programmes and is used as a tool to help MFs create transparent selection policies.

The women's development programme intensified efforts to create a robust pipeline of women rowing coaches in high performance roles, continuing to deliver the women's sport leadership academy for high performance coaches and implementing a new mentor training scheme.

I would like to thank our development coaches Andrew Mackenzie, Chris Perry, Fayçal Soula, Osvaldo Borchini and Ruben Scarpati for their sustained commitment to develop rowing across the world.

A final word to all World Rowing continental representatives, commissions, MFs, OCs, equipment providers and coaches. You all play an essential role in the success of "our" development programme, and we are looking forward to working hand in hand with you to take on the challenges of the next years.

Events

This section will be rather short as the COVID-19 pandemic had a massive impact on our events in 2020. All three World Rowing Cup regattas were cancelled due to covid-related measures applied by the host governments in Italy (Varese and Sabaudia) and Switzerland (Lucerne). The "mega" combined Junior, Under 23 and non-Olympic senior Championships were cancelled in Bled, Slovenia which caused big financial difficulties for all stakeholders and provided lessons for the future with organising committees staging events during the high season in touristic areas. The Masters Regatta in Linz-Ottensheim, Austria could be postponed to 2021 thanks to the kind decision by the Banyoles 2021 Masters Regatta OC to agree to move its date to 2025. As well, the Portuguese Rowing Federation was able to get support to move the Coastal Rowing Championships and Beach Sprint Finals from 2020 to 2021.

The biggest disruption in 2020 was the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games to the same slot in July 2021. After having established the full 2021 international calendar with the Congress in Linz, the whole calendar had to be re-worked with each OC to accommodate the rescheduled Olympic and Paralympic Games. This was not easy as most of this re-working was during lockdown and it was difficult to find some government officials for decisions as well as not knowing the situation with hotels (some were closed and not answering phones). But the OCs did a huge job to modify the dates and find hotels for the participants. There was one change in venue for a World Rowing Cup and Sabaudia was able to slot in to this for 2021.

The third World Rowing Indoor Championships were staged successfully in Paris, France in February, before COVID-19, with entries from over 51 nations with 2'300 indoor rowers. The event was held in partnership with Concept2, the French Rowing Association, and was combined with the French Indoor National Championships.

Television and Video Streaming

Due to the event cancellations described above, the only "broadcasted" World Rowing event was the 2020 World Rowing Indoor Championships from Paris. A "streaming" host production of the event took place and was video streamed through Worldrowing.com. There were 49'000 views with 237'000 impressions.

Communications

Despite all efforts of the team, there was very little to communicate in 2020 other than the frequent updates regarding the status of the World Rowing events. The Communications team did an excellent job in supporting the communications of indoor rowing events and training opportunities; as many clubs, schools and universities around the world closed, rowing on indoor rowing machines became the unifying means for training among rowers.

An important communications story of 2020 was the new World Rowing website project. We were informed mid/late 2019 that the software platform for our website would no longer be supported in 2021, thus we had one year to change software with our current provider or find a new provider and completely re-construct the website from zero. Special mention should go here to our new Digital Communications Manager Brian Orsini who joined us in January 2020 and had a huge challenge handed to him with this new website project; thanks also to all the staff and advisors who contributed to the project which went live mid-December 2020.

Marketing

In terms of marketing, the best advertisement for the sport is through our events. The highest number of people who view our sport, view it on television. The second highest is through digital means, mainly through the website but also through social media. Unfortunately, in 2020, with the cancellation of our events, marketing initiatives had to switch to 2021.

World Rowing is working hard to effectively differentiate our sponsorship product from that of other sports. For this, we have strengthened our efforts to maintain the high ground in terms of integrity and transparency as well as having maintained our focus on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) which fully utilises our "Clean Water" relationship with WWF International.

Governance

The preparations for the 2020 Ordinary and Extraordinary Congresses were the main priority for the Governance department in 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic adding a virtual dimension to the planning process. The preparations encompassed both the coordination of the Governance Working Group's governance improvement proposals to the Council and subsequently to the Congress for approval, as well as the detailed and complex planning of the congresses in what was at the time the very new virtual world. The sharing of best practice across other International Federations and with the IOC was a tremendous help and resulted in a very comprehensive preparation process which, in turn, led to the smooth running of the Congresses.

A significant and new proposal put forward to Congress was the new 'Athletes' Commission Regulations and Election Procedures', which required several months of meetings and analysis to determine the most feasible and appropriate proposal for World Rowing. The proposal was approved by Congress, providing another strong indication of the importance World Rowing places on the athletes' voice; the first World Rowing Athlete Commission election process will take place in 2022.

The third edition of the ASOIF (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations) Governance Self-Assessment Questionnaire was published in June 2020. The report for World Rowing recognised the current strong governance principles and processes in place and indicated an overall improvement in World Rowing's internal position. The results can be found here:

https://d2wmdlq830ho5j.cloudfront.net/worldrowing/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/04181808/FISA-ASOIFGTFIFgovernanceassessment2019-20_Neutral.pdf

Since the introduction of World Rowing's Policy and Procedures on Safeguarding Participants in Rowing from Harassment and Abuse in 2019, safeguarding has remained a top priority for World Rowing. In January 2020, an education session took place in Budapest during the Council meeting, facilitated by Anne Tiivas, Chair of Safe Sport International. Support was also provided to members of the Umpiring Commission who then did a great job in conveying key safeguarding messages and in building awareness through their online seminars for Umpires. Towards the end of 2020, work began on the development of a short series of webinars to raise awareness of safeguarding across all rowing communities and provide support to MFs in the development of their own policies and communication initiatives; these webinars took place early in 2021 and the recordings can be accessed on the World Rowing website here: <https://worldrowing.com/responsibility/safeguarding/>.

I would like to thank the Safeguarding Working Group members Lenka Dienstbach-Wech, Juergen Steinacker, Mike Wilkinson and Annamarie Phelps and also Sandi Kirby for their invaluable and expert contributions to help ensure World Rowing continues to be one of the leading IFs for safeguarding and related initiatives.

Alongside this work, throughout the year significant administrative support was provided for the large number of Executive Committee and Council meetings, the MF consultation meetings leading up to the Congresses, as well as for the organisation of the 2020 Joint Commissions' Meeting (JCM) in its adapted virtual format taking place over several weeks in November.

Anti-doping

One of the most important jobs of the international federation is to operate a fully credible and efficient anti-doping programme to discourage doping and to prosecute those who do. The cleanliness of our sport in terms of doping is one of the most important values we share. 2020 was a very difficult year for all sport organisations in terms of anti-doping as reported by WADA Director General Olivier Niggli on 25 November 2020:

"...While COVID-19 has had an impact on testing, there has been a very strong commitment by ADOs over the past months to resume and continue to conduct testing under strengthened health and hygiene protocols. In October 2020, ADOs collected approximately 21,000 samples, and when compared to October 2019 this accounts for 76% of the total number of samples and 84% collected Out-of-Competition."

"In times when testing may be temporarily diminished due to restrictions imposed by government authorities and with limited sports events being held, the anti-doping community has other tools to maintain the integrity of the anti-doping system. For example, the Athlete Biological Passport program can be used to assess the longer-term profile of each athlete; intelligence that is received through whistleblower programs such as WADA's 'Speak Up!' can lead to target-testing and/or investigations; and, sample storage enables further analysis as science advances and detection techniques are refined. As the global leader of the fight against doping in sport, WADA wants to ensure that ADOs worldwide use everything at their disposal to secure the integrity of sporting events as they recommence."

World Rowing's Council took the decision to transfer all anti-doping activities to the International Testing Agency (ITA) during 2020, to be effective in early 2021. This comes in addition to the decision to transfer all anti-doping hearing panel procedures to the Court of Arbitration for Sport – Anti-Doping Division (CAS-ADD). Both moves are in line with international practice and are strongly encouraged by the International Olympic Committee in order to create true independence for anti-doping in sport. Sincere appreciation for years of

dedicated work in anti-doping go out to Dr. Alain Lacoste and Natalie Schmutz. Alain can now really take some time to slow down into retirement and Natalie continues in a position created for her in the ITA.

Finance & Administration

World Rowing operates a system of financial controls with appropriate segregation of duties and authorities. Our finances are stable and perform generally in line with our budgets. As you will see in the financial section, despite the cancellation of all our televised World Rowing Cup regattas, the surplus at the end of the year is positive CHF 996'164 after reduction for exchange rate loss and the provision to adjust values on the securities portfolio.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers continues as World Rowing's external financial auditors and, along with the financial audit, reviews accounting policies and internal controls, and makes recommendations as appropriate. World Rowing transparently reports all financial results and publishes the auditors' report on the website and also the financial reports in the Ordinary Congress Agenda Papers:

<https://worldrowing.com/technical/publications/>

<https://worldrowing.com/about/organisation/governance/fisa-congresses/>

World Rowing retains an advisory agency that reviews our insurance policies and assists with new recommendations related to insurance. World Rowing's investments are managed by an external asset manager under conservative risk parameters established by the Finance Subcommittee with monthly calls to discuss placements and market review by the Treasurer, the Asset Manager, the Controller and myself.

Conclusion

I would like to thank President Jean-Christophe Rolland for the tremendous commitment he makes to rowing and his support for our work in Lausanne. I would also like to thank the Executive Committee, Council and Commission members as well as the Member Federations and their staff for their excellent cooperation. This is greatly appreciated by the staff and I. Finally, I would especially like to thank the now World Rowing staff and consultants for their dedication and commitment to rowing and to our work.

ATHLETES' COMMISSION

Frida Svensson (SWE), Chair

The purpose of the Athletes Commission is to represent active elite rowers and to act as a liaison between FISA and the elite athlete community concerning any issues affecting the sport of Rowing.

The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Establish a network of representative rowers throughout the world for a wide canvassing of opinion; providing balanced representation across gender, geographical areas, member federation size, etc;
- Make known to the Council the views of rowers on any matter in the field of competitive rowing, in all its forms, as it sees fit;
- Convene and conduct rowers' surveys and/or meetings at World Rowing Championships and to provide a report to the Executive Committee;
- Analyse the organisation of the World Rowing Championships and Olympic and Paralympic regattas and to report its findings to the Council; and
- Communicate information from FISA to the elite athlete community.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- At the 2020 Extraordinary Congress, the Member Federations (MFs) approved the Council's proposed changes for Appendix S5: the new Athletes' Commission (AC) Regulations. These include a new election process for 50% of the AC members, with 50% to be appointed by the Council. Furthermore, the approval of the AC Regulations provides for the AC Chair to have a seat on the Executive Committee with full voting rights.
- The World Rowing Event Safeguarding officers were on site at the European Rowing Championships in Poznan (POL).
- COVID-19 Outreach - Meetings with National Athlete representatives were held by video conference between March and May to support the decision-making process and canvas feedback from athletes around the globe.
- The WADA Outreach Programme planned for juniors and U23 was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- #Row like a Star programme – a social media initiative where Rowing stars stated why they are rowing clean - was a great opportunity for young rowers to engage with their rowing stars on social media. In 2020, this was made into a pep talk/encouraging video, with messages from our rowing stars to our junior rowers.
- Athletes Commission representatives at major World Rowing events – Sophie Hosking, World Rowing Indoor Championships, Paris; Frida Svensson, European Championships, Poznan.
- Athletes' Commission website – published regular updates on relevant issues around rowing and the global sport movement.
- Athletes Commission virtual meetings

Meetings attended in 2020

- FISA Council meeting, Budapest (HUN), January
- Council virtual meetings: 2 April; 13, 20, 27 June; 25 July; 2 October
- 2020 FISA Ordinary & Extraordinary Congresses, 16-18 October
- Meeting with the Executive Committee November 2020, as part of the JCM

Focus for 2021

- WADA Outreach, Row like a Star. Continue the Anti-Doping activities;
- Social Media project;
- Sustainability – Big Plastic Pledge;
- Education Programme on Declaration of Athletes Rights and Responsibilities;
- Mental health awareness project;
- Involvement in the World Rowing media strategy;
- Revision of the current Commission structure;
- Rule 50.

Summary

We have left a challenging year behind us. 2020 has affected us all. Our athletes, coaches and rowing community had to face many challenges, including the postponement of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and cancellation of all our international events and meetings.

It's always good to look back and learn from the past. The Athletes' Commission is very proud of the rowing community, how people have stepped up to help assist and support each other during this challenging time. As athlete representatives it has been difficult to keep the personal connection with our athletes which we are usually able to maintain through face-to-face contact when we meet at events around the globe. The AC had to find other ways to communicate and a natural way was through social media. Thanks to a great team effort from other World Rowing Commissions and staff, we were able to successfully present Row like a Star pep talk video, and the Big Plastic Pledge.

A big thank you to everyone in World Rowing for all the hard work you have done for our sport and especially for all our athletes around the globe. I am very proud to be part of World Rowing Athletes Commission and our community.

2020 Commission Members

Frida Svensson (SWE) Chair

Julien Bahain (CAN)

Hannah Every-Hall (AUS)

Sjoerd Hamburger (NED)

Sophie Hosking (GBR)

Lawrence Ndluvo (RSA)

Robin Prendes (USA)

Moran Samuel (ISR)

Julia Michalska Plotkowiak (POL)

COMPETITIVE ROWING COMMISSION

Rosie Mayglothling (GBR), Chair

The purpose of the Competitive Rowing Commission is firstly to act as a centre of excellence in the coaching field and provide support to regions to develop sustainable coach education, and secondly to increase the breadth and depth of participation in all types of competitive rowing.

The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Coaching
 - Advise on coaching practice and coach education including support in the production of specific coach education material and coaching courses and seminars;
 - Assist in the implementation of the Coaching Development Programme in conjunction with the Development department;
 - Organise the annual FISA Coaches Conference.
 - Advise on coach identification and recruitment; and
 - Liaise with coaches and implement a coaches' communication network.
- Competition
 - Regulate international rowing competition in terms of (i) composition (events, boat-classes and categories), (ii) conditions, (iii) environment, and (iv) international regatta programme;
 - Analyse and review competition from the point of view of changes, e.g. in competitive standards, social and financial environment, global mobility, participation levels; and
 - Undertake the tasks delegated to it by the Council or the Rules in relation to FISA Events, such as fairness and seeding.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- The 2020 World Rowing Coaches Conference was held from Friday, 27 November to Sunday, 6 December. The virtual format of the event, as well as the provision of Artificial Intelligence translation contributed to attracting a bigger audience than would have attended in-person. 30% of registered participating coaches and presenters were women. The Conference focussed on many parts of rowing and the virtual platform enabled us to have more presentations with 27.5 hours of recorded material available. Topics included, physiology, training theory, monitoring athlete performance, rigging, developing and retaining youth, biomechanics, skill development, COVID-19, women coaches, coaching excellence, para rowing talent identification and development, coastal beach sprints, safeguarding, and a World Rowing update. Presentations and discussions were delivered by 38 experts from 22 countries around the globe. The Coastal Rowing, Para Rowing, Sports Medicine, Women's Rowing, and Youth Rowing Commissions along with the World Rowing President and Executive Director, Development, Governance and Event teams all contributed to the event.
- Coach education - With few events in 2020 this became the perfect time to work on the World Rowing Coach Development plan and further development of a Level 1 programme in classic and coastal rowing, with modules in beach sprint and para rowing. The development

of a global coach education workforce and the virtual delivery of aspects of these courses were started in 2020.

- Seeding - The Commission developed the seeding protocol including provision to publish the seeding ahead of the draw and conducted seeding according to the Seeding Protocol at the European championships.
- Fairness Committees – A Fairness Committee was nominated for the European Championships. Weather data and Fairness preparation before events continued to be developed.
- Competitions – with larger entries at major World Rowing events the Commission has started to develop a new progression system.
- Competitive Rowing Commission meetings in 2020 – virtual meetings were held throughout the year.

Focus for 2021

- Increase the standard and number of coaches by:
 - Continuing to create opportunities for coaches to access education through the World Rowing education programme and coaches conference.
 - Co-ordinate the Coaching Development Cross Commission.
 - Continuing to support the development programmes.
 - Supporting the Women's Development Strategy and in particular in developing women coaches and coaches of women.
- Continue the professionalisation of the weather data provided to Fairness Committees.
- Support World Rowing to evaluate alternative formats of the sport and work with other Commissions to develop these as appropriate.

Summary

The Commission has worked effectively to find positive solutions for supporting coaches in 2020. Thanks to the members of the Commission for their continued time and effort for the sport, to the other Commissions with whom we work closely and also to the Council, Executive Committee and World Rowing Staff for their continued cooperation.

2020 Commission Members

Pascale Bouton (FRA)

Faycal Soula (TUN)

Peter Cookson (CAN)

Marcello Varialle (BRA)

Johan Flodin (NOR)

Mario Woldt (GER)

Nebojsa Ilic (SBR)

Henk-Jan Zwolle (NED)

Rosie Mayglothling (GBR), Chair

EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Paul Fuchs (USA), Chair

The purpose of the Equipment & Technology Commission (ETC) is to support development in the field of rowing equipment, including the review of new technology and its potential application to rowing.

The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Establish the standards for the safety of rowing equipment from the point of view of safety of the rowers and enforce this at World Rowing events;
- Establish and ensure compliance with rules concerning boats and equipment used in rowing events to which the World Rowing Statutes and Rules of Racing apply, including working in co-operation with the Control Commission at World Rowing World Championships;
- Encourage the production of inexpensive rowing equipment complying with specified standards;
- Encourage and promote dissemination of information and courses on boat building and repairs;
- Survey equipment in use and produce theoretical material and drawings for rowing equipment;
- Collect and review scientific information, relating to equipment and technology, available for the sport of rowing; and
- Be the point of contact with World Rowing for the manufacturers of equipment and technology in the sport of rowing, including innovations (Rule 40).

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- Provision of information to new businesses with interest in constructing Coastal Boats.
- Participation in meetings with Coastal Rowing groups.
- Review of equipment submitted as innovations.
- ETC virtual meetings.

Focus for 2021

- Coastal rowing technical developments
- Sustainability for equipment and venues
- Maintain electronics oversight and control
- Review Innovations

Summary

Our primary activities centre on racing, regattas, and the development of equipment for them; without competitions, 2020 was a very quiet year. Looking ahead to 2021, our Commission will assist Coastal rowing with its continued fast growth and potential as an Olympic event. We will continue to monitor new electronics and technology and their use in competition. We would

like to find a way that athletes, coaches, and spectators can benefit from developments in this area while keeping it fair for all.

Thank you to the World Rowing family; we appreciate the help, input, and counsel we receive in doing our work.

2020 Commission Members

Marko Banovic (CRO)

Mathias Binder (SUI)

Conny Draper (AUS)

Paul Fuchs (USA), Chair

Arnoud Greidanus (NED)

Thanassis Mitrousis (GRE)*

Stefan Piesik (GER)

* Thanassis passed away in May of 2021 due to complications caused by COVID-19. We miss him, his smile, and his gentle way.

EVENTS COMMISSION

Eva Szanto (HUN), Chair

The purpose of the Events Commission is to establish and monitor the standards of international regattas and of all FISA events with regards to the venue, the technical installations, the safety of rowers and the organisation of the events. The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Advise organising committees of FISA events on the standard of facilities and regatta courses and also on the organisation of events;
- Maintain and improve the standard of regatta organisation at all major international events in co-operation with other FISA Commissions as appropriate;
- Visit and inspect regatta courses and regattas;
- Provide advice and guidance at every stage from initial concept to final commissioning in the development of new courses and new regattas;
- Provide members for the technical group responsible for inspecting candidates of future championships and multi-sport Games candidates;
- Monitor and co-ordinate changes to the structure of the FISA international regatta calendar in conjunction with the FISA Events staff taking into consideration the advice of the relevant FISA Commissions; and
- Prepare and regularly update documents and manuals which specify the FISA requirements for all aspects of: a) the upgrading of existing courses; b) the development of new courses; c) the organisation of championships and major regattas.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- 2020 was an extremely unusual year and all World Rowing regattas had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This had a significant impact on the activities of the Events Commission. Until the decisions were made about the cancellations of the World Rowing events, the appointed Technical Delegates together with the Event Managers were in constant contact with the Organising Committees (OCs) assisting them to prepare the regattas to the highest possible standards. A new approach to preparatory planning visits, using virtual meetings with the OCs, was successfully implemented – partially because of restrictions on international travel.
- Attendance at World Rowing events - Members of the Events Commission were involved in events that were able to take place in 2020, including the World Rowing Indoor Championships. The Commission also continued to attend and advise on several continental events. Event Commission members were appointed as Technical Delegates at the three continental championship events in Europe, which were postponed to the autumn period. All these continental regattas were successfully completed.
- COVID-19 response plan at events - Following the recommendations set out in the "Return to Staging Regattas" guidelines, a COVID-19 response plan was developed and implemented at all events. The implementation was carefully monitored at each event, assessed in detail after the event, and any necessary changes were introduced for the next event in order to improve and provide the safest possible conditions for the athletes and to minimise the risk of infection of all participants. The COVID-19 response plans also generated a

number of alternative crowd flows at the venues, which were tested at the events. The World Rowing Executive Director and the Events Team took the lead in the response plan process in a highly professional way. Also special thanks to the Sports Medicine Commission.

- Surveys - We continued to improve the survey process description and requirements. As a result, consistent course survey reports should now be provided by OCs.
- Communication protocols - The improvement of communications protocols continued, the Events Commission actively contributed to this process.
- Events Commission meetings in 2020 - A joint meeting of the Events Commission, World Rowing Events Team and the Umpiring Commission was held in Bled (SLO) in March 2020 just before the pandemic seriously impacted most countries and lockdown measures were introduced; Event Commission meetings, including meeting with other Commissions during the JCM were held virtually.

Focus for 2021

- Implementation of a safe and successful regatta season including Olympic and Paralympic Games Regattas, Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regattas and all other World Rowing events.
- Transfer of knowledge and talent identification - Continued transfer of knowledge across the Commission to OCs of rowing regattas; identification of a "pool of talent" - the next generation of TDs for continental events.
- Explore ways of cooperation with the World Rowing Coastal Rowing and Indoor Rowing Commissions to ensure that the Events Commission "events" expertise is included in the staging of coastal rowing, beach sprint and indoor rowing events.
- World Rowing Manual – Updating of the World Rowing Manual will continue; translation of the Continental and Basic World Rowing Manuals into Spanish and French – this initiative is linked closely to knowledge transfer and will extend beyond 2021.
- OC meetings - Implement alternative formats for the meetings with the OCs, use virtual meeting formats where possible and whenever physical presence at the regatta site is not required.
- Water safety - A priority for 2021 is to review the water safety/rescue procedures, course evacuation & communication protocols.
- Surveys - Continue to implement a survey template and require OCs and/or their contracted partners for course surveys to use them before World Rowing events.
- Continue to work on and finalise an event scenarios playbook, contingency planning and readiness for critical events.
- Sustainability - Explore new technologies/methods of event promotion, sport presentation and also means of improving event automation, with the view to making World Rowing regattas more sustainable.
- Safeguarding – Promote awareness of and the importance of safeguarding at events through discussions and preparatory meetings with the OCs. Assist OCs to understand how to incorporate safeguarding processes in their organisational structures and procedures.

Summary

2020 brought new challenges, with the event cancellations the priorities were slightly shifted and some of the projects were put on hold temporarily. Besides the top priority for 2021, which is the implementation of a safe and successful regatta season, the Commission lists as its goals to improve event-related internal processes, to cooperate closely with other Commissions, and to continue to contribute to the World Rowing strategic objectives.

Ongoing challenges in terms of venue costs and location mean the Commission should continue to be attentive to the demands which venue requirements make on the future of our sport.

The Events Commission will continue to be involved in a wide range of World Rowing's work with clear focus on the quality of event preparation, in close consultation with the excellent Events Team in the World Rowing office. It will continue its work to support and extend good practice at continental and regional levels.

2020 Commission Members

Victoria Aguirregomezcorta (ARG)

Joost De Geus (NED)

Matt Draper (CAN)

John Hedger (GBR)

Selwyn Jackson (RSA)

Pascal Jolly (FRA)

Victor NG (HKG)

Svetla Otzetova (BUL)

Bill Schenck (CAN)

Jernej Slivnik (SLO)

Nikola Stojic (SRB)

Eva Szanto (HUN), Chair

EVENT PROMOTION COMMISSION

Patricia Lambert (BEL), Chair

The purpose of the Event Promotion Commission is to maximise and optimise the event promotion opportunities and activities of FISA events.

The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Advise organising committees of FISA's main events on:
 - Their policy and strategic planning for the promotion of their event;
 - Promoting their event to the local, regional and international communities, utilising all media and communications platforms as well as stakeholder relations;
 - Improving stakeholder experience at events through sport presentation, social media, reporting and information distribution.
- Assist with the transfer of knowledge on promotion strategies and activities between FISA and past, present and future organising committees of FISA's main events:
 - By developing and populating FISA's knowledge transfer database in the event promotion area;
 - By facilitating interaction between organising committees of events in the event promotion area.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- Knowledge transfer – due to the pandemic, members did not attend events during 2020
- Event Promotion Commission meetings in 2020 – The Commission members attended the virtual Joint Commission meeting, several on-line meetings to discuss the pandemic situation and status of events on a regular basis as well as bilateral on-line meetings to exchange more frequently.

Summary

Building on the experience of the previous seasons, the Event Promotion Commission considers it effectively contributes to World Rowing's goals and objectives.

The members have continuous and fruitful discussions on themes and ideas for event promotion by sharing their knowledge and the experience of the Chair who can contribute with a longer trail of experience, and best practices.

It was agreed at the 2020 Extraordinary Congress "...to convert this Commission to a Working Group comprised of the directors of key regattas. The purpose is to establish regular communication between these directors and all key stakeholders for the success of these

events." I sincerely hope that this new initiative will be able to continue fostering the contacts between Organising Committees (OCs), not only at CEO level but also at more operational ones. These regular exchanges in the Commission have indeed contributed to enhance the promotional aspects of events, learning from good practices and making sure less successful initiatives would not be repeated while always taking into account the cultural specificities. It was a building block to enhance the attractiveness of our sport for a larger public.

The Commission wants to express its sincere thanks to the World Rowing staff, as well as to the member of the Commission who left this year, for a constructive and positive collaboration.

2020 Commission Members

Jana Hellerova (CZE)

Masakuni Hosobuchi (JPN)

Pat Lambert (BEL), Chair

Liliane Pretterhofer (AUT)

Xie Tian (CHN)

MASTERS ROWING COMMISSION

Ron Chen (USA), Chair

The purpose of the Masters Rowing Commission is to oversee and promote Masters rowing in all its forms on a national and international basis.

The main activities of the Masters Rowing Commission are to:

- Organise the World Rowing Masters Regatta (WRMR) annually;
- In cooperation with other Commissions, establish standard masters classes in other forms of rowing;
- Gather dates and locations of key international masters regattas for the international calendar;
- Publish written information; and
- Consult with and advise the Youth Rowing Commission regarding the Masters Fund for Youth Rowing and the use of the resources of the Fund.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- 2020 WRMR - Like so many other parts of rowing, 2020 was the year that wasn't for the World Rowing Masters Regatta. In conjunction with the Organising Committee (OC) of Linz/Ottensheim, World Rowing, with the advice of the Masters Commission, made the early decision in March 2020 to cancel the 2020 World Rowing Masters Regatta in September due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the "lockdown" of most parts of the world that would have made holding the regatta impossible. While we hardly consider this an "achievement," we do think that arriving at this definitive decision as early as possible, rather than adopting a "wait and see" policy, was the best course for our masters rowers, who make their own travel plans well in advance of the event. It also allowed the OC and World Rowing to avoid making further commitments.
- 2020 World Rowing Virtual Masters Regatta - In order to maintain our connection with rowing during the hard times of the pandemic lockdown, the Commission improvised a virtual meeting for those who had access to indoor ergometers. The 2020 World Rowing Virtual Masters Regatta, which was held during the same weekend as the actual WRMR would have been, allowed us to feel at least some of the connection with our fellow masters rowers across the world, even if still physically apart. We received 750 entries from 56 different countries (more countries than are typically represented at a live WRMR) who self-reported a time for a standard 1000m ergometer piece. Not a competition but a meeting, the goal was to allow rowers to feel shared experiences, and results were reported in aggregate percentiles so that each rower could compare performance to others. Every participant received a certificate signed by the President of World Rowing and the Chair of the Masters Commission, which noted that "even when the world is challenged, the bonds of friendship among rowers endure."
- 2021 and beyond - Once the decision was made to cancel the 2020 event, the Commission and World Rowing staff engaged in intensive discussions with all the OCs of future attributed WRMRs to see how the schedule might be adjusted to maximize the success of each of the events already allocated. We thank all the OCs for their flexibility in considering a number of options. In the end, we were able to agree upon the following:
 - 2021 Linz/Ottensheim AUT (previously Banyoles ESP)

- 2022 Libourne FRA
- 2023 Tshwane RSA
- 2024 Brandenburg GER
- 2025 Banyoles ESP (new)

While of course the viability of all future regattas is contingent upon health and safety restrictions that may still be imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and events will need to conform with appropriate practices such as social distancing and occupancy restrictions, we have been very heartened by the responsible behaviour of the OCs, and especially the 2021 Linz/Ottensheim organisers, in making extensive preparations, in consultation with relevant government health and safety authorities, while still preserving the fundamental essence of our regatta.

Focus for 2021

- Planning for 2021 and beyond - It is safe to say that very few sports events or other large gatherings will return to be exactly the same method of operation as before the pandemic. Our major strategic focus will be how to resume as much of the traditions and practices of the Masters Regatta as is possible, but also implement necessary health and safety measures. We may have to revise ceremonies, racing schedules and land activities to avoid unnecessary crowds or contact, well knowing that many of our participants are of an age group that puts them at higher risk for communicable diseases.
- Development of masters rowing globally – The Commission will continue to explore opportunities to develop masters rowing globally. One very welcome aspect of the 2020 World Rowing Virtual Masters Regatta—caused obviously by the lack of need to travel—was the increased participation from masters rowers from Central and South America, and from Asia and particularly China. Encouraged by the success, despite its impromptu nature, of the 2020 World Rowing Virtual Masters Regatta, the Commission will explore the use of technology to provide further opportunities for interaction among the masters rowing community, such as through a “winter training” ergometer event. We can accomplish this partially through use of modern digital media, and also by encouraging the development of regional masters regattas, especially for athletes who are not able to attend the WRMR regularly.
- 2021 WRMR - We look forward to welcoming many of you to the delayed 46th World Rowing Masters Regatta at Linz/Ottensheim, the site of the 2019 World Rowing Championships, 1-5 September, 2021.

Summary

I continue to be supported by very able and high-functioning Commission members whose diverse talents were especially needed in this difficult year. Normally the Commission would meet three times a year, at the Joint Commissions Meeting, at that year’s WRMR, and at the site visit for the upcoming WRMR. The Commission did meet in Linz in February 2020, but since we could not travel or have live meetings thereafter, the Commission met frequently by video-conference throughout the year, and we look forward to helping revive masters rowing in all its forms as soon as is possible and practical.

Let us hope that our shared passions and relations forged through rowing will be one of the ways that we all help the world reconnect after it suffered perhaps one of the most difficult challenges it has faced in our lifetimes.

2020 Commission Members

Gary Bain (GBR)

Ron Chen (USA), Chair

Inga Daukantiene (LTU)

Sebastian Franke (GER)

Ana Nikolic (SRB)

Zdena Norkova (CZE)

Herman Van Velze (RSA)

PARA ROWING COMMISSION

Fay Ho (HKG), Chair*

The purpose of the Para Rowing Commission is to oversee and promote rowing for persons with an impairment (para rowers) on a national and international basis. The main activities of the Para Rowing Commission are to:

- develop inclusive policies within FISA;
- develop inclusive competitions for all forms of rowing;
- increase participation in para rowing at all levels of performance;
- promote and monitor trends in para rowing at national, international and paralympic levels;
- include para rowing in active life programmes;
- research and disperse knowledge on para rowing to the community.

Key Activities and Achievements in 2020

- Engaged with VIRTUS on the re-inclusion of athletes with an intellectual impairment (II). Created a roadmap (starting with indoor rowing) for II research and re-inclusion.
- Updated the defined roles of Para Rowing Commission members, classification advisory panel (CAP) members, and classification coordinator to eliminate unnecessary redundancies.
- Provided early notice of competition, classification, and education opportunities (as well as updated qualification guidelines due to event cancellations).
- Due to the COVID-19 situation, there has been an ongoing and successful transfer of para coaching education modules to a virtual platform. 2020 activities included a virtual seminar with Asian Paralympic Committee on Para Rowing Development.
- Full integration of para rowing into the 'classic' World Rowing Coach Development program (continued progress in weekly meetings with Coaching Education).
- Esteban Briguglio from ARG, Oleksandr Onschchenko, and Sergey Syabro from UKR shared their para rowing development and coaching strategies with participants during a discussion panel moderated by Paola Grizzetti at the WR Virtual Coaches Conference.
- Para Rowing Commission virtual meetings were held in June, July, August, October and November 2020.
- Supported the German federation in their application for inclusion in the 2023 Special Olympic World Games in Berlin (exhibition sport).
- Submitted an application for the PR3Mix2x to be included in the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games.
- Due to COVID-19 all the para rowing events in the calendar were cancelled, including development camps.
- Member Federations (MFs) have delivered para rowing competition within their country when possible.

Focus for 2021

- Increase MF representation at international para rowing events, including multi-sport games, indoor rowing and coastal rowing.
- Develop a process to re-include intellectually impaired athletes into para rowing.
- Develop para rowing specific safeguarding policies and best practices.
- Raise the profile and image of our para rowers and coaches wherever possible.
- Provide virtual training information for MFs on a much wider basis.
- Encourage more participation for PR3Mix2x and increase recruitment of female rowers and para coaches.
- Create a target list of MFs to develop.
- Improve gender balance in competition.
- Where possible, host remaining Qualification regattas for Paralympic Games to ensure more fair selection of crews.

Summary

I would like to thank all World Rowing colleagues and Commission members for their contribution to para rowing development and to our Commission. The enormous support from the World Rowing staff during the year, particularly from the Development Team, is also very much appreciated. Thanks also to the International Paralympic Committee, National Federations and Paralympic Committees, the Agitos Foundation and all of the other partners with whom we work closely to ensure that para rowing is a fully integrated part of the World Rowing family.

On a personal note, as I move on to my new role as Continental Representative for Asia, I congratulate again Paola Grizzetti as the newly elected chair of the Commission. I am confident in her ability and drive to bring para rowing to a new level. I also want to thank all of our Commission members for their outstanding work and teamwork.

2020 Commission Members

Marco Galeone (RSA)

Simon Goodey (GBR)

Paola Grizzetti (ITA)*

Fay Ho (HKG), Chair

Han Seung Hon (KOR)

Monika Kucima (POL)

Gordon Marcks (AUS)

Rebecca Orr (CAN)

*At the 2020 FISA Ordinary Congress in October 2020, Paola Grizzetti (ITA) was elected as Chair of the Para Rowing Commission to fulfil the mandate of Fay Ho until 31 December 2022.

ROWING FOR ALL COMMISSION

Guin Batten (GBR), Chair

The purpose of the Rowing for All Commission is to oversee and promote on a national and international basis all the following forms of rowing: touring, fitness and recreational rowing; coastal and traditional rowing; and indoor rowing. The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Collaborate with member federations to share knowledge, expertise and develop the above forms of rowing, in new countries and to new rowers;
- Guide the strategic growth of international competitions and challenges, to support the development of different disciplines and formats, notably coastal, beach and indoor;
- Oversee the organisation of the World Rowing Coastal Championship Regatta and the World Rowing Tour;
- Develop activities to protect and promote the heritage boat classes and support the traditional activities and regattas; and
- Foster communication between the different rowing communities.

Key activities and achievement in 2020

Tour Rowing

- 2020 World Rowing Tour American Samoa - The 2020 World Rowing Tour in American Samoa was due to be held in April. It was the first of the World Rowing events to be cancelled due to COVID-19. There is an ambition to explore ways to revive the tour in future years.
- Future World Rowing Tours - The 2022 World Rowing Tour was attributed to Canada and will be held from 11-18 September 2022. The Commission members continue to work closely with other potential organising committees (OCs) to host future tours.

Coastal Rowing

- 2020 World Rowing Coastal Championships and 2020 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals - The 2020 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and World Rowing Coastal Championships had to be postponed to 2021. The 2021 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals will be held between 24-27 September and the 2021 World Rowing Coastal Championships between 30 September -3 October 2021. Both championships will be raced off Praia da Torre, Oeiras, Lisbon (POR).
- Future events, 2022 and 2023 - On behalf of Council and working closely with the staff team, the members undertook bid visits and assessment of the five final bids for the 2022 and 2023 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and World Rowing Coastal Championships. The quality of the bids and venues were outstanding. The 2022 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and World Rowing Coastal Championships were attributed to Saundersfoot, Wales (GBR). The 2023 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and World Rowing Coastal Championships were attributed to Sabaudia (ITA).
- Paris 2024 - The staff and Commission members worked closely with the IOC Sport Department to prepare for the Paris 2024 coastal rowing submission. In the meantime,

the IOC decided that due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to reduce costs and complexity for Paris 2024 no new disciplines could be added across any sport. This resulted in the good news that lightweights would remain in the 2024 Olympic programme. The Commission received some powerful praise from the IOC Executive Board.

'The strong case put forward by World Rowing regarding the added value of this discipline to the Olympic programme, flexibility adapting to most coastal and open water areas and adding a new accessible development opportunity for island and coastal nations around the world. These strong arguments were indeed the basis for its successful introduction to the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026.'

In view of Los Angeles 2028, the Olympic Programme Commission and the IOC Executive Board highlighted how the beach nature of the Coastal Rowing events could represent a very strong fit with the vision and venue landscape of Los Angeles and, following the definition of the LA 2028 Sport Programme due in 2021, look forward to positively considering the inclusion of Coastal Rowing in the event programme for Los Angeles 2028.'

- Rules of Racing - The Commission has worked closely with the Umpiring Commission and the Rules Working Group to review the endurance and beach sprint rules. The key changes in endurance include tightening up of the 'protest' rules and provision for 'live' penalties to be taken during racing so the race finish order reflects the final placings. In beach sprint the key rule change is a new safety priority rule that requires teams to ensure the safety of people and boats as they approach the shoreline.
- Member Federation support - The World Rowing coach development team developed a new course aimed at experienced coaches who wish to prepare athletes to race the beach sprint and endurance formats. The World Rowing Coastal Race Module is a 3-day course of theory and practical sessions. Due to the pandemic, the material has been delivered online to over 100 coaches and coach educators from over 20 different countries. Member Federations (MFs) which wish to gain access to the coastal coaching courses should contact the World Rowing Development Team
- The Commission supported the 2020 European Rowing Coastal Challenge, Donoratico, ITA.

Indoor Rowing

- 2020 World Rowing Indoor Championships (Paris, FRA) **Repeated from 2019 Annual Report* - The 2020 World Rowing Indoor Championships (WRICH) set the standard for this type of event. Over 2700 competitors from 51 countries raced over 3600 races over 2 days. The venue was transformed from an indoor stadium, home of the Paris handball team, to a true arena of indoor rowing, and the sport presentation held an upbeat and energetic mood for the duration of the 2 racing days. The OC in Paris did an outstanding job integrating the WRICH into their annual French Indoor Championship.
- 2021 World Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships, presented by Concept2 - In early 2020, it became clear that COVID-19 would inhibit international sporting events from taking place for an indeterminable amount of time. As such, in April 2020 World Rowing took a proactive stance to stage the 2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships, presented by Concept2, virtually. This event saw 5 separate continental qualifiers take place in the lead up to the World Championship Finals. World Rowing is grateful to the OCs of these 5 Continental Qualifiers in the Americas (Canada), Asia (Hong Kong, China), Africa (South Africa), Europe (Great Britain) and Oceania (New Zealand) for staging these events. The 2021 World

Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships, presented by Concept2, received over 1700 entries in the qualification stage, with over 700 athletes progressing to the live race Finals from 23-27 February 2021. The Finals were streamed live over 3 days to over 31'000 unique viewers on YouTube and over 20 TV stations globally. World Rowing is currently examining the opportunities which lie in this format of indoor rowing, and is excited to see virtual rowing continue as a mainstay in the discipline.

- **Partnerships** - Indoor Rowing has developed into a unique opportunity for World Rowing to better engage with important partners who provide knowledge, services, and support to indoor rowing events and the development of the discipline. World Rowing is proud to continue working closely with Concept2, and pleased that Concept2 have partnered with World Rowing as the presenting sponsor for the 2021-2024 World Rowing Indoor Championships. Their role in indoor rowing as a whole, and their continued dedication to supporting pinnacle events such as the World Rowing and European Rowing Indoor Championships is invaluable. World Rowing is also proud to have developed a new partnership with Tencent Cloud Services, who were the 2021 Cloud Services Partner for the World Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships.
- **Attributed Events & Upcoming Events**
 - 2021 World Rowing Virtual Indoor Sprints
 - 2022 World Rowing Indoor Championships – Hamburg, GER
 - 2023 World Rowing Indoor Championships – Toronto, CAN
 - 2023 European Rowing Indoor Championships – Paris, FRA
 - 2024 World Rowing Indoor Championships – Prague, CZE

Meetings of the Commission

World Rowing Tour, American Samoa, April 2020 - Cancelled

World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals, Portugal, October 2020 - Cancelled

World Rowing Coastal Championships, Portugal, October 2020 – Cancelled

Coastal Events Bid Analysis Meetings x3, virtual, July 2020

Joint Commissions Meeting, virtual x3, October 2020

Summary

The Rowing for All Commission will cease to exist at the end of December 2020 and will divide into the Coastal Rowing Commission and the Indoor Rowing Commission. The duties of the two new expert Commissions can be found in the latest Rule Book. Recreational and Tour Rowing will continue as a part of the Coastal Rowing Commission for the near future.

As the days of the Rowing for All Commission draw in, I would like to formally thank the past Chairs and Members for their innovation and hard work.

The strategic development of both coastal and indoor rowing is central to the successful future of global rowing. Both coastal and indoor rowing have a huge potential to extend the 'reach' of rowing into the extremes of society from island counties to large urban communities. The decision by Congress to make two new expert Commissions reflects the potential of these two disciplines for the future.

2020 Commission Members

Guin Batten (GBR), Chair

Katharina von Kodolitsch (GER) – Coastal

Warwick Marler (AUS) - Recreational

Richard Mouchel (FRA) – Coastal

Andrea Ranner (AUT) - Recreational

Pasquale Triggiani (ITA) – Coastal

Chen Chunxin (CHN) – Coastal

Ibtissem Trimech (TUN) – Coastal

SPORTS MEDICINE COMMISSION

Juergen Steinacker (GER), Chair

The purpose of the Sports Medicine Commission (SMC) is to oversee and advise on all medical and anti-doping aspects related to rowing. The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Supervise and monitor medical, health and safety services at World Rowing Championships and World Rowing Cup regattas using Commission members or FISA-certified volunteer medical physicians;
- Investigate and promote the prevention of rowing related injuries and health issues;
- Formulate and publish best practice guidelines for medical and health services and environmental issues;
- Promote research activity on rowing-related health and medical issues, exercise physiology, biomechanics, health, environmental and any other sports medicine related subjects;
 - Provide basic medical and health education to coaches;
- Publish in the Sports Medicine section on the FISA website, as appropriate: – Legislation and statements (WADA, IOC, FIMS, FISA...); – Documentation relating to exercise physiology, sports medicine, biomechanics, biological aspects of training; – Research results and best-practices publications; • Provide basic medical and health education to coaches;
- Provide advice and recommendations upon request to the Council, Coaches Conference and member federations;
- Advise FISA on guidelines and policies for anti-doping activities and supervise anti-doping controls at FISA events; and
- Provide three members of the Commission to serve as the Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee, as defined in the Anti-Doping Rules. One member shall be appointed as Chair by the Executive Committee.

Key activities and achievements

- World Rowing Event Doctors - Our commission members continued their service at regattas as the World Rowing Doctor in accordance with the bye-law to rule 37. The events in 2020 included:
 - European Rowing Junior Championship, Duisburg (GER)
 - European Rowing U23 Championships, Zagreb (SBR)
 - European Championships, Poznan (POL)
- Representation - The Chair represented FISA at the following events:
 - IF Medical Commission Chairpersons meeting with participation of OCOG in Monaco 03/2010
 - IF meetings on Transgender and DSD
 - IOC work group on water quality (regular online meetings)
 - IOC expert group on COVID-19 (regular online meetings)
 - IF Medical Commission Chairpersons meeting (online meetings)

- TUEs - Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (ending 2020)
 - Chair: Dr Donia Koubaa (TUN). members from the SMC were appointed on a case by case basis
- Development – No development activities due to COVID-19
- Tokyo 2020 preparations
 - The 2019 World Rowing test event was analysed.
 - Medical and rescue preparation of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games was continuously supported.
 - The heat guidelines were updated.
 - Water Quality – the guidelines on water quality and guidelines on water testing were successfully shared and utilised at the Tokyo 2020 Sea Forest waterway.
 - Dr Hiura served as venue medical director for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.
- The Rowing Low Back Pain Consensus project, led by Fiona Wilson and supported by the SMC, was successfully finalised.
- Safeguarding participants in rowing from harassment and abuse: The SMC members of the World Rowing Safeguarding Working Group were the SMC Chair and Dr Wilkinson.
- SMC meetings in 2020: four online meetings and 5 joint meetings at the 2020 World Rowing JCM.

COVID-19 pandemic

Early in the pandemic, the SMC worked with the appropriate bodies of IOC, WHO and other IFs and released fact sheets, statements and guidelines for World Rowing bodies, working in close coordination with the World Rowing event team. We assisted in the creation of risk and mitigation analysis schemes for outdoor sports, the bubble training and competition concepts, testing protocols and advice for management of positive and/or ill participants. We reached out to public health organisations and experts such as the Aerosol Society to provide evidence about safe rowing and training.

As one of the initial measures, the 2020 series of the European Championships were used as test events. Positive cases were analysed by a questionnaire and by recall of team managers.

8 positive cases were reported in Belgrade (1 cluster), 14 positive cases were reported in Poznan (4 clusters). Overall, between 2% (Poznan) and 3.6% (Belgrade) of participants demonstrated some COVID-symptoms after the events. There was no significant transmission between teams at the event which supported the bubble concept. Most participants felt well and safe and the measures taken were rated as appropriate.

Published guidelines (several versions, full list below).

- Fact Sheet: Health Situation for Athletes in the Current Coronavirus Pandemic (SARSCoV-2 / COVID-19).
- World Rowing – COVID-19 Pandemic: Advice for post-peak and post-pandemic periods.
- Covid-19 Pandemic - Return to Staging Regattas Advice for Event Organisers and Member Federations in 2020
- COVID bubble and testing protocols
- Advice for physiotherapists (massage therapists, and other clinicians in very close contact) treating rowing athletes during and post COVID-19 pandemic (Wilson / Ni Cheallaigh)
- World Rowing Use of Masks Guidelines

Anti-Doping Department (ADD)

- ADD consists of the ADD head Matt Smith, Medical and Scientific Advisor Dr Alain Lacoste, the AD Manager Natalie Schmutz and legal advisor John Boulton.
- After 2020, World Rowing transferred the tasks of the ADD to the International Testing Agency (ITA) (AD testing, results management, APMU and TUE management)
- AD hearings will be performed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport's Anti-Doping Division (CAS ADD).
- SMC thanks Dr Alain Lacoste for his long-lasting, exceptional and widely acknowledged support of Anti-Doping and to the AD Manager Natalie Schmutz

Anti-Doping Committee (ADC)

- Members of the ADC in 2020: Sports Medicine Commission Chair Dr Jürgen Steinacker, Executive Director Matt Smith, Council Member Dr Lenka Dienstbach-Wech, Sports Medicine Commission Member Dr Mike Wilkinson.
- Experts: ADD head Dr Alain Lacoste, AD Manager Natalie Schmutz and legal advisor John Boulton

Rule change proposals for the 2020 Extraordinary Congress

- Gender Identification and Sex Assignment
 - New Rule 13 – Men's and Women's Events was redrafted taking into account fairness of racing for protected disciplines, inclusion, non-discrimination and societal acceptability. The proposal was approved by the Extraordinary Congress
 - The Gender Advisory Panel is a multidisciplinary group that includes specialists in the areas of gender identification, sex-reassignment, hyperandrogenism, transgender and differences of sexual development (DSD), including Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, Joanna Harper, Prof. Ronald Chen, Dr. Donia Koubaa and Prof. Dr. Juergen Steinacker.
- New Rule 14 – Health and Safety of rowers
 - The new rule highlights that health and safety of the participants in the sport of rowing are of paramount concern. This supplements the safety provisions in new Rule 48 describing the duties of each Member Federation to their rowers:
 - The rule also requires that Member Federations nominate a Chief Medical Officer
- New Bye-law to Rule 35 – this now states that it is the responsibility of organising committees to provide a Regatta Medical Officer who is a medical doctor and to support the World Rowing Doctor. It is now mandatory that the organising committees appoint a safety coordinator who is responsible for overseeing of rescue services and coordination with medical services and the Chief Medical Officer.

Publications

- Updates to the World Rowing website
- Update of SMC guidelines on heat and cold, regatta health (Cook book), rescue, hygiene and hygienic hazards protocol, water safety, effects of testosterone.

Focus for 2021

- The health and safety for participants at World Rowing events and the Olympic Games in Tokyo is a main topic for 2021.
- The guidelines on Event Safety, Medical and Rescue Plans, Injury and Serious Events Surveillance and Hygiene measures were examined in detail. Proposals to improve rescue and safety equipment, such as inflatable devices attached to the wrist, will be analysed.
- A secondary analysis of pre-competition health screening will be performed.
- Global Health and Development for the health and safety of rowers is on the agenda.
- Educational programmes and work with the development program of World Rowing will also continue to be a priority for the SMC.

These activities ensure that the Sports Medicine Commission continues to collaborate with World Rowing Commissions and international organisations to significantly improve the safety and health of athletes and teams, to secure successful outcomes of World Rowing events, and to contribute to the standing of World Rowing as an international sport organisation.

Publications

COVID-19:

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Rowing related (and general sports related) back pain.

All in the BJSM; three systematic reviews, one clinical Delphi study, one qualitative study and one consensus statement (endorsed by World Rowing and made open-access by BJSM). We have also presented this work at numerous international conferences and created an infographic to help with dissemination

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2020 Commission Members

Dr Juergen Steinacker (GER), Chair

Dr Jo Hannafin (USA)

Dr Mikio Hiura (JPN)

Dr Donia Koubaa (TUN)

Dr Henning Nielsen (DEN)

Dr Piero Poli (ITA)

Dr Tomislav Smoljanovic (CRO)

Dr Michael Wilkinson (CAN)

Dr Petra Zupet (SLO)

UMPIRING COMMISSION

Patrick Rombaut (BEL), Chair

The purpose of the Umpiring Commission is to standardise umpiring and to continuously improve the quality of umpiring in general, in particular at FISA World Championships, and at international events (regattas, sprints, para rowing, indoor, coastal, etc.) and to promote umpiring throughout the world.

The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Select juries for FISA events based on selection criteria as agreed by the Executive Committee;
- Supervise the work of the juries at World Rowing Championships;
- Develop, improve and standardise umpiring by conducting seminars and clinics, using the most modern educational techniques and methods;
- Conduct examinations for international umpire licences;
- Monitor the qualifications and quality of international umpires;
- Define the role of umpires in the development of new types of rowing events, in collaboration with the other FISA Commissions as appropriate;
- Continuously improve the standard of regatta organisation at all major events in co-operation with the other FISA Commissions as appropriate;
- Assist in the implementation of the Umpiring Development Programme; and
- Provide quality assurance for the Rules of Racing and associated Bye-Laws, in the official languages of FISA as appropriate.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

The following World Rowing Events were attended:

- World Rowing Indoor Championships, Paris (FRA);
- World Rowing Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress, virtual.

The following International Regattas were attended:

- European Rowing Indoor Championships, Prague (CZE);
- European Rowing Junior Championships, Belgrade (SRB);
- European Rowing U23 Championships, Duisburg (GER);
- European Rowing Senior Championships, Poznan (POL);
- European Coastal Challenge, Donoratico (ITA);
- African Indoor Championships – Tunis (TUN);
- Saudi-Arabia Indoor Championships, Riyadh (KSA).
- New World Rowing umpires – No new World Rowing umpires as no exam sessions were organised due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

- Seminars & clinics – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic only 1 seminar could be organised in Gent (BEL), attended by 12 WR umpires and ca. 25 national umpires.
- Other achievements of the Commission - Participated actively in the Rules Working Group; launched the Umpires newsletter; assistance with further development of the trial related to the audience participation/athlete recognition during the start procedure in Poznan (European Rowing Champs).
- Umpiring Commission meetings in 2020 - Rowing Season Preparation Meeting, March, Bled (SLO); virtual Joint Commissions Meeting, October-November; monthly virtual meetings at World and European Rowing Umpiring Commission level.
- Some of the Commission members were part of educational and development projects, preparatory site visits and continental/regional working groups.

Focus for 2021

The 2021 season starts with:

- 485 World Rowing umpires from 68 member federations (MFs);
- A total of 133 female World Rowing umpires across 52 MFs (or 27,42% of the total number);
- 286 World Rowing Umpires selected for the Olympic, Paralympic, World and European juries for 2021.
- To monitor permanently the availability of the selected 2021 jury members, due to the many COVID-19 travel and quarantine restrictions.
- Organisation of an increased number of (live or virtual) umpiring seminars and clinics to present and discuss the decisions of the 2020 Extraordinary Congress on one side and to assure the renewal of the WR umpire licenses (which was 'blocked' during the 2020 rowing season for obvious reasons).
- Geographical representation - continue to expand the number of MFs with World Rowing qualified umpires.
- Gender representation – further increase the number of female umpires.
- Increase the Regional Umpire level (education and exams)
- Wider distribution of the Umpiring newsletter.
- Learning resources - continue to develop new resources for umpiring development such as online, YouTube tutorials and summary sheets.
- Contribution to practical race preparation of development crews during World Rowing events.
- World Rowing projects - further contribution to new and ongoing rowing formats, with particular focus on beach sprints and coastal rowing.

Summary

World Rowing's Umpiring Commission will continue to contribute to fair competitions in cooperation with all parties involved.

2020 Commission Members

Angela Alonso (ESP)

Fabio Bolcic (ITA)

Kristopher Grudt (USA)

Ines Hammami (TUN)

Nicholas Hunter (AUS)

Gabrielle Isenschmid Weber (SUI)

Vladimir Meglic (SLO)

Jérôme Mouly (FRA)

Stefanie Palfner (GER)

Patrick Rombaut (BEL), Chair

Takao Senda (JPN)

WOMEN'S ROWING COMMISSION

Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED), Chair

The purpose of the Women's Rowing Commission is to oversee and promote women's participation in all rowing activities and events, at all levels.

The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Co-operate with other international sport federations.
- Establish and maintain contacts with people responsible for women's rowing in each member federation.
- Identify and promote women in administration, coaching, umpiring, & research roles.
- Investigate and evaluate regatta results, numbers of participants, weight limits etc.
- Organise seminars.
- Collect material for publicity and promotion of women's rowing.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

The year 2020 was an extraordinary year. Not only due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which made several planned activities impossible, but also because of the approval to transition to a Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Cross Commission, effective 2022. Some activities continued in 2020, in a virtual environment; one of them being the Women's Sport Leadership Academy for High Performance Coaches (WSLA HC).

- **Women's Sport Leadership Academy for High Performance Coaches (WSLA HPC)** – World Rowing has joined forces with five other Summer Sports IFs - cycling, rugby, tennis, triathlon and wrestling - and in collaboration with WSLA, developed in 2019 the Women's Sport Leadership Academy for High Performance Coaches (WSLA HPC). The purpose is to give talented female coaches the opportunity to get more expertise and knowledge, to develop their talents and to be guided in their career path.

The WSLA HPC develops leadership and technical skills of high potential female coaches. The pilot programme started in November 2019. World Rowing selected coaches from Argentina, Egypt, Iran, Latvia and Tunisia to participate, in coordination with their MFs and National Olympic Committees (NOCs). Olympic Solidarity, through the NOCs, provided a scholarship for travel, tuition and course expenses. World Rowing contributed with sport specific costs and facilitated participation at the Coaches Conferences; the MFs supported the application and the career path of the participants. Each participant is obliged to develop a national or regional female coaches' network to increase the impact of the WSLA HPC; their aim is to become head coach of a female team at the Junior World Championships or YOG. All WR participants were successful and completed the WSLA in 2020. On 18 February, a joyful virtual Graduation Celebration took place

Focus for 2021

The year 2021 is the transition year to the GEDI cross commission. A new working group with expertise on many different aspects of diversity has been established to help guide us in developing detailed proposals to present to Council in August 2021 and then to the 2021

Ordinary Congress in November for approval. This was already announced at the virtual 2020 Extraordinary Congress.

2020 Commission Members and World Rowing staff

The Women's Rowing Commission is a cross commission and therefore has no fixed membership but rather consists of a broad group of men and women. The Women's Commission is closely connected to the Development team; in 2020 in particular the WSLA activities have been strongly supported by Sheila Stephens and Daniela Gomes.

YOUTH ROWING COMMISSION

Algirdas Raslanas (LTU), Chair

The purpose of the Youth Rowing Commission is to oversee and promote all areas of youth and student rowing and increase participation at all levels of performance and across nations.

The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Assist and advise on the organisation of the World Rowing Junior and Under 23 Championships and other international level youth competitions, e.g., Youth Olympic Games and FISU competitions;
- Represent the interests of youth rowing when decisions about the competition system are to be made;
- Monitor trends in youth rowing at national and international levels;
- Establish and maintain contact with coaches at major FISA events, e.g. by holding meetings at least once per year;
- Organise the World Rowing Youth Coaches Conference;
- Assist the Control Commission at the World Rowing Junior and Under 23 Championships;
- Analyse the organisation, entries and results of the World Rowing Junior and Under 23 Championships and to publish the results and to use the information to inform future activities; and
- Consult with the Masters Rowing Commission regarding the Masters Fund for Youth Rowing and the use of the resources of the Fund.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- Event support and Management – All events were cancelled due to global pandemic. Collaborated to provide speakers for WR Coaches Conference.
- Governance Working Group – Algirdas Raslanas gave input to this group.
- World Rowing Coaches Development Program – Axel Müller and Mehdi Garidi contributed materials for this program.
- Masters Fund for Youth Rowing – thanks to the money provided by the Masters Commission many coaches have now passed through the scholarship coach programme to become full-time professional coaches in their own national programs. Beneficiaries include:
 - Chokri Ben-Miled (TUN, 2002)
 - Raihan Omar (SIN, 2004)
 - Juvenalis Gitau Kariega (KEN, 2004)
 - Ruben Scarpati (URU, 2006)
 - Kerrie Mackie (ZIM, 2008)
 - Rocio Rivarola Trappe (PAR, 2011)
 - Le Van Quang (VIE, 2013)
 - Carlos Merino Lemus (ESA, 2014)

- Kushal Abhayaratne (SRI, 2017)
- Sharen Kannangara (SRI, 2017)
- Paisanwan Sitthakam, "Noom" (THA, 2019)
- Youth Rowing Commission meetings in 2020 - Virtual Joint Commission Meetings by Zoom, November.

Focus for 2021

- World Rowing U23 Championships: 2021 Racice (CZE), 7-11 July
- World Rowing Junior Championship: 2021 Plovdiv (BUL), 11-15 August
- FISU University Games: 2021 Chengdu (CHN), 18-22 August
- World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals: 2021 Oeiras (POR), 24-26 September
- Youth Coaches Conference: 2021 Limassol (CYP), 5-7 November (Rescheduled from 2020)
- Masters Fund for Youth Rowing Project (THA, IRI?)
- Youth Coastal Rowing Development, Promotion & Safety
- Fairness and Safeguarding at events
- World Rowing U23/Junior Championship: 2022 Varese (ITA), 27 July – 1 August

Summary

The Youth Commission members are actively involved in rowing and youth sport activities in all continents displaying their wide experience for their tasks in the Commission.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Commission members, as well as the member federations, for their proposals and suggestions. Their active contribution is greatly appreciated.

2020 Commission Members

Antonio Colamonici (ITA)

Jaime Fernandez (AUS)

Mehdi Garidi (ALG)

Barb Grudt (USA)

Zhongming Huang (CHN)

Axel Müller (GER)

Algirdas Raslanas (LTU), Chair

Olga Tarasova (BLR)

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFRICA

Mehdi Garidi (ALG)

The role of the World Rowing Continental Representative, according to the Bye-Law to Article 47 in Appendix 5 of the World Rowing Rule Book, is to:

- Represent World Rowing within their continent;
- Promote rowing and maintain close and regular contact with the member federations, continental rowing confederations and groupings of member federations, and regatta organisers in their continents;
- Promote and support World Rowing development initiatives and advise World Rowing on rowing development within their continent;
- Observe the major international regattas held within their continent;
- In case of non-observance of the Statutes and Rules of Racing in their continent, submit reports to the Executive Committee;
- Submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose, they may request reports from the member federations within their continent; and
- Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their World Rowing responsibilities.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

National Development Activities

- Algeria - Assistance on the attribution of the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship for 1 coach through the PAISAC program.
- Angola - DNSS, final webinar, October.
- Cape Verde - DNSS, first site visit in March, second site visit in October.
- Egypt - Development of national sport structure (DNSS), 2 site visits in January and March, delivery of World Rowing Level 1 course by video-conference in November.
- Lesotho - World Rowing Introduction course for the first time, March.
- Uganda - donation of 18 boats.
- Nigeria - donation of 6 ergometers.
- Ongoing programmes - Women in Sport Leadership Academy, HPC with 2 coaches, from TUN and EGY (graduated in February 2021).

Continental and regional activities

- World Rowing Level 1 Continental tutor training, Tunisia, February - 10 Coaches (3 female, 7 male) participated in this course, coming from EGY, ALG, MAR, RSA, TUN.
- World Rowing training camp & 13th Tunis Lake International Rowing Regatta, Tunisia, February - 38 athletes participated, 18 female and 20 male representing MAR, ALG, LBA, TUN, SUD.

- Coaching webinar for English speakers - Participation of Gianni Postiglione, Faycal Soula, Daniela Gomes, Mehdi Garidi; 74 participants.
- Coaching webinar for French speakers - Participation of Gianni Postiglione, Faycal Soula, Daniela Gomes, Mehdi Garidi; 41 participants.
- World Rowing virtual meeting for African Member Federations (MFs), 5 October 2020 - Participation of Jean-Christophe Rolland, Matt Smith.
- FASA & World Rowing executive boards' meeting, 6 October 2020.
- 2020 World Rowing Congresses (virtual) - Assistance with the participation of the African countries.
- FASA recognition by World Rowing as the Continental Rowing Confederation for Africa, in accordance with Art.18, at the 2020 Ordinary Congress.
- FASA statutes to be reviewed - ongoing.
- Indoor Rowing - Technical meeting with the African MFs to prepare the Indoor virtual regatta 13 November 2020; organisation of the continental qualification regatta for the World Rowing Indoor Championships and African Indoor Virtual Championships, 28 November 2020, with participation of 524 athletes from 16 countries.
- World Rowing Coach Development Programme tutor training - 10 Coaches from Africa took part, ALG 2, TUN 4, RSA 2, MAR 1, EGY 1, from October to December.

World activities

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no World Rowing international competitions in 2020.

Meetings Attended in 2020

- World Rowing Council meeting, Budapest (HUN), January
- World Rowing Council virtual meetings: 2 April; 13, 20, 27 June; 25 July; 2 October
- 2020 FISA Ordinary & Extraordinary Congresses, 16-18 October
- Meeting with the Executive Committee November 2020, as part of the JCM

Focus for 2021

- Organise successfully the African championships, Algeria, September 2021;
- 1st African beach sprint championships, Tunisia, June 2021;
- 2nd African indoor rowing championships, Egypt, December 2021;
- 14th Tunis Lake international regatta, March 2021;
- Assist the African MFs to participate in the international and continental championships
- Assist and cooperate with the organising committees (OCs) of the future major Games to be held in Africa to ensure the inclusion and delivery of successful rowing events
 - The Youth African Games, Ethiopia, 2022
 - The African Beach Games, Tunisia, 2023
 - The All-African Games, Ghana, 2023

- Assist with the organisation of the FASA Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assemblies, June 2021, TBC;
- Assist on the review process of the FASA Statutes;
- Improve FASA governance and assist African MFs in improving the governance of their organisations;
- Improve female participation in FASA governance;
- Organise technical coaching courses and umpire seminars;
- Develop indoor, coastal and para rowing; organise a successful continental and regional championships, in classic, coastal, para, and indoor rowing;
- Improve female participation in rowing, by increasing the number of female athletes and coaches at all levels;
- Lead by example and ensure that all World Rowing activities in Africa are conducted in a sustainable way.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE AMERICAS

Victoria Aguirregomezcorta (ARG)

The role of the World Rowing Continental Representative, according to the Bye-Law to Article 47 in Appendix 5 to the FISA Rule Book, is to

- Represent FISA within their continent;
- Promote rowing and maintain close and regular contact with the member federations, continental rowing confederations and groupings of member federations, and regatta organisers in their continents;
- Promote and support FISA development initiatives and advise FISA on rowing development within their continent;
- Observe the major international regattas held within their continent;
- In case of non-observance of the Statutes and Rules of Racing in their continent, submit reports to the Executive Committee;
- Submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose, they may request reports from the member federations within their continent; and
- Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their FISA responsibilities.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- Communication and collection of data during pandemic year.
- World Rowing Coaches' Conference saw over 100 participants with speakers from Canada, UK, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, Argentina and Germany.
- Copa America 2020 was held in Chile. This fourth edition was marked by the highest participation since its beginning: over 200 athletes representing 8 Member Federations (MFs) and 10 clubs in 293 boats. Women's events and indoor rowing challenges were the flagship continental events. I would like to highlight the commitment and involvement from the city of Valdivia and its 3000 spectators, who cheered each of the competition days.
- Copa America - Indoor. Chilean rowers dominated the virtual indoor Copa America. Participants from ARG, BRA, CAN, CHI, CRA, CUB, DOM, ECU, ESA, GUA, HON, MEX, NIC, PAR, PER, URU and USA were offered the opportunity to stay engaged in some form of rowing competition during this unprecedented season of cancelled regattas and a postponed Olympic Games.
- National development projects were launched in CRC and NCA through virtual deliveries focusing on classic and coastal rowing.
- Equipment donations were received by DOM (ergometers), BAR (coastal boats), CRC (classic and coastal boats, ergometers and oars ordered with support from Olympic Solidarity and the NOC).

Events and meetings attended in 2020

- Council meeting, Budapest (HUN), January.
- Council virtual meetings 2 April; 13, 20, 27 June, 25 July; 2 October

- 2020 FISA Ordinary & Extraordinary Congresses, 18-18 October
- Meeting with the Executive committee November 2020, as part of the JCM

Focus for 2021

- Tokyo 2020 continental qualification regatta - Support and provide safe conditions for the delivery of this event.
- Coastal rowing development activity - Besides the current implementation and practice in BAH, BRA, CAN, PER, URU and USA, seek opportunity for beach sprint events in Central America and the Caribbean region.
- Copa America - Staging of Central American and Caribbean Cup and Coastal Rowing Cup, all TBC. Assist in bidding process for transparency, facilitate protocols for OCs which highlight models of good, inexpensive initiatives and encourage USA and CAN to participate.
- Para rowing - Encourage COPARE to identify flagship event in Rio to be officially included in the programme, and review plan for inclusion of para rowing events in Para Pan American Games.
- Increase the number of female coaches, athletes and umpires through seminars and strategic programs.
- Identify and educate potential additional officials in the continent for future events.
- Facilitate network of all MFs across the Americas.
- Support and promote the organisation of rowing and para rowing training camps held by the Development Team.
- Deliver MF workshops to disseminate information and build leadership platforms.
- Provide governance and safeguarding education webinars.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ASIA

HO Kim Fai "Fay" (HKG)

The role of the World Rowing Continental Representative, according to the Bye-Law to Article 47 in Appendix 5 of the World Rowing Rule Book, is to:

- Represent World Rowing within their continent;
- Promote rowing and maintain close and regular contact with the member federations, continental rowing confederations and groupings of member federations, and regatta organisers in their continents;
- Promote and support World Rowing development initiatives and advise World Rowing on rowing development within their continent;
- Observe the major international regattas held within their continent;
- In case of non-observance of the Statutes and Rules of Racing in their continent, submit reports to the Executive Committee;
- Submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose, they may request reports from the member federations within their continent; and
- Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their World Rowing responsibilities.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- Due to the worldwide pandemic, the Asian Rowing Federation (ARF) decided all Championships originally scheduled to be held in 2020, would be postponed to 2021. Discussions are now taking place with the original host federations to confirm their current positions and to consider a provisional calendar.
- A seminar on High Performance Coaching was presented on 16 September for the Philippines Rowing Association by World Rowing Development Consultant Chris Perry.
- An umpiring update seminar for Coastal Rowing was presented for the Asian Rowing Federation by Dr. Siu Kin Wah and Dr. Takao Senda on 25 October.
- Fay Ho, Paul Thompson, Mohammadali Gharaat, Mehdi Garidi, Afshin Farzam and Soulmaz Azad presented topics on Sustainable Development of Women's Rowing and Asian Rowing Development during a seminar organised by the Iran Canoeing, Rowing and Sailing Association on 28 November.
- Three Asian Coaches are currently upgrading their qualifications as Coach Educators as part of the restructuring of the World Rowing Coach Education Programme.
- Twelve Asian Coaches from 6 Member Federations (MFs) - BAN, CHN, HKG, INA, IND, MDV - completed the online component of the Level 1 Coastal Rowing Coach syllabus run by Guin Batten from 20-22 October.
- A Safeguarding Seminar, hosted by the Philippines Rowing Association, was conducted by Chris Perry with 68 athletes, coaches and officials attending from 5 MFs.

Meeting and Events Attended in 2020

- Council Meeting in Budapest from 31 January to 2 February.
- World Rowing and ARF EC Conference meeting on 12 April.
- Council meetings on 2 April; 13, 29, 27 June; 25 July; 2 October and 10 October, by video-conference.
- 2020 FISA Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress on 16-18 October.
- Joint Commissions Meeting with EC on 27 November, by video-conference.

Focus for 2021

- Ensure that a fair and safe qualification regatta for the Olympic and Paralympic Games can be organised.
- Support and promote the two major World Rowing events that will be hosted in our region in 2021 – the Olympic Games in Tokyo and the World Rowing Championships in Shanghai.
- Begin the roll-out of the newly restructured World Rowing Coach Education Programme in a consistent and well-planned way - beginning with online/virtual components and following up with face-to-face practical visits when situation permits.
- Trace back previously held coaching courses and bring previous qualifications into compliance with new system – with appropriate upgrade options and seminars.
- In cooperation with ARF, establish a better long-term calendar and planning process.
- Continue the project initiated by Gianni Postiglione to network Asian Training Centres and collect regular training/testing/racing reports. Use this network to establish regional development nodes in different parts of Asia.
- Develop a database of regional coaches and officials and enhance communication.
- Encourage ARF to consider registering as a Continental Rowing Confederation (Art.18).
- Push forward further initiatives on female coaches and on Olympic Values.
- Further expand and promote para and coastal rowing activities.

Summary

It is great honour to have been selected as Continental Representative to continue the excellent work of my predecessor, Dr Liu Aijie, especially at this critical period where the world faces a challenging pandemic year. In view of the new norms we currently face, we must continue to be proactive and creative in encouraging rowing development in Asia. We treasure the close partnership with the Asian Rowing Federation and with all of the MFs. The support from the World Rowing staff and particularly the Development team is also essential to our work and greatly valued.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EUROPE

Ryszard Stadniuk (POL)

The role of the FISA Continental Representative, according to the Bye-Law to Article 47 in Appendix 5 to the FISA Rule Book, is to

- Represent World Rowing within their continent;
- Promote rowing and maintain close and regular contact with the member federations, continental rowing confederations and groupings of member federations, and regatta organisers in their continents;
- Promote and support World Rowing development initiatives and advise World Rowing on rowing development within their continent;
- Observe the major international regattas held within their continent;
- In case of non-observance of the Statutes and Rules of Racing in their continent, submit reports to the Executive Committee;
- Submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose, they may request reports from the member federations within their continent; and
- Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their World Rowing responsibilities.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- Attended the European Rowing Confederation Presidents' Meeting, Vienna (AUT) 20-22 February. Many thanks to the Austrian Rowing Federation and organisers for their support in hosting this event. The participating Presidents and Secretaries General discussed European Rowing event programmes and possible alternative formats for youth events; the Erasmus+ submission for development of an education and female leadership/coaching development programme; indoor rowing rules; the draft European Rowing Strategy and other priorities for the continent.
- European Rowing Indoor Championships, Prague (CZE) - This event was held on 11 January in Královka Hall in Prague, CZE together with the CZE national championships. The event offered the opportunity for para classification on the day prior. Attendance at the whole event was excellent with 30 European Federations represented, 928 entries and 105 disciplines. Nine European Rowing titles were awarded across W, M, LW, LM and 5 para disciplines.
- European Rowing U23 Championships, Duisburg (GER), 5-6 October, was the first major international rowing event held under COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines. Much work and liaison took place between the World Rowing events staff, Sports Medicine Commission and the organising committee (OC) in Duisburg as well as the German Rowing Federation to road test the new protocols. The World Rowing Executive Director attended to establish a review of the new guidelines. This event was the best attended ERU23CH to date with 31 Member Federations (MFs), 230 crews and 648 athletes, with 58% male and 42% female athletes. The OC put great effort into the successful staging of this championship event during the pandemic.

- European Rowing Junior Championships, Belgrade (SRB) 26-27 September, was rescheduled from 30-31 May due to the pandemic. The OC took care to ensure the COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines were in place throughout the event. Good support from their funding partners meant this was possible without any additional cost to Federations. 27 MFs participated, 139 crews, 433 athletes.
- European Rowing Championships, Poznan (POL), 9-11 October were rescheduled from 5-7 June. This was the only senior elite international rowing event held in 2020. 31 MFs participated entering 207 crews (517 athletes). The Championships saw the debut for European para rowing disciplines. There were a number of challenges to ensure COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines could be met but the OC were very experienced and communications at the event worked well, the final date for decision to hold the event was pushed as late as possible. Onsite testing was provided, and isolation space provided in case of a suspected case. The event was covered by 38 broadcasters covering 22 countries and two news agencies. Athlete feedback on the event was very positive.
- General Assembly of the European Rowing Confederation (ERC) took place at the ERCH in Poznan 10 October and was a mixture of in person and video conferencing. Updates on discussions at the Presidents' meeting were shared and discussion about European Rowing's strategic priorities discussed including the development of coastal events for the continent.
- As a result of the MFs desire to promote coastal rowing events and a generous offer from Davide Filippi to host and sponsor an event, a first European Rowing Coastal Challenge took place at Donoratico (ITA) 23-25 October. This provided opportunities for MF crews in senior and junior Beach Sprint, testing two simultaneous racetracks, and senior club/MF crews in the endurance event. 242 athletes were entered, representing 16 nations across both disciplines. The event was well supported by the Coastal Rowing Commission Chair, ERB members, local World Rowing umpires and a WR event manager. The weather provided serious challenges, but the venue and facilities and atmosphere were excellent and the OC helpful and flexible. There were a number of valuable learnings for future iterations.
- Attended the World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting by video conference.

Accomplishments

- Delivery of four successful European Rowing Championship events.
- Introduction of para rowing to the senior continental Championships.
- First steps in the delivery of a coastal rowing development strategy for the continent.
- Carried out a survey of MFs regarding the future of lightweight rowing programmes to inform decisions regarding event programmes.
- Organised General Assembly and a European National Federation Presidents' meeting to agree the European Rowing strategy.
- Concluded and signed the cooperation agreement between World Rowing and European Rowing.
- European Rowing is making good steps towards equality in male/female athlete numbers at Championship events.

Focus for 2021

- Ensure that European Rowing competitions can safely continue within the protocols required for the current pandemic.
- Continue to develop a coastal rowing programme in Europe and find the best date for European Rowing Coastal Championships in 2022.
- Maintain good communication and relationships with, and between, MFs through the annual Presidents' Meeting.
- Continue to improve safeguarding and environmental policies aligned with and in support of World Rowing.
- Review and submit a revised bid for Erasmus+ funding to support the development of OVEP programme and a women's coaching and leadership network.
- Improve the European Rowing 'brand' identity to add value to European and World Rowing.

Summary

This was an important and challenging year for European Rowing. Thanks to the positive engagement pre-, during and post-events between the World Rowing Sports Medicine Commission and Events team, local OCs and ERB members, five important sport events took place in Europe despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire rowing community acted with great responsibility and discipline and the governance of the events worked well.

ERC mission statement: European Rowing aspires to be a leading continental confederation, adding value to rowing globally and supporting delivery of World Rowing strategic objectives to make rowing a successful and sustainable sport, by supporting its national federations to work together for the sustainable future of our sport.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OCEANIA

Lee Spear (NZL)

The role of the FISA Continental Representative, according to the Bye-Law to Article 47 in Appendix 5 to the FISA Rule Book, is to

- Represent FISA within their continent;
- Promote rowing and maintain close and regular contact with the member federations, continental rowing confederations and groupings of member federations, and regatta organisers in their continents; • Promote and support FISA development initiatives and advise FISA on rowing development within their continent;
- Observe the major international regattas held within their continent;
- In case of non-observance of the Statutes and Rules of Racing in their continent, submit reports to the Executive Committee;
- Submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose, they may request reports from the member federations within their continent; and
- Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their FISA responsibilities.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

Oceania comprises eight World Rowing Member Federations (MFs) – Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa, Fiji, Tonga and Kiribati. However, Samoa, Fiji and Tonga are not currently active.

COVID-19 and the consequent national border restrictions caused significant disruption to the 2020 rowing year with significant impact on the Oceania MFs

Australia (Rowing Australia "RA")

As for all MFs, 2020 proved to be a year which presented many challenges for the sport of rowing in Australia, but also saw RA achieve several milestones. A summary of the year is found below:

- In January 2020, bushfires ravaged vast amounts of mainland Australia, forcing RA's Men's and Women's National Training Centre squads to temporarily relocate to Tasmania to train through the month.
- Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RA was forced to cancel the 2020 Aon Australian Rowing Championships (Sydney International Regatta Centre) and the 2020 Australian Masters Rowing Championships (Lake Barrington). A number of indoor rowing events took place during lockdown, which were a great success and most pleasingly saw an increase in participation rates:
 - RA ran the virtual 2020 Indoor Interstate Regatta with over 1700 participants, with the State of Queensland winning the overall title.
 - RA partnered with Rowing NZ to deliver the inaugural 2020 Anzac Day Indoor Rowing Challenge. The event saw Australian's and New Zealander's unite to record 2504 metres (signifying the date of Anzac Day), as many times as possible, at home, on their indoor rowing machines.

- RA alongside Rowing NZ, Rowing Canada Aviron and British Rowing combined to run two virtual indoor rowing events during lockdown. The Row to the Moon Challenge saw the four countries combine to row over 51 million metres in May, the equivalent of more than 63 round trips to the International Space Station. Meanwhile, the One Minute Challenge saw 2,766 indoor rowing participants race, including Australian Paralympian, Erik Horrie, who set a new World's Best Time of 327 metres in a minute.
- RA was fortunate to be able to host the 2020 Australian Indoor Rowing Championships in October 2020. Participants were able to take part at event centres, or virtually, in an event that saw over 1000 competitors in action.
- The numerous virtual indoor rowing events, during and after lockdown, saw many Australians set multiple World and National Records.
- With additional funding from the Australian Government, via Sport Australia and the Australian Institute of Sport, RA continued to expand and support its Pathway Program – delivering a dedicated resource to help athletes on their journey from School, to Club to International rowing.
- RA's Para Rowing Program continues to grow, with funding received in 2020 from Paralympics Australia and the Australian Institute of Sport for the #Passport2Paris Program. The program is framed around a series of para rowing camps focusing on increasing participation rates, talent identification and developing opportunities for para rowing athletes, particularly women and those in the higher impairment sport classes. The program is also about developing coaching expertise across the National Institute Network, which will have a strongly positive flow-on effect for Australian para rowing.
- Continued work has occurred to diversify RA's revenue sources, including re-signing significant commercial partners to P2024.
- RA continues to deliver a number of online coach education programs, including a new Riggers Indoor Rowing Coaching online course with more courses to follow.
- RA continues to explore ways to further increase and expand participation in both coastal and indoor rowing – with dedicated Working Groups created to support these areas. RA ran an online digital show, 'Get Cooked' with Australian Olympian, and RA Board Director, Sarah Cook, during lockdown. The weekly show featured multiple guests from across the rowing community, domestically and internationally, including World Rowing President, Jean-Christophe Rolland.
- The Reinhold Batschi Men's National Training Centre received an AU\$1.7m upgrade to its facilities. This is the first upgrade of the men's elite training facility in 35 years and now brings it in line with the Hancock Prospecting Women's National Training Centre.

While the year will go down in history due to the devastating impact of the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, RA is pleased with these achievements during these unprecedented times. We continue to be excited by the opportunities that present themselves to our sport for 2021 and beyond.

Our priorities for 2021, are to support the further growth of rowing using the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games to further raise awareness and participation in our great sport of rowing. With the sport running over an extended five-year cycle due to the postponed Games, RA is working closely with all the State Associations to review and reset the strategic aims for rowing in Australia for the next four years.

New Zealand (Rowing New Zealand)

A home based 2020 provided an opportunity to research, survey and review our High Performance Athlete Pathways. This research has driven an evidence-based approach to our future thinking. While we still have work to do in these respects, it has resulted in positive support for an athlete focused approach in 2021 and into the future.

We acknowledge our government agency support during uncertain times (in 2020) and their confirmed and continued support of our athletes, coaches and our High Performance programme now confirmed through to Paris 2024.

We would like to acknowledge World Rowing for its proactive communication in such trying circumstances in 2020. The approach to the review of the statutes and the rules, and to the Congresses (in general) was very impressive particularly by the effective use of virtual and written communication and engagement relating to these changes.

New Zealand extends its congratulations and thanks to Matt Smith on his positive and professional contribution to our sport during a very significant tenure at the helm of a leading international federation.

At the time of writing, future regattas are an unknown, which only reminds us of the wonderful privilege we enjoy when we are able to compete and celebrate on the world stage. We hope this will be reflected in our 2021 report.

Vanuatu Rowing Association (VRA)

The VRA facilitated a "Row like a girl" week where 20 Ni Vanuatu women and girls of varying ages came to learn to row or improve their rowing skills. The program was funded through local sponsorship. The VRA employs two development coaches who learned how to run a training camp and benefited from intensive coach training from Director of Rowing Jessica Richardson and World Rowing Development Consultant Andrew Mackenzie.

Coastal rowing development was the focus for 2020 with the purchase of two coastal singles and two doubles with funds from Olympic Solidarity, the Vanuatu Ministry of Youth and Sport, and the Vanuatu Rowing Association. Andrew Mackenzie also conducted coastal rowing coaching clinic for level one coaches in November with five coaches present.

Olympic Solidarity scholarship holder, Rio Rii was training in Queensland with the Rowing Program of the Queensland Academy of Sport for three months in the lead up to the Asia/Oceania Olympic Qualification regatta. In March, he returned to Vanuatu to continue training following the border closures. With support from the National Olympic Committee, the athletes who are in contention for the Tokyo Games formed a training squad to support each other and maintain momentum. Rio, along with Judo and Beach Volleyball athletes have been undertaking specialised strength and conditioning training together and participating in team building activities in the lead up to the Games.

American Samoan Rowing Association (ASRA)

Following the momentum gain of 2019, American Samoan Rowing refocused their efforts on growing the local rowing community. In January, the ASRA ran their first selection event to select national team rowers for the Asia/Oceania Olympic selection regatta. The ASRA, using a combination of indoor rowing and coastal rowing time trials, selected a male and female sculler to compete.

Typically interest in rowing spikes in the lead up to the annual Fautasi (long boat) race in April, however, this was cancelled due to the pandemic, frustrating efforts to recruit rowers.

The ASRA ran an indoor rowing competition in conjunction with the general fitness programs which promoted health and wellbeing for those who lost jobs as a result of the pandemic.

Kiribati Rowing Association (KRA)

The COVID-19 lock-down in the Pacific meant that an on-site appraisal could not be undertaken for the purpose of the development of a domestic rowing programme in Kiribati. Martin Tamoeata remains the sole Kiribati rower based in Hamilton, New Zealand and is a member of the senior squad of the Waikato Rowing Club. Martin is supported by Olympic Solidarity and remains focused on his ambition to continue to represent Kiribati with distinction on the World Rowing stage.

Pacific Development

World Rowing is fortunate to have the assistance of Andrew MacKenzie who is engaged on a part time basis as the Pacific Islands' Rowing Development Officer. Andrew is based in Vanuatu and actively involved in both coaching and providing general support to the Vanuatu rowing programme. However, he is also actively involved with rowing in American Samoa and with the intention to expand the sport into other small Pacific Island states.

Meetings & events attended in 2020

- Council meeting, Budapest (HUN), January
- Council virtual meetings: 2 April; 13, 20, 27 June; 25 July; 2 October
- 2020 FISA Ordinary & Extraordinary Congresses, 16-18 October

CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

Masakuni HOSOBUCHI, (JPN)

The Co-Opted member of Council is described in Article 42 and the role of the Co-Opted Council Member is defined by the FISA Rule Book, Appendix 5, Bye-Law to Article 47. "The President may assign specific duties to the Co-opted members as required."

Key activities and achievements in 2020

My duties as one of Co-opted Council Members are defined through Council initiatives, committing to and supporting all World Rowing projects, and proactively promoting the development of Rowing and sports. 2020 has been a very difficult year not only for Rowing but for all sports and societies globally due to COVID-19.

- However, even amidst a fight against COVID-19, World Rowing representatives and Member Federations (MF), National Olympic Committees (NOC), and local members cooperated and communicated to set our objectives, to contrive and to contribute to a better future for Rowing. It was a valuable year in that perspective.

I'm thankful for having been involved in these meaningful experiences to reconsider and discuss the value of sports through Rowing amid this global pandemic.

- In particular, the postponement of the (2020 Tokyo) Olympics was the first time in the history of the modern Olympics that the Games has been postponed, and with less than 5 months to go. The IOC and officials in Japan had decided to postpone the 2020 Tokyo Olympics based on a common recognition that the highest priority is to protect the health and safety of the athletes and of society as a whole. Every possible scenario had been thoroughly examined, and it was finally rescheduled to the summer of 2021. This is an unprecedented challenge for the Olympics and Paralympics. In such circumstances, I've thrived to improve the presence and value of Rowing in the Olympics/Paralympics.
- Furthermore, as a member of the World Rowing Council, I've attended all relevant meetings of both public and private institutions including those regarding the Olympics/Paralympics, and participated in World Rowing initiatives to contribute to World Rowing and sports in general, and to pursue my duties as a Council member.
- Alliance with relevant parties (institutions) - Through active communication and information sharing with World Rowing members, IOC, NOC, MF and local members, mainly via online communication, I shared World Rowing's position in the sports world, the challenges faced and the future of Rowing.
- Preparations for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games
 - Discussions to postpone to 2021, sorting out issues, collecting information and criteria for decision making
 - Enhancement of alignment with World Rowing, IOC, NOC, MF, 2020 Organising Committee and related arrangements
 - Enhancement of alignment with relevant domestic institutions (the Japanese government, the Tokyo metropolitan government), overseas (NOC), and other sports (NF), and related arrangement
 - Discussion on Post-2020 Games Legacy

- Identifying the issues caused by postponement
- Preparation for 2021 World Masters Games, which was postponed to 2022
 - Alignment with the 2021 OC/IMGA, and related arrangements
- Identifying the issues and solutions to meet World Rowing's objectives
 - Significance of governance
 - Discussion on sport and the environment
 - Outline the basic direction towards diversity and greater integrity

Meeting attended in 2020

- Council meeting, Budapest (HUN), January.
- Council virtual meetings 2 April; 13, 20, 27 June, 25 July; 2 October
- 2020 FISA Ordinary & Extraordinary Congresses, 16-18 October
- Meeting with the Executive committee November 2020, as part of the JCM

Focus for 2021

The environment surrounding sports and the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games has been changed drastically and at a surprisingly rapid pace, and COVID-19 has boosted the speed yet further. Diversity, sustainability and environmental issues will take centre stage the sports world, and they will have a significant influence on the future of Rowing as well.

In 2021, I will continue to be in close communication with all stakeholders including the Japanese government, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the IOC and the IPC, for the safe and secure operation of the Tokyo 2020 Games. I will play my part in ensuring the safety and security of all participants of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games on 23 July 2021, showcasing the power of sports.

At the same time, Tokyo 2020 is just a step to the future and a starting point for 2024 or 2028, therefore a close relationship with the IOC should be maintained.

In summary, my work in 2021 will focus on:

- Successful implementation of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Successful implementation of the World Rowing Asia & Oceania Continental Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta for Tokyo 2020
- Preparation of the 2022 World Masters Games
- Continuation of enhancing the alignment with World Rowing, IOC, NOC, MF, AF, 2020 OC, TMG and related arrangement
- Review on the Legacy of Tokyo 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games and sharing the value of the Olympics and Paralympics
- Discussion on the utilisation of the Sea Forest Waterway
- Development and fostering of Rowing in the Asia region

I'll continue to work on strengthening the presence of rowing in society, supporting environmental initiatives and the development and creation of attractive rowing.

Summary

Despite the global expansion of COVID-19 in 2020, I sincerely appreciate that World Rowing representatives and MFs have supported us through their commitment to Rowing and their commitment to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games to testify that humanity has devoted itself to defeating the pandemic.

This global situation has made us understand the value of sport and that nothing should ever be taken for granted. The alignment and cooperation with various relevant parties in the sports world has encouraged us to acquire and share a deeper understanding of the value of sports. I strongly believe that the staging of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will stand as a beacon of hope for people all over the world. The support and cooperation of the Rowing family for the future of Rowing is much appreciated.

Last but not least, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the World Rowing staff who always support World Rowing, and to the Council, Executive Committee and Commission members, and to our Member Federations. Thank you very much.

CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

Lenka Dienstbach-Wech, (GER)

The position of Co-opted Member of the Council is described in Article 41 and the role of the Co-opted Council Member is defined by the *World Rowing Rule Book, Appendix S7, Bye-Law to Article 46*. "Co-opted Members may be assigned specific duties by the President as required."

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- World Rowing Safeguarding Working Group;
- FISA Anti-Doping Committee;
- IOC Medical Commission;
- IOC virtual Focus Group on the Prevention of Harassment and Abuse in Sport;
- WADA Health, Medical and Research Committee.

As a Co-opted member to the FISA Council my focus was to further develop the FISA safeguarding strategy within our federation. In the year of virtual meetings, it was decided to plan a series of online education webinars. Extensive preparations for the webinars began towards the end of 2020, for delivery early 2021, drawing heavily on the resources across our great rowing community. We focussed as well on guidelines for Member Federations (MFs) to develop their safeguarding policies, which is an ongoing project. We also managed to secure funds for a safeguarding research project and planning is in progress.

As member of the Anti-Doping Committee (now called Anti-Doping Advisory Panel), I was involved in the smooth transition of the testing strategy to the International Testing Agency (ITA) and to adapt the existing panel to international standards of good governance.

As member of the IOC Medical Commission, we had a physical meeting in January in Lausanne at the YOG 2020 and two online meetings during the year. In additional roles, I represented the IOC Athletes Commission as a medical expert at a strategy meeting on transgender and hyperandrogenism.

I am a member of the IOC virtual Focus Group on the Prevention of Harassment and Abuse in Sport which had their first meeting in September 2020. This focus group is part of a four-year strategy to develop safeguarding in the Olympic Community further. I attended the IOC World Conference on Prevention of Injury & Illness in Sport where I was part of a discussion panel on safeguarding in sport.

I attended two virtual meetings with the WADA HMR Committee where apart from the regular work, the COVID-19 crisis was the focus. WADA developed strategies and recommendations for NADOs to continue their testing despite the measure for disease control. With the help of this strategy, national and international testing was able to resume during 2020 after a serious decrease during March, April and May 2020.

I attended the virtual Council meetings during which we had the opportunity to be informed about developments and discuss all measures undertaken by World Rowing in a very difficult year for the entire world of sport.

Other meetings attended in 2020

- FISA Council meeting, Budapest (HUN), January
- FISA Council virtual meetings: 2 April; 13, 20, 27 June; 25 July; 2 October
- 2020 FISA Ordinary & Extraordinary Congresses, 16-18 October
- Meeting with the Executive Committee November 2020, as part of the JCM

Focus for 2021

- We will hold the short webinar series at the beginning of the year. I will coordinate and lead the webinar which focuses on Athletes and Coaches.
- Together with the World Rowing Athletes Commission, we are planning a webinar around Safeguarding and a Q&A session later in the year.
- Another focus will be on our research project, which we hope to develop further and send the questionnaires out in the second part of the year.
- I will travel to Tokyo as a member of the Tokyo 2020 Games Group and I am looking forward to successful Olympic and Paralympic Games despite the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am very honoured to continue to be a part of the World Rowing Council and look forward to assist and help with projects, drawing from my experience both as an athlete but also as a physician to continue to keep Rowing strong and fit for the future.

AFRICAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (FASA)

Khaled Zein Eldin, President

2020 was the year of COVID-19, this year was the year of quarantine in the whole world, and therefore sports' activities were stopped in all countries.

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- World Rowing – FASA virtual meeting, 6 October 2020

World Rowing President, Executive Director and the Continental Representative for Africa, Mehdi Garidi organised a virtual meeting with the FASA President, Vice President and the Chair of the Technical Committee to discuss the situation in Africa during the pandemic and to offer administrative support to FASA.

- 1st Indoor African Championships (virtual) 28 November 2020

17 African as well as 2 non-African countries were represented with 51 races on the schedule.

A total of 468 athletes for 51 races across a full suite of boat-classes, including 9 athletes registered in para events.

A review of registered rowers shows that most National teams were represented and several athletes qualified for the 2021 Olympics were competing. 47 men and 33 women were registered to participate in 2 events.

AFRICAN ENTRIES	COUNTRY	TOTAL RACES ENTERED	FEMALE PARTICIPANTS	MALE PARTICIPANTS
	ALG	36	5	21
	ANG	4	1	3
	BEN	5	1	3
	CPV	3	1	1
	DJI	5	0	5
	EGY	35	12	19
	ETH	2	0	1
	FRA	1	0	1
	KEN	6	0	4
	LBA	14	2	12
	MAR	11	5	6
	NAM	2	2	0
	RSA	282	122	122
	SOM	1	1	0
	TUN	127	44	62
	UGA	8	4	3
	ZIM	12	6	5
Total African Entries		554	206	268

NON-AFRICAN ENTRIES	COUNTRY	TOTAL RACES ENTERED	FEMALE PARTICIPANTS	MALE PARTICIPANTS
	PYF	3	1	2
	USA	1	0	1
Total Non-African Entries		4	1	3

2020 african rowing indoor championships

AFSA

MEDAL TABLE November 28th, 2020

BY EVENT	Event	Distance	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1	JM U19	2000 m	TUN	TUN	RSA
2	JW U19	2000 m	RSA	TUN	RSA
3	M U23	2000 m	TUN	ALG	TUN
4	W U23	2000 m	MAR	ALG	TUN
5	LM U23	2000 m	TUN	TUN	MAR
6	LW U23	2000 m	TUN	UGA	
7	M	2000 m	EGY	ZIM	EGY
8	W	2000 m	RSA	RSA	RSA
9	LM	2000 m	ALG	TUN	EGY
10	LW	2000 m	TUN	UGA	RSA
11	M P21	2000 m	TUN	RSA	TUN
12	M P22	2000 m	CPV		
13	M P23	2000 m	TUN	TUN	
14	W P23	2000 m	TUN		
15	JM U19	500 m	RSA	EGY	TUN
16	JW U19	500 m	RSA	EGY	RSA
17	M U23	500 m	EGY	ALG	ALG
18	W U23	500 m	EGY	ALG	TUN
19	LM U23	500 m	TUN	EGY	TUN
20	LW U23	500 m	TUN	TUN	EGY
21	M	500 m	RSA	EGY	EGY
22	W	500 m	EGY	EGY	RSA
23	LM	500 m	EGY	ALG	ALG
24	LW	500 m	TUN	ALG	EGY

TOTAL	Ranking	Medals	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	TUN	11	6	4	1	21
2	EGY	6	5	5	1	11
3	RSA	4	3	4	1	12
4	ALG	1	5	2	7	15
5	MAR	1	0	1	2	4
6	NAM	1	0	0	1	2
7	CPV	1	0	0	1	2
8	UGA	0	3	0	1	4
9	ZIM	0	1	0	1	2

Focus for 2021

Our greatest challenge in the coming years will be to further promote and develop African rowing.

Our goals are to:

- Work hard to implement the 2021 Agenda and the realisation of the World Rowing strategy;
- Further improve women's rowing, by increasing the number of female athletes and coaches and their competitive level;
- Try to help the African National Federations to participate in the International Championships through assistance with lodging and boats, and through support to attend the World Rowing Congress in order to play an active role in the decisions that are taken;
- Encourage Indoor Rowing in the African Countries which don't have a regatta course.

I would like to thank World Rowing for their support to promote and develop rowing on the African continent.

AMERICAS ROWING CONFEDERATION (COPARE)

Fernando Ucha Martinez (URU), President

As we all know, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our sport was significant. Our International Federation, World Rowing, postponed or cancelled events on all continents during 2020, and obviously, we were forced to do the same in America.

Events that were scheduled for 2020 took place during 2021, and with very strict control measures and rigid health care protocols.

Our athletes were, in most of our countries, unable to train on water, being prevented from practicing rowing normally due to COVID-19 restrictions and confinements. In several countries, it was decided to use rowing machines in a personal and isolated way, setting up online events, which proved to be an efficient substitute for practicing our sport.

As a Confederation, we participated in the 2020 FISA Congresses by videoconference in October, where important reforms of the statutes were carried out.

In addition, virtual work was carried out on the organisation of the events that had to be moved to 2021, and the effects of the pandemic in our countries were monitored, especially in the practice of our sport. This information was reflected in the surveys which we completed as per request from World Rowing, our International Federation.

EUROPEAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (ERC)

Ryszard Stadniuk (POL), Chair

On 27 May 2006, it was agreed to re-start an annual European Rowing Championship regatta in September 2007 as a cooperative arrangement between World Rowing (formerly FISA) and the European member federations. An annual General Assembly of the European member federations was established, to consider all matters relating to the development of rowing competitions across the European member federations of World Rowing and a European Rowing Management Board was established to manage the events.

Following the 2017 Extraordinary Congress in Tokyo decision to officially recognise Continental Confederations (Art. 18 of the World Rowing Statutes), the delegates of the European member federations agreed to form a Continental Confederation for Europe at an Extraordinary General Assembly on 22 November 2018. Ryszard Stadniuk was elected Chair at the same General Assembly. At the 2019 General Assembly of the European Rowing Confederation in Luzern, Annamarie Phelps was appointed Vice Chair, and Eva Szanto Secretary, of the European Rowing Board (ERB), the Executive body of the European Rowing Confederation (ERC). The ERC was formally recognised by World Rowing at the 2019 Ordinary Congress in Linz, Austria.

Membership of the ERC is open to all European member federations of World Rowing and Israel, which meet the terms of membership.

Mission statement: European Rowing aspires to be a leading continental confederation, adding value to rowing globally and supporting delivery of World Rowing's strategic objectives to make rowing a successful and sustainable sport, by supporting its national federations to work together for the sustainable future of our sport

Key activities and achievements in 2020

- The European Rowing Confederation Presidents' Meeting, Vienna (AUT) 20-22 February was hosted by the Austrian Rowing Federation; many thanks to the organisers for their support. The participating Presidents and Secretary Generals discussed European Rowing event programmes and possible alternative formats for youth events; the Erasmus+ submission for the establishment of an education and female leadership/coaching development programme; Indoor Rowing rules; the draft European Rowing Strategy and other priorities for the continent. World Rowing President participated in a session on WR matters, updates and discussions.
- European Rowing Indoor Championships, Prague (CZE) - This event was held on 11 January in Královka Hall in Prague, CZE together with the CZE national championships. The event offered the opportunity for para classification on the day prior. Attendance at the event was excellent with 30 European Federations represented, 928 entries and 105 disciplines. Nine European Rowing titles were awarded across W, M, LW, LM and 5 para disciplines.
- European Rowing U23 Championships, Duisburg (GER), 5-6 September, was the first major international rowing event held under Covid-Prevention Guidelines. Much work and liaison took place between the ERB and World Rowing events staff, Medical committee and local Organising Committee, as well as the German Rowing Federation, to road test the new protocols. The World Rowing Executive Director attended to establish a review of the new guidelines. This event was the best attended ERU23CH to date with 31 Member

Federations, 230 crews and 648 athletes and with 58% male and 42% female athletes. The Organising Committee (OC) put great effort into the successful staging of this championship despite the pandemic.

- European Rowing Junior Championships, Belgrade (SRB) 26-27 September, was rescheduled from 30-31 May due to the pandemic. The OC took care to ensure the Covid Prevention Guidelines were in place throughout the event. Good support from their funding partners meant this was possible without any additional costs to Federations. 28 member Federations participated, 139 crews, 433 athletes, of which 41% were female and 59% male. The medals were shared across 15 nations.
- European Rowing Championships, Poznań (POL), 9-11 October were rescheduled from 5-7 June. This was the only senior elite international rowing event held in 2020. 31 Member federations participated, totalling 207 crews (517 athletes, of whom 44% female and 56% male). The Championships saw the debut for European Para-rowing disciplines. There were a number of challenges to ensure Covid prevention Guidelines could be met but the OC were very experienced and communication at the event worked well. The final date for decision to hold the event was pushed as late as possible. Onsite testing was provided, as well as isolation space in case of a suspected case. The event was covered by 38 broadcasters covering 22 countries and two news agencies. Athlete feedback on the event was very positive.
- General Assembly of the European Rowing Confederation (ERC) took place at the ERCH in Poznań on 10 October and was a mixture of in person and video conferencing. Updates on discussions held at the Presidents' meeting were shared and European Rowing's strategic priorities discussed including the development of coastal events for the continent.
- As a result of the Member Federations desire to promote coastal rowing events and a generous offer from Davide Filippi to host and sponsor an event, a first European Rowing Coastal Challenge took place at Donoratico (ITA) 23-25 October. This event provided the opportunity to Member Federation crews in senior and junior Beach Sprint events as well as senior club/MF crews in the endurance event to test two simultaneous racecourses. 242 athletes were entered, representing 16 nations across both disciplines. The event was well supported by the Coastal Rowing Commission Chair, ERB members, local World Rowing umpires and a WR event manager. The weather provided serious challenges, but the venue and facilities and atmosphere were excellent and the OC helpful and flexible. There were a number of valuable learnings for future iterations.

Accomplishments

- Delivery of four successful European Rowing Championship events.
- Introduction of para-rowing to the senior continental Championships.
- First steps in the delivery of a coastal rowing development strategy for the continent
- Carried out a survey of Member Federations regarding the future of lightweight rowing programmes to inform decisions regarding event programmes.
- Organised General Assembly and a European National Federations Presidents' Meeting to agree on/define/adopt the European Rowing strategy.
- Concluded and signed the cooperation agreement between World Rowing and European Rowing.
- European Rowing is making steady progress towards equality in male/female athlete participation at Championship events.

Focus for 2021

- Ensure that European Rowing competitions can safely continue within the protocols required for the current pandemic.
- Continue to develop a coastal rowing programme in Europe and find the best date for European Rowing Coastal Championships in 2022.
- Maintain good communications and relationships with, and among, Member Federations through the annual Presidents' Meeting.
- Continue to improve safeguarding and environmental policies aligned with and in support of World Rowing.
- Review and submit a revised bid for Erasmus+ funding to support the development of OVEP programme and a women's coaching and leadership network.
- Improve the European Rowing 'brand' identity to add value to European and World Rowing.

Summary

This was an important and challenging year for European Rowing. Thanks to the positive engagement pre-, during and post-events between the World Rowing Sport Medicine Commission, the World Rowing events team, local Organising Committees and the ERB members, five important sports events took place in Europe despite the Covid 19 pandemic. The European rowing community acted with great responsibility and discipline and the governance of the events worked well.

2020 ERB Members

Nebojsa Jevremovic (SRB)

Dusan Machacek (CZE)

Annamarie Phelps (GBR), Vice Chair

Algirdas Raslanas (LU)

Patrick Rombaut (BEL)

Ryszard Stadniuk (POL), Chair

Eva Szanto (HUN), Secretary

OCEANIA ROWING CONFEDERATION (ORCON)

Lee Spear (NZL), President

The Oceania Rowing Confederation (ORCON) was formed in 2010 by the three active rowing federations in Oceania at the time - Rowing Australia, Rowing New Zealand and the Vanuatu Rowing Association. ORCON was formally recognised by World Rowing as the Continental Confederation for Oceania at the World Rowing Congress in 2018 – the first continental confederation to be so recognised pursuant to the Bye-laws to Article 18 of the World Rowing Statutes.

Membership of ORCON is open to all national rowing federations in Oceania which are members of World Rowing, members of their respective national Olympic association and which otherwise meet the terms of membership.

Membership of ORCON currently consists of the following eight members of World Rowing: Rowing Australia, Rowing New Zealand, Vanuatu Rowing Association, Samoa Rowing Association, American Samoa Rowing Association, Kiribati Rowing Association, Fiji Rowing Association and Tonga Rowing Association. The rowing associations of Samoa, Tonga and Fiji are not currently active.

The first and primary objective of ORCON is to, *“Develop and promote rowing within the Oceania region in cooperation with World Rowing”*

ORCON is working closely with World Rowing to promote and develop the sport of rowing in the smaller Pacific Island countries. The travel restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the development work but that will be advanced once it is possible to travel between the Pacific Islands.

ARAB ROWING FEDERATION (FAA)

Khaled Zein Eldin, President

FAA currently has 17 members and has held the 12th Arab Rowing Championships. Membership is open to Arab National Unions which submit an approved application from the Olympic Committee.

The key objectives of FAA include the development of rowing and of the Arab athletes, working in collaboration with World Rowing and the continental/regional association, and encouraging the establishment of the Arab Championships.

2020 Activities

This year was the year of COVID-19, this year was the year of lock-down around the whole world, and due to COVID-19 sport was stopped in all countries.

In the Arabian region, there were no activities during this year 2020.

BALKAN ROWING ASSOCIATION (BRA)

Zdravko Golaboski, President

The Balkan Rowing Association is a European regional association for rowing in the Balkan Peninsula founded in 1973 in Athens, Greece.

Its member federations are currently: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Turkey.

The objective of the Balkan Rowing Association is to develop and promote all forms of rowing, to improve the relationships among the member federations and the Balkan countries, and to organise the Balkan Rowing Championships every year. Each member federation by rotation hosts the Balkan Rowing Championships and takes the presidency of the Association for that year. All persons involved in the Balkan Rowing Association activities are volunteers. The date of the Balkan Rowing Championships is, in principle, the second weekend of September each year. During the Balkan Championships, the annual Ordinary Congress of the Association is organised.

The BRA Statutes and Rules of Racing are based on and follow the World Rowing rules and members should be member federations of World Rowing. The BRA administration consists of, the Congress, the BRA Board, the President, and the Secretary General. The Coaches' Commission consists of seven members, one representative for each Member Federation; the Coordinator of the Coaches' Commission is appointed by the Congress. The Umpires' Commission consists of no less than 5 members, international umpires, no more than one representative per country; the Coordinator of the Umpires' Commission is appointed by the Congress.

2020 Activities

2020 was a negative experience for the entire world of sport. This situation also affected competitions in the Balkans. Considering the health and safety of the athletes and all other participants, as well as taking responsible and necessary measures to manage the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the 2020 BRA Ordinary Congress unanimously decided to cancel the 2020 Balkan Rowing Championships, determining that postponement was not possible. The 2021 Balkan Rowing Championships was attributed to North Macedonia. The Association is continuing to work to develop rowing in the Balkan area and to improve the level of competition for cadets and juniors.

COMMONWEALTH ROWING ASSOCIATION (CRA)

Peter Cookson (CAN), President

The Commonwealth Rowing Association was recognised as a Member Grouping of World Rowing in 2019. The objectives of the CRA are to foster cordial relations between its members and to encourage partnership working between the national rowing federations of the Commonwealth, for the benefit of Commonwealth athletes, citizens and communities.

There are 34 members of the CRA as follows: Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cyprus, England, Fiji, Ghana, Gibraltar, India, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Kiribati, Malta, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Samoa, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Vanuatu, Wales, Zambia.

2020 was a very challenging year, for all of us. However, we were able to hold a successful Annual General Meeting in December by videoconference. We are currently planning for the next Commonwealth Rowing Association event to be held in 2022.

Executive Committee members

Executive Member:	Dorothy Roberts Blackie, Scotland
Executive Member:	Ian Robson, Australia
Executive Member:	M.V. (Steve) Sriram, India
Secretary-General:	Christa Diekmann, Namibia
President:	Peter Cookson, Canada

COUPE DE LA JEUNESSE

Gary Harris (GBR), President

The Coupe de la Jeunesse is an organisation that has as its main goal the annual organisation of the Coupe de la Jeunesse regatta. This is an international junior regatta for European rowing federations by invitation. The Coupe de la Jeunesse provides friendly competition whilst respecting others and offers an environment which enables all to perform to their highest potential. For many rowers, attendance at the Coupe de la Jeunesse is the start of their international rowing careers. The regatta offers an event programme with two separate days of racing with event prizes and a team competition for the annual award of the Coupe de la Jeunesse trophy.

2020 Coupe de la Jeunesse

The 2020 Coupe de la Jeunesse, due to be held at Linz-Ottensheim, was cancelled due to the widespread disruption to daily life across Europe caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the best efforts of the Organising Committee, it was not possible to run the event as planned.

Following the cancellation of the 2020 Coupe the Executive Committee worked with the 2020 OC and with the Member Federations planning to host future events to reschedule them. I am grateful for this generous co-operation by all concerned.

As we approach the date of the rescheduled Coupe in Linz-Ottensheim, 6-8 August 2021, the pandemic continues to cause disruption to everyone's life and I hope that the event will take place this year. Again, I must record my profound gratitude for the tireless work of the Organising Committee in preparing to host the Coupe this year in such difficult circumstances.

2020 Governance activities

During the Winter Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting in February 2020, held in Linz, the Delegates from the 14 MFs admitted the federations of Norway and Sweden into membership, bringing the membership up to sixteen. The members also approved changes to the Constitution and Rules of Racing to reflect this increased membership. Other changes included the alignment of athlete eligibility rules with those of World Rowing.

The membership now consists of the following Federations:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

The Ordinary Delegate Assembly scheduled for the Coupe in Austria did not take place and outstanding business was carried over to 2021.

The Coupe de la Jeunesse Executive Committee in 2020 consisted of the President, Gary Harris (GBR), the Secretary General, Gwenda Stevens (BEL) and Technical Advisors Bas Labordus (NED) and Judit Mezaros (HUN).

Future events following rescheduling:

1. 2021 Linz-Ottensheim (AUT)
2. 2022 Castrelo de Mino (ESP)
3. 2023 Amsterdam (NED)

SOUTH AMERICAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (CSAR)

Raúl R. Poletti (ARG), President

Gerd Hellmuth Thiede Friesen (PAR), Secretary-Treasurer

CSAR was founded 28 July 1945 and was recognised by World Rowing on 11 January 2013. On 2 October 2017, CSAR was recognised as a Member Grouping of World Rowing (Art. 19). CSAR is also recognised by Organización Deportiva Sudamericana (ODESUR), Organización Deportiva Bolivariana (ODEBO), Asociación de Confederaciones Deportivas Sudamericanas (ACODESU) and Confederación Panamericana de Remo (COPARE).

CSAR Members: Argentina Rowing Association, Brazilian Rowing Confederation, Federation Rowing Bolivia, Chile Rowing Federation, Rowing and Canoe Federation of Colombia, Rowing Federation of Ecuador, Panama Rowing Federation, Paraguay Rowing Federation, Rowing Federation of Peru, Uruguay Rowing Federation and Rowing Federation of Venezuela.

2020 Events

As a result of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in South America, this Confederation had to suspend the Senior Championship scheduled for March and the South American Youth Games scheduled for October.

Suspended events were rescheduled for 2021.

The activity was limited to:

- Virtual indoor competitions sponsored by the Confederation in Argentina and Brazil, and
- Jury seminar held online by Estanislao Ramírez Cárcamo, World Rowing Umpire from Chile.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Introduction

At the end of 2019 it would have been difficult to imagine that the COVID-19 pandemic would affect the entire sport world. All World Rowing events were cancelled and on top of that, the 2020 Olympic Games were postponed for the first time in IOC history to 2021. Obviously the pandemic situation impacted the finances in all economic sectors and sport in particular. However, a ray of hope appeared in the second half of the year, with the staging of all three European Rowing events (senior, junior and U23). A positive and encouraging end to the rowing season.

2020 Financial Result

Despite the cancellation of all our televised World Rowing Cup regattas, the year end result is positive with a surplus of + CHF 1'303'008. This is mainly explained by the decisions of the Executive Committee i) to cut costs where possible given uncertainty and ii) to maintain, for transparency purposes, the level of the contribution from reserves at CHF 4'652'601 as budgeted. The result is reduced to + CHF 996'164 after reductions due to exchange rate loss and a provision to adjust the value of securities portfolio to the lower of market value or purchase price.

Income

Overall income increased by 6.9% compared with budget, mainly due to Development Programme re-invoicing (+ CHF 149'658), unbudgeted commercial income (+ CHF 120'358) and unbudgeted advisory services for the 2020 Olympic Games and the 2021 World Rowing Championships in Shanghai (+ CHF 210'480). However, these additional incomes were reduced by the loss on some of our portfolio positions (- CHF 327'454) as we reduced the exposure to stocks given the uncertainty regarding COVID-19.

Expenses

As a consequence of the pandemic and strict cost cutting measures given the uncertainty around the Olympic revenue (timing and amount of), expenses were decreased compared to a 'normal' year of activity to a level of 16.6% less than budget. All our meetings with organising committees, Member Federations (MFs), Council and Executive Committee were held virtually reducing travel costs (and our CO₂ footprint). The Ordinary Congress, Extraordinary Congress and Joint Commissions Meeting were also held virtually. World Rowing reduced staff activity by 50% from April to September 2020 and benefitted from an unemployment support programme from the Swiss government during that period.

Balance sheet

Given uncertainty around both i) whether the Tokyo Olympic Games would be held and therefore the amount of Olympic revenue, and ii) how commercial revenue streams will develop post-COVID-19, we focused on creating as much cash financial headroom on the balance sheet as possible. In this respect, World Rowing benefitted from cash support from the Swiss Confederation with two loans: a first loan of CHF 500'000 at no interest with long term repayment was received in April 2020; a second loan of CHF 286'000, at 0.5% rate interest with quarterly repayment starting in 2021 was received in November 2020. Alongside this World

Rowing received support from the IOC with the granting of a loan of USD 2'150'000, from which USD 1'075'000 (50%) was received in 2020, and the balance on 31 March 2021. The loan will be deducted from the Olympic revenue income to be received after the Tokyo Olympics.

Conclusion

With total reserves of CHF 5'280'150 at the end of the 2017-2020 four-year plan, the target of a permanent reserve of CHF 4'000'000 as communicated in the 2019 Financial Report was reached. This reserve should be sufficient to carry World Rowing through the year 2021 as the Tokyo Olympic revenue is delayed by one year (without this reserve World Rowing would have had to incur additional loans to bridge this year). If the Tokyo Olympic revenue is lower than in previous Olympic cycles because of higher costs / cancellation, World Rowing will have to significantly lower its cost base.

Four year financial plan 2017-2020

(amounts in Swiss Francs)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020
INCOME	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Events Management	1'236'419	1'130'899	1'610'649	340'435	344'349
Events Marketing and TV	1'403'547	1'199'234	1'170'675	160'000	280'358
Development Programme	407'659	291'844	307'121	86'000	235'658
Marketing	185'476	196'021	247'977	80'000	125'657
Governance	317'437	239'277	394'502	110'000	479'535
Contribution from reserves	3'952'326	3'780'116	4'131'626	4'652'601	4'652'601
Finance	532'373	633'925	129'953	108'965	-198'878
TOTAL INCOME	8'035'237	7'471'317	7'992'503	5'538'001	5'919'280

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020
EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Events Management	422'388	618'610	939'378	588'774	245'239
Events Logistics	794'544	734'772	648'043	601'000	115'112
Events Marketing and TV	730'082	1'185'306	1'051'709	343'647	429'497
Events Communications	98'766	83'092	82'507	46'485	17'187
Development Programme	991'729	860'491	1'203'950	470'000	427'400
Communications	155'577	152'996	210'595	205'450	148'706
Marketing	167'875	139'600	112'732	67'000	26'363
Governance	983'448	758'690	1'101'493	695'000	382'210
Administration & Finance	3'084'973	2'902'431	3'162'512	2'520'645	2'824'557
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	7'429'381	7'435'987	8'512'918	5'538'001	4'616'271
1st Result	605'856	35'330	-520'415	0	1'303'008
Exchange rate	-160'187	-48'650	-44'115		-228'891
Change in provision for unrealized loss on securities	-242'679	-722'919	919'954		-77'953
CHANGE IN RESERVES	202'991	-736'239	355'424.11	0	996'164.19
Total reserves from previous year	20'142'154	16'189'828	12'409'712		8'278'086
Release from reserves for actual expenditures	-3'952'326	-3'780'116	-4'131'626		-4'652'601
General result brought forward	836'326	1'039'316	303'078		658'501
TOTAL RESERVES	17'229'144	12'712'789	8'936'587		5'280'150