

# Annual report 2021



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## PRESIDENT

Jean-Christophe Rolland (FRA)

### Introduction

If 2020 was exceptional year with the emergence of a global pandemic with dramatical consequences, 2021 did not marked the long-awaited return to normal. But in the end, can we really envisage a return to normalcy or "as before" given the numerous, unprecedented and long-term impacts and consequences of this major crisis? But as the saying goes "every cloud has a silver lining", this crisis has also generated changes and opportunities for the future.

As I write this report for 2021, the year 2022 is already well underway and is proving to be particularly challenging. The respite from the COVID-19 pandemic seems to be starting timidly and those countries which have opted for mass vaccination and collective immunity are beginning to gradually adapt to the endemic and lift strong restrictions. Russia's invasion of Ukraine brings about a new global crisis that affects all sectors of society. What might seem like fiction, namely a 21<sup>st</sup> century war in Europe, has become a terrible reality.

Following examples from the world of sport and international sports organisations, first and foremost - the IOC, the Executive Committee reacted with exceptional decisions in accordance with its statutory authority. A clear violation of the Olympic truce adopted by the United Nations has occurred, therefore the Executive Committee has decided to not allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials in World Rowing competitions until further notice. As these decisions are subject to an appeal procedure before the Court of Arbitration for Sport, I will not comment further at this stage and will provide additional information most likely during Congress on 26 September 2022.

### International season 2021 saved

Despite the unfavourable pandemic situation, the 2021 international competition season was organised with great success, with the exception of the World Championships in Shanghai, China and the World Masters Regatta in Linz-Ottensheim, Austria.

I would like to express my satisfaction with this overall result and my gratitude to all contributors:

- The Organising Committees, the host countries, local and national authorities for their resilience in organising these events with significant additional constraints.
- The Member Federations who, despite the obstacles, travel difficulties and additional costs associated with the pandemic, participated in these competitions.
- The teams, athletes and all the participants who, by respecting strict anti-covid protocols and measures, made it possible for these events to take place.
- The World Rowing team who adapted to the circumstances.

It is necessary to recognise the efforts of all and the exceptional nature of these organizations, from the development of protocols to the implementation of procedures and measures to reduce risks, as they made it possible to achieve these satisfactory results.

One of our major concerns was holding the Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regattas. Only the continental qualifying regatta for Africa could be held at the end of 2019. I am pleased

and relieved that the athletes were finally able to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games based on their sporting performance on the water. Once again, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the organisers of Rio, Tokyo, Gaviate and Lucerne.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding effort of JARA, the Japan Rowing Federation, and TMG, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, who took up the challenge and secured the Asia-Oceania Continental Qualification Regatta when the original option in Chungju (South Korea) was no longer possible.

## Tokyo 2020

For the first time in history, the Olympic and Paralympic Games were postponed by one year and Japan hosted and celebrated the Tokyo 2020 Games in the summer of 2021. Let me quote IOC President Thomas Bach: "We did it, we did it together...".

The Postponement of the Games has been an incredibly difficult and complex exercise, additionally, the pandemic context made it even more complicated.

First of all, before the Games began, the media pressure was often rather negative. It impacted the Japanese population, who were rather fearful about the arrival of foreign participants. The absence of spectators in the stadiums, and in general the cancellation of any event and activity which are the hallmark of the Olympic Games and the opportunity for the host country to share its local wealth, was remarkable.

Finally, a unique and very restrictive protocol, the Tokyo 2020 Playbooks, were put in place to minimise the risks to broadcasting and to guarantee a safe environment for all the participants and the Japanese population.

It is clear that the measures taken, although restrictive, were effective and that the disaster that some people predicted did not happen. The final reports and the figures prove it, with incredibly low rates of positive Covid tests, far from the possible scenarios that had been anticipated.

I would like to acknowledge the resilience and commitment of the Japanese government and Prime Minister Suga, the IOC President Thomas Bach, as well as the Tokyo Government and Organising Committee. I would also like to acknowledge the crucial support of the Olympic community: International Federations, National Olympic Committees and athletes. This collective solidarity made it possible to achieve this remarkable result.

Despite the postponement and all the difficulties, these Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games were a real success and completed an incredible journey since the Games were awarded at the Buenos Aires 2013 IOC Session. Let me give a special mention to the Chairman of the IOC Coordination Commission, John Coates, who has been instrumental throughout this complicated journey. His support was invaluable, especially when we feared that the events would take place 400 km from Tokyo.

Athletes expressed their great satisfaction and relief that despite the anti-covid measures they had a chance to participate.

As far as we are concerned, I would like to express our satisfaction with a great sporting spectacle with extraordinary races. The images produced by OBS (Olympic Broadcast Services), seen all over the world, were a great promotion of our sport. On the organisational side,

I salute the excellent event preparation and delivery of our OCOG team under the leadership of Nathalie Phillips with the support of our Council Member Masakuni Hosobuchi. Thank you all for your contribution!

We had to face several challenges: the heat, the storm, some positive COVID-19 cases. Fortunately, the positive cases were few but they had a great impact on the people concerned. I appreciate that the athletes Olympic dream may have turned into a nightmare. I let you imagine the frustration and the level of tension of the athletes when a positive case was detected in a crew on the morning of an Olympic final. The protocols were designed and developed to avoid this situation, which should never have happened if they had been respected and correctly applied.

I would like to end this section by stating that an important chapter for Sea Forest Waterway's legacy has now begun. It is essential that we can continue to use the facilities and infrastructure in the future and demonstrate that in the long term that investment goes well beyond the Olympic and Paralympic fortnight.

## Oeiras

Our international season ended, in a fabulous location and optimal weather conditions, with the World Rowing Coastal Championships and Beach Sprint Finals in Oeiras, Portugal. The improving levels of participation and event organisation quality confirms the strong potential of these disciplines. We have taken from this experience important areas of improvement, especially in the regulatory area. We will continue to work with the Rules Working Group to improve the regulation of these disciplines.

## World Rowing Indoor Championships and Olympic Virtual Series

In the context of the pandemic, the World Rowing Indoor Championships were held for the first time in a completely virtual mode. Technology has granted us this possibility, but due to the lack of appropriate regulation, we had to adapt to the context. I would like to thank the team who set up and organised this new and particularly successful event.

Indoor Rowing is a major area of development that allows us to connect a very large number of people to our sport and thus increase the rowing community.

With the emergence of "e-sports", the potential of this discipline is simply incredible and I would even say almost unique in the world of sport. We have an advantage that we must exploit.

This is why we were one of the five sports, along with baseball, cycling, sailing and motor sports, to take part in the first Olympic Virtual Series (OVS). Despite a rather constrained preparation and a new environment, it was important to be part of this programme launched under Agenda 2020+5 Recommendation 9 - Encourage the development of virtual sports. The level of participation was not satisfactory but again this does not detract from the great potential of the discipline.

## Olympic Strategy

The postponement of the Tokyo Games has delayed and postponed some of the IOC activity. In December 2022, the Executive Board has decided to replicate the same rowing programme in Paris 2024 as Tokyo 2020.

The process for Los Angeles 2028 has resumed and the 139<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in Beijing during February 2022 finalised the sport programme, with rowing unsurprisingly included. While the final decision on the programme events remains scheduled for December 2024, the IOC Executive Board has introduced an intermediate date of the second quarter of 2023 to finalise the disciplines.

For World Rowing, the objective remains to propose the inclusion of three Coastal Rowing events for Los Angeles 2028, a proactive and ambitious attitude in the face of the IOC's position to eliminate lightweight events. We are entering the final phase of this phase, including an evaluation according to very precise criteria in line with Agenda 2020+5. This centres around aspects of costs and complexity, popularity and interest for the host country, universality, and gender equality and relevance for young people.

In order to put the odds in our favour, the Council decided, based on the analysis and recommendation of the Coastal Rowing Commission, to focus on the "beach sprint" format which, in the context of Los Angeles 2028, potentially Brisbane 2032 and the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026, offers a more relevant and powerful argument.

For some time now, I have widely shared our analysis on the opportunity to organise the Olympic and Paralympic regattas in Long Beach, rather than on Lake Perris as initially proposed in the bid file, in order to adapt to the context and to be in perfect harmony with the 2020 Olympic Agenda. Following our investigations, measurements and technical analyses, the Board has decided to formally accept this option proposed by the LA28 OGOC. We consider that reducing to 1500m, adapting to the technical and environmental constraints was a significant and justified effort, but one that will of course remain exceptional and unique. I would like to remind you that only the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic regattas are affected by this exceptional decision. Our existing Rules will continue to apply to all other official competitions. The ball is now in the Organising Committee's court for the next steps.

The Paris 2024 Games continues their preparations. The handover between Tokyo and Paris took place and for the first time there is less than three years left to the Games in this shortened Olympic cycle. The Council decided to award the 2023 Under19 World Championships to the French Rowing Federation and the Ile de France region, which I would like to thank warmly for the bid. Thus, we are continuing the good practice of organising this competition, appreciated by all of our MFs and teams, as an Olympic and Paralympic Games test.

I would also like to highlight the Council's proposal for the 2024 Olympic Qualification System, which was validated by the IOC. I must admit that the exercise is becoming more and more complex each time, trying to combine the constraints linked to the athletes' quotas. It is extremely difficult to meet all expectations in terms of qualification, particularly for the continent's quota. There were lengthy discussions in order to reach a compromise, mindful of the experiences of previous editions under different rules. I understand that the system therefore appears complicated but, once again, it is the best compromise given the constraints.

## Governance

In 2021, the Executive Committee decided to hold the Congress virtually, as in 2020, taking into account the exceptional context, including travel restrictions and difficulties in certain geographic areas. I would like to thank the delegates who participated in this Congress. I recognise that the virtual mode doesn't help interaction, but makes participation easier but in theory only, because I did expect a higher level of participation from MFs.

Historically, the Statutes require that the Congresses are held 'in person' and only delegates who are physically present have the right to vote. New technologies and the context have allowed us to evolve over the last two years and we can envisage for the future to consider the hybrid mode as a basis. This potential change is certainly one of the developments to be discussed.

In accordance with Articles 39 and 49 of the Statutes, we held elections for the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and three members of the Executive Committee Council during the 2021 Congress. I welcome the re-elections of our Vice-President Tricia Smith (CAN), Treasurer Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED) and Executive Committee members Rosie Mayglothling (GBR), Eva Szanto (HUN), and Patrick Rombaut (BEL) and congratulate them warmly.

I am looking forward to continuing my mission. I would like to thank all MFs and delegates for their trust and support. I believe I still have the motivation and energy to lead our organisation together with the MFs, the Council and the Executive Committee.

Following the organisational changes adopted at the 2020 Extraordinary Congress, we also had three Commission Chair elections, namely the new Coastal Rowing, Indoor Rowing Commission and Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Cross Commission. Congratulations to Guin Batten (GBR), Filip Ljubovic (SRB) and Jacomine Ravensberger (NED).

I would like to welcome Filip Ljubovic as a new member of the Council, as well as Sarah Cook and Dusan Machacek who have been appointed by the Council as continental representatives for Oceania and Europe.

I would like to express my deep appreciation and thank the members of the Executive Committee and Council for their valuable contribution, motivation and commitment to our sport. We are a diverse team who share the same values at the service of our sport and organization. I recognise that the demands are considerable with numerous meetings and correspondences.

As I like to say, we are in a mode of continuous improvement.

The Rules Working Group and the Governance Working Group have been relaunched. I am pleased to report that our Statutes and Rules have been put on a digital app which can now be accessed on a smartphone. All changes adopted at the Extraordinary Congress in 2020 have been incorporated.

I also would like to recognise the great work of implementing the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures against harassment and abuse, through a series of webinars among other methods. Raising awareness is a major and key focus of the policy. I would like to remind you that it is important that all our Member Federations relay and take ownership of this subject.

## Management

Matt Smith, former Executive Director of World Rowing, wished to step back and retire from this role at an appropriate time for our organisation. We launched a recruitment process and took the time to make the most appropriate decision. I would like to thank Tricia Smith and Gerritjan Eggenkamp for their very active and committed contributions throughout this process. I would also like to thank the entire Executive Committee for taking responsibility on a decision that has a major impact on our organisation and its future.

We received a large number of applications. It is really pleasant to see the attractiveness of this position. It demonstrates the good reputation and image of our organisation.

I had the opportunity to introduce Vincent Gaillard, our new Executive Director (and Secretary General according to our Statutes), at the 2021 Congress. Although he does not come directly from our sport, Vincent has remarkable experience with sports organisations. His experience and multiple skills will add to our Council and Executive Committee. After the first few months, I am pleased to say that the transition is going well and the first report was presented to the Executive Committee. We wish him every success in this mission.

As I mentioned at the 2020 Congress, I would like to reiterate my sincere thanks to Matt Smith, firstly on behalf of World Rowing, for all his remarkable contribution over the 25 years as our Executive Director and before that as Development Director. World Rowing has evolved incredibly under his leadership and that of our Honorary President Denis Oswald.

I was personally fortunate, as a young President, to rely on our former Executive Director's great professionalism and exemplary loyalty. I extend my sincerest personal thanks to Matt. I believe our great mutual respect has enabled us to form a very strong President-Executive Director pairing. In order to ensure the best possible Executive Direction transition, we agreed to a part-time contract with Matt for 2022, where he will provide on-demand support.

## Anti-Doping

As I mentioned in my 2020 report, we have officially transferred the management of anti-doping to the ITA (International Testing Agency) on 1 April 2021. Not only has the administrative burden and complexity of complying with the World Anti-Doping Code become very heavy, but by joining ITA we demonstrate full independency. You will find a more detailed report on this transition after the Executive Director report.

## Finance

I will let you study our Treasurer's detailed report, including the profit and loss accounts, present in the Congress Agenda Papers, but let me highlight a few things.

As a large part of our income comes from the IOC distribution, the success of the Games is great news for our finances. The postponement of the Games by one year and the de facto distribution, as well as the uncertainty related to the pandemic, had led us to a more than prudent management of our resources and a very restrictive approach to spending.

Despite the additional costs related to the postponement of the Games, the IOC was able to maintain the same level as the Rio 2016 Games with a global amount of US\$ 540 million to be distributed among the International Summer Sports Federations. It is an amount that is

certainly lower than the one initially envisaged, even without the pandemic and the postponement of the Games, but still very appreciated if we consider the more difficult scenario. Our Olympic income is therefore identical to the previous cycle. Of course, it is in US dollars and therefore dependent on exchange rates since the majority of our expenditures are in Swiss francs. We have already repaid government and IOC loans which were taken out to maintain cash flow in a context of delayed and uncertain distributions.

However, the difficulties are not over. The four-year budget plan was drawn up on the basis of very strict spending principles with income uncertainty. As the environment has brightened up and our activities have returned, adjustments to the budget plan will be necessary. The Finance Committee and the Executive Committee will propose these adjustments.

Closely linked to our finances, our marketing and sales strategy must also adapt to a changing environment, which has also been strongly impacted by the pandemic. Our current model is no longer adaptable and will not allow us to continue future development. Our team has evaluated and analysed potential strategies, with the help and support of external experts, and we are working to find a model to ensure future revenue and development.

## Conclusion

I would like to end this report by thanking the World Rowing staff for their professionalism and commitment to our organisation's mission. We can be collectively proud to have a quality and dedicated team. The context of 2021 has once again been somewhat difficult and disrupted with very particular working conditions (teleworking and remote management). 2022 looks to be different with both the pandemic constraints loosening and the changes brought about by Vincent Gaillard, our new Executive Director.

As for myself, I would like to specify that I am continuing my commitment to the sports movement as an IOC member and as such I contribute to the Sustainable Development and Legacy Commission and, upon nomination by IOC President Thomas Bach, to the Brisbane 32 Coordination Commission. In addition, I am a member of the WADA Foundation Board and the Executive Board and Council of the Paris 2024 Organising Committee. These are very demanding missions, but they contribute to the influence of our sport within the Olympic movement. We can also count on the commitment of many rowers, whether in the IOC, in the National Olympic Committees or in other bodies... they all contribute to the image of our sport and I thank them for that.

## 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 it's 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 2021

Another year where COVID-19 has been a major challenge. As Vice President I continue to support the President, the Executive Committee and Executive Director, in all matters related to the many necessary changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including decision making protocols policies and procedures in particular for qualification events leading up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games and management at Games.

2021 was the year we saw our highly respected and long serving Executive Director Matt Smith leave his position leading World Rowing. Along with our Treasurer, I was a member of the Search Team led by the President to identify his successor. The quality of applicants we received for the role was exceptional, and after an extensive search we are extremely fortunate to have Vincent Gaillard join World Rowing as our new Executive Director. Congratulations to Vincent for his new role. I look forward to the coming years.

There is so much to be thankful for in Matt Smith's leadership at World Rowing and this was certainly reinforced in the search process. It was clear that the number and the quality of the candidates was a direct reflection of the recognition and respect for the organisation led by Matt, Jean Christophe and the team, in particular the culture of integrity, strong positive values and professionalism.

In 2021, I continued to gather relevant information and represent the interests of international sport and of World Rowing, where appropriate, at the numerous other sport-related meetings I attended during the year as Canadian NOC President, ANOC EB Member, Pan Am Sport EB Member, ICAS Member and IOC Member, including the fight for clean sport, for safe sport, for the promotion of women in sport and promotion of rowing in the many regional Games. I continue as a member of both the IOC Women in Sport Commission, and the IOC Legal Affairs Commission. In 2021 all meetings were virtual with the exception of IOC and ANOC meetings during the Tokyo Games and Pan Am Sport meetings at the Junior Pan Am Games held in Cali, Colombia November 2021 where I also attended one day of the rowing events. It was wonderful to see the number and quality of athletes at the Games as well as have the chance to meet with rowing leadership in the region, and the dedicated group of umpires.

The Vice President's role in World Rowing Development continues to be on an advisory and consultative basis only. The World Rowing Development Program is managed on a day-to-day

basis by the World Rowing team led by Development Director, Daniela Gomes da Costa. Details can be found in the Development Report.

It was predicted, but for many of us it was difficult to imagine we would still be addressing COVID-19 in 2022. In spite of the pandemic, much has been accomplished including a very successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Thanks to Jean Christophe, Matt, the Council, the team, and all the members of the World Rowing family for your extraordinary work for our athletes and for our sport again this past year. Thank you to our athletes and coaches and officials. As always, I feel extremely fortunate and proud to be working with all of you.

Finally, sincere thanks to Matt Smith for his time leading World Rowing. Matt has been exceptional for the standards he has set, his dedication and his integrity and I have been extremely proud to have worked with him these many years. Thank you. Matt.

## TREASURER

Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED)

The role of the World Rowing Treasurer is to:

- Liaises with and supports the Executive Director in connection with the preparation of the annual budget and the annual accounts, as well as the long-term financial plan, having regard to the four-year Olympic cycle and presents them to the Ordinary Congress;
- Chairs meetings of the Finance Committee, and reports to the Executive Committee on the activities of the Finance Committee;
- Is a member of the Internal Audit Committee and is responsible for convening the meetings; and
- Submits a report and presents the financial statements to the Ordinary Congress each year

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

Apart from participation in Executive Committee Meetings, my principal activities in 2021 continued to be oversight of World Rowing's financial activities in coordination with the Executive Director Matt Smith and the Controller Emilio Pastorello. The report on the 2021 accounts appears elsewhere in the agenda papers. Given continued uncertainty around income arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, World Rowing continued to reduce costs where possible, leading to a positive operational result of CHF 317'261 versus the budgeted expected loss of CHF -411'000. With the stock markets performing strongly and our bond positions in COVID-19 hit companies recovering the result on the investment portfolio was CHF +335'011, leading to an overall result of CHF +648'070.

### Meetings and events attended in 2021

- Bi-weekly Executive Committee virtual meetings
- Council virtual meetings
- Tokyo Olympic Games (JPN), July
- 2021 World Rowing Ordinary Congress

### Summary

From a financial point of view, 2021 was again a challenging year for World Rowing. World Rowing maintained a strict cost control throughout 2021 given uncertainty around the Olympic and Paralympic Games taking place as well as the associated Olympic revenue. Given the higher costs and lower revenue TOCOG and IOC were facing because of postponement and COVID-19 measures the Olympic revenue could have been significantly lower than originally expected. I am grateful to the Executive Director Matt Smith and his team for still delivering everything needed this year, including staging the World Cups and the Olympic Qualification regattas with a reduced budget versus earlier years whilst working from home for a large part of the year.

With the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games having successfully taken place, the Olympic revenue being received by the end of 2021 was CHF 14'450'090 and the total amount, net of insurance fees received connected to Tokyo 2020, including the final portion received in 2022,

was CHF 16'051'072, World Rowing's financial position is secured for the short to medium term. This means that World Rowing will not have to further decrease its cost base, a scenario for which we were preparing in case of significantly lower Olympic revenue and which would have materially affected the quality of events and governance. Also, World Rowing was able to pay back the loans granted by the IOC (CHF 2'150'000 and Swiss Confederation (CHF 786'000) and would like to thank both the IOC and Swiss Confederation for its support.

However, for the mid to longer term World Rowing still faces the same challenges as before the COVID-19 pandemic: with continuously increasing governance and anti-doping requirements, uncertainty around how the economy post-COVID-19 will be and the dependence on Olympic TV Rights revenue, it remains imperative to look for new revenue streams and be as stringent on costs as possible. Therefore this is also one of key activities of the new Executive Director Vincent Gaillard, who brings significant experience in this area.

## INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED), Chair

The role of the Internal Audit Committee is to provide oversight on audit, finance, risk management and governance matters, including overseeing the following:

- the appropriateness of the four-year and annual budget process,
- the integrity of the financial statements
- compliance with applicable accounting principles and laws,
- internal controls as they relate to financial reporting and non-financial matters,
- the qualifications, independence, appointment and work of the external auditor, and
- the effectiveness of World Rowing's risk management infrastructure.

The Internal Audit Committee consists of three individuals; the World Rowing Treasurer and two individuals who do not hold elected, appointed or employed positions within World Rowing. Of the three, at least one should have a legal background and one a finance background.

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

The Internal Audit Committee had its first meetings in May and June to be informed about the relevant current procedures and discuss its focus and way of operating. Since then, the Committee has reviewed the financial audit including a meeting with the auditors PWC, the financial four-year planning, and the annual risk assessment in follow up meetings.

### Summary

The review of the financial audit and four-year financial planning did not reveal any (potential) shortcomings or new risks, with auditor PWC providing positive feedback on how World Rowing has managed through the uncertain COVID-19-times and is organised. The high dependency on one source of income (Olympic TV Rights revenue) is a (known) risk where the Audit Committee has recommended to further intensify efforts to identify other sources of income.

In the risk assessment review two areas were identified to further investigate in 2022, being IT (i.e. cyberattack, personal data / GDPR compliance and IT systems/servers back up) and water safety.

### 2021 Committee members

Gerritjan Eggenkamp, NED, Chair

Germaine Bauer, SUI

Hans-Jorgen Aversen, NOR

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Matt Smith (SUI/USA)**

I am pleased to report to you on World Rowing operations and provide you with an overview of the general activities of year 2021. It was again a difficult year for the office, as for all of us, but we have made all efforts to stay safe and remain 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 of rowing continues to be our primary goal with creation and delivery of the related initiatives and activities. Daniela Gomes continues as our Development Director and is assisted by Development Manager Paolo Mattana in Lausanne, and a team of part-time development consultants in 2021 following the departure of Yihuan Chang. Gianni Postiglione continues as our Coaching Director on a part-time basis alongside his coaching activities.

In the Events Department, Svetla Otzetova, is the Events Technical Director. Nathalie Phillips, Senior Events Manager, continued in Tokyo all of 2021 serving as Sport Manager for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Her "temporary" mission was extended to three years due to the COVID-19 postponement of the Games. Cameron Allen and Matt Evens continued as Events Managers with Cameron completing his time with World Rowing and moving home to Australia. Daniela Oronova continued as Events Manager – Teams, and Prateek Gumbar was Events Services Manager. The event management team were joined by Tine Jacobsen remotely to us help cover all events on the calendar. Liz Soutter continued as Sport Manager and follows the development of the disciplines of Indoor Rowing, Coastal Rowing and Para Rowing, and is managing the event bidding process.

The Communications and Marketing areas work together to make sure their efforts are well-coordinated. Andy Couper continued as Marketing Director and Melissa Bray, Communications Manager – Content worked through Tokyo before ending her service to World Rowing in order to stay closer to home in New Zealand after nearly 20 years with World Rowing. Brian Orsini continued as Digital Communications Manager since joining in 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 and Ludovica Caprino as Administrative Coordinator. With the delegation of Anti-Doping operations to the International Testing Agency (ITA), Natalie Schmutz was engaged by ITA to oversee rowing operations and ended her 20 service to World Rowing. Olivier Caillet, our information technology consultant, continued as well as Jean-Maurice Mordasini and Peter Caminada as our asset managers.

The headquarters staff was ably assisted in delivering events by the Sports Presentation team led by Sebastian Franke and Michiel Jonkman, the many commentators and announcers. The Quattro Media team, led by Peter Hertrampf, provided great assistance with television at events and the team of GPS, led by Riccardo Zannini, transported the TV catamarans and the

event branding devices. I would also like to recognise the untiring work of our Swiss Timing "ST Sportservice" Manager Ralf Hoffmann and his very dedicated team.

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 IFs staff.

## Development

The World Rowing Development Programme continued to focus its work on the key areas identified in the World Rowing Strategic Plan: participation, integration, opportunities, quality/education and universality.

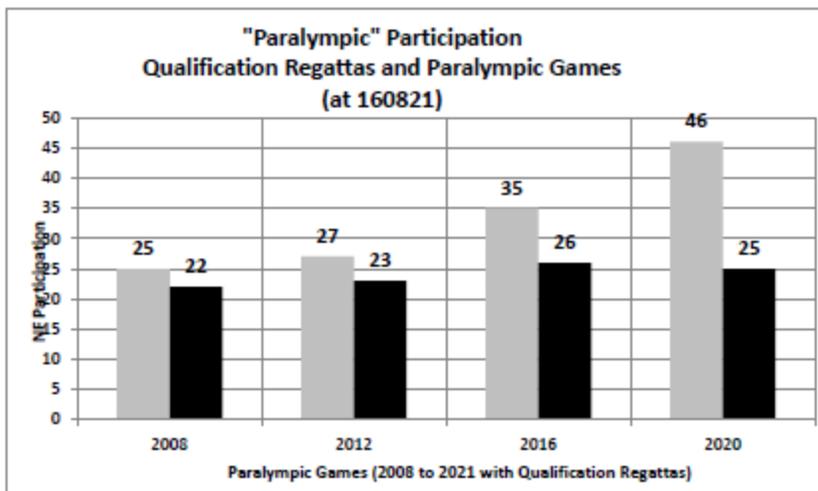
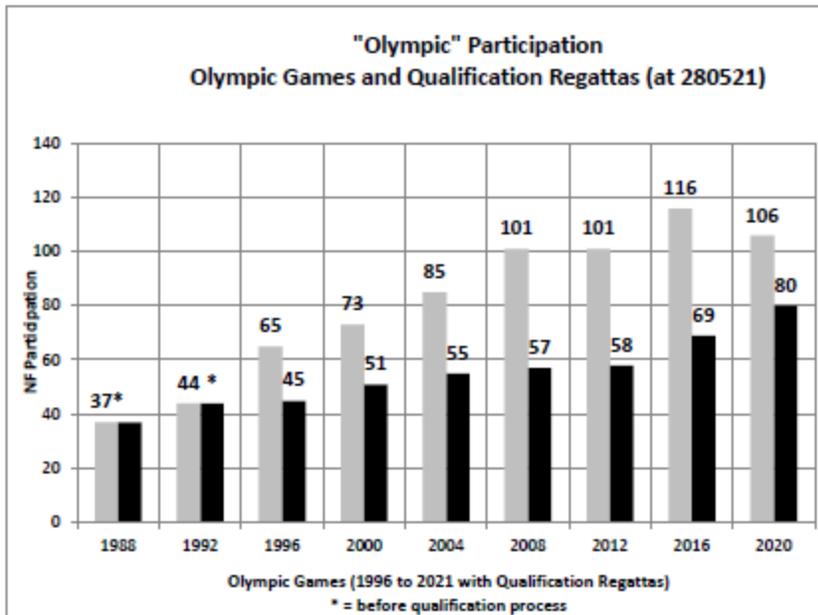
The pathway to the Tokyo Olympics was a key priority in the first half of the year with a focus on regular support for (MFs) during the Olympic and Paralympic qualification regatta process, assisting in engaging teams to take part in the qualifiers, arranging for equipment to be available and managing the qualification regatta continental working groups in close cooperation with World Rowing Continental Representatives, commissions, organising committees, equipment providers and development coaches.

In parallel, focus was given to support to athletes and coaches preparing the continental qualification events in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Oceania, with an emphasis on gender equal athlete participation; as well as the support to Olympic preparation of athletes with greater needs from Africa, where the Olympic qualifier had already taken place in 2019.

The Development programme support for 2021 was the gateway for 34 nations to take part in the qualification events. The pathway to the Olympics and Paralympics also included support to the tripartite and bipartite quota allocation process in close cooperation with the IOC and IPC.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 primary achievement was the attempt to qualify of 106 member federations and participation of 80 MFs at the Tokyo Olympic Games and the attempt to qualify of 46 MFs and participation of 25 MFs at the Paralympic Games. This is showcased in the charts below:

- the number of MFs that attempted to qualify to the Olympic Games (illustrated in grey) was 106 – impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic - and those that actually qualified to participate at the Games (in black) was a record of 80 and improved quality from athletes from developing nations evidenced by their racing times and participation in Finals B and C.
- the number of countries that attempted to qualify for the Paralympic Games was a record 46.



For the second half of the year, focus was placed on continental/world level events targeting different age groups with a priority on younger rowers, coaches and coach educators. Support was provided to 26 nations across five World and Continental level events.

The Development Programme is thankful to the valued partnerships with multiple OCs across the world: Kruszwica European Rowing Under 23 Championships, Plovdiv World Rowing Under 19 Championships, Munich European Rowing Under 19 Championships, the ITA Rowing Federation / Memorial Paolo D'Aloja regatta, UAE Arab Beach Championships, COL Pan Am Junior Championships and equipment providers for their support to development nations.

The development team continued its efforts to integrate and expand all forms of rowing through education. Emphasis was placed on the continued roll-out of Coastal Rowing coach education to encourage the development of Beach Sprints across the world and by improving the number and quality of all coach educators and coaches. The first in-person coaching education course entirely focused on coastal rowing was delivered in Oeiras (POR), preceding the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals, primarily focused on preparing a group of coach educators to deliver the coastal race module, and further cascade training across the world. Extended support was provided to the preparation of the delivery of the World Rowing Coaches Conference in close co-operation with Competitive, Coastal, Para, Sports Medicine, Youth Commissions and several staff.

The World Rowing women's development programme continued to sustain development opportunities for female coaches and leaders, introducing a new application process for the online leadership course for women in Para sports in cooperation with Association of Paralympic Sport Organisations (APSO).

The World Rowing Member Federation survey was launched and reached a record number of responses from World Rowing Membership with 121 out of 156 MFs responding.

The goal for year 2021 was to develop the World Rowing Education Academy - a learning hub that aims to offer to all our National Member Federations a platform to develop and educate coaches, umpires, managers, classifiers and athletes. Set to be released in 2022, it will contain modules across all rowing disciplines, classic rowing, coastal rowing, para rowing and indoor rowing. It was developed in 2021 (during the pandemic) with the objective of creating a learning space to sustain the continuous development of the sport of rowing and includes a variety of engaging learning opportunities such as online courses, live and VOD webinars and a library with articles, publications, videos and websites of reference.

Other development projects with member federations were delivered in close cooperation with Olympic Solidarity and the respective National Olympic Committees to develop and strengthen the respective coaching structure and sports system at national level.

World Rowing, upon request, provided access to the World Rowing Coach Development Programme (CDP) to all its MFs. A new partnership was introduced for those Member Federations which are not included in the group of nations in need of World Rowing development support, which usually have self-sufficient funding to develop rowing. The partnership proposed includes access to the new World Rowing CDP Coastal and Para Rowing Modules to help develop all types of rowing.

2021 was a year marked by change. The World Rowing development team was restructured with Daniela Gomes taking the Head of Development role, supported by Development Manager Paolo Mattana as well as Inas Hussein and Anna Mguni who took on new roles as Continental Development Managers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank development coach Andrew Mackenzie for his efforts to develop rowing in Oceania.

Special thanks to the World Rowing Head of Coaching Gianni Postiglione, Continental Development Experts Chris Perry, Fayçal Soula, Osvaldo Borchini and Ruben Scarpati for their

sustained commitment to develop rowing across the world as well as to Head of Education Rosie Mayglothling, and Education leads Guin Batten and Simon Goodey for their valuable contributions to the consistency of the new Coaching Development Programme structure.

A final word to all World Rowing Continental Representatives, Council and Commission members, member federations, organising committees, equipment providers and coaches who have all played an essential role in the success of “our” development programme.

## Events

The Covid19 pandemic had a massive impact on our events in 2021 but nearly all were able to be staged in safe conditions. After having established the full 2021 international calendar with the 2019 Congress, 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). The OCs did a huge job to modify the dates and find hotels for the participants.

All Olympic and Paralympic qualification regattas and all three World Rowing Cup regattas were staged with strict COVID-19-related transmission prevention measures applied by the host governments. Sincere and profound thanks go to the organising committees of these events as the level of complexity rose significantly as well as costs. The World Rowing Under 23 Championships and the Under 19 Championships were successfully staged in Racice and Plovdiv. Unfortunately, the Masters Regatta in Linz-Ottensheim, Austria had to be cancelled due to the risk of very low attendance given the pandemic. As well, the World Rowing Championships due to take place in Shanghai were cancelled for reasons connected to the covid19 pandemic. The Portuguese Rowing Federation was able to successfully stage the Coastal Rowing Championships and Beach Sprint Finals in October.

The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games were successfully staged in July and August 2021. A huge thank you to the Tokyo 2020 organising committee, the Japan and Tokyo governments, the Japanese Rowing Association and the sport team led by Nathalie Phillips in Tokyo. Thanks also to World Rowing Council member Masakuni Hosobuchi “Buchi” in Tokyo



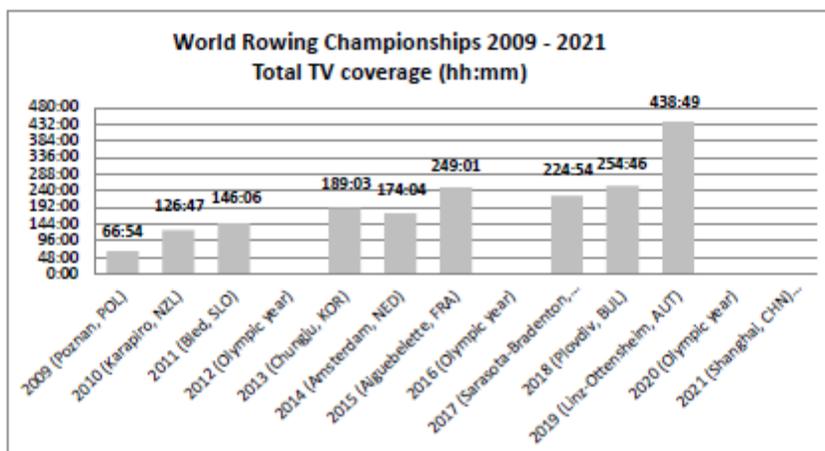
for all his behind the scenes work to support the event. This team also successfully staged the Asian and Oceanian Olympic and Paralympic qualification regatta in Tokyo on short notice in April 2021.

The fourth World Rowing Indoor Championships were staged completely virtually, for the first time ever, from 23 to 27 February 2021 after a nearly six-month qualification period leading to 935 finalists from 63 countries. The event was held in partnership with Concept2 and TenCent with timing serviced by TimeTeam of the Netherlands and streaming services provided by World Rowing Productions (Quattro Media of Germany).

### Television and Video Streaming

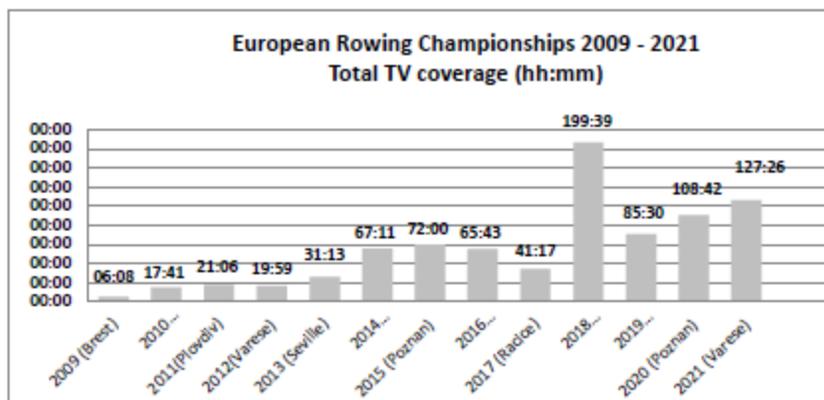
It should be mentioned again that linear television broadcasting is the number one means to promote the sport as it allows us to reach the largest number of people with moving images of the best of our sport. Our thanks go to the rights holding broadcasters, with the European Broadcasting Union on top and our television team (World Rowing Productions powered by Quattro Media) which has worked since 2010 to assist host broadcasters of our events and, quite often serving as host broadcaster itself, to deliver consistent quality images to the rights holding broadcasters around the world. The rights holding broadcasters know that they will receive consistent quality images from World Rowing Productions and it gives them confidence to make the decision to place World Rowing events on their broadcast platforms.

Even though it was again not a normal year, there are some statistics to note. For the World Rowing Championships, after the significant improvements in broadcast of this event (as seen

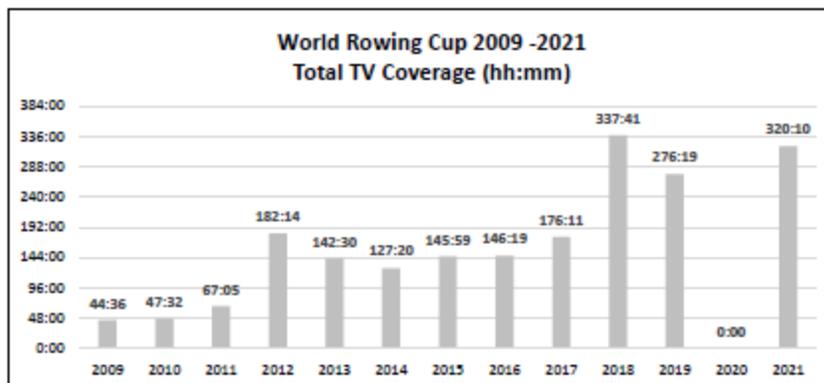


in the charts), it is a disappointment that the 2021 Championships had to be cancelled.

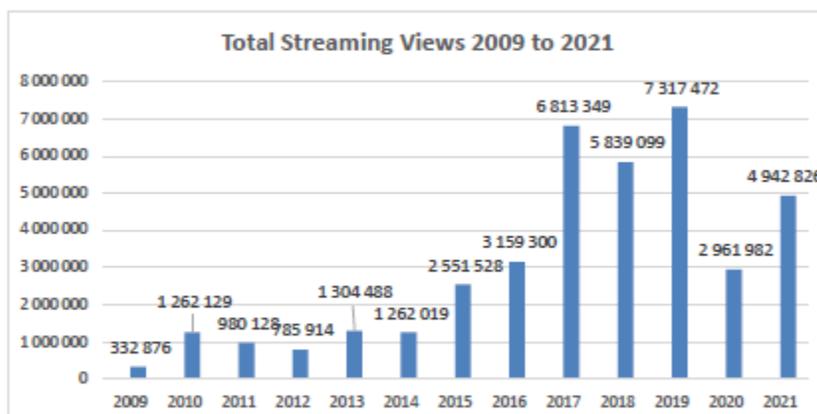
The European Rowing Championships continues its growth in broadcast time and all are looking forward to the 2022 multi-sport European Championships in Munich with four broadcast days (as was the case in 2018).



For the World Rowing Cup regattas, after some disappointing years in the early 2000s, the uptake has been significant and it continued in 2021. The news airings have also been set back with the pandemic and cancellation of events so 2022 will be an important year to recover this statistic as well.

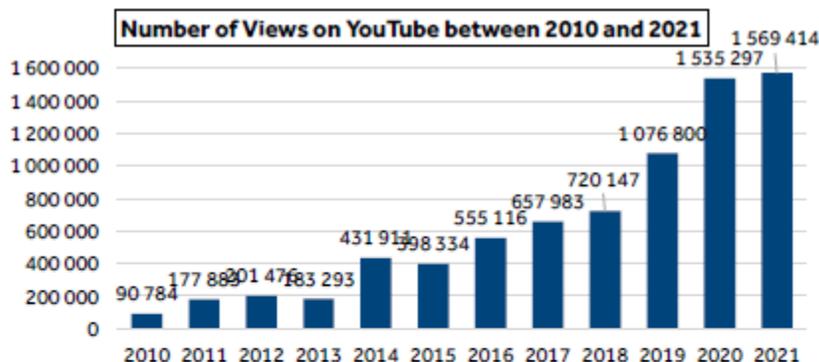


It should also be noted that consumption of “television” content is changing and streaming continues its growth as a means to view World Rowing events. Despite the cancellations in 2020 (the European Rowing Championship regatta did take place) and the cancellation of the 2021 World Rowing Championships, streaming viewing continues to grow. It can be seen as well that the YouTube channel continues to experience growth as a means to view the non-contracted events as well as the interview videos and informational videos. In 2021, the World Rowing Indoor Championships were only viewable through YouTube which can be seen in the increased numbers. Finally, the videos placed on Facebook and Instagram continue to play a part of the streaming project despite changes in proprietary algorithms and pandemic cancellations.

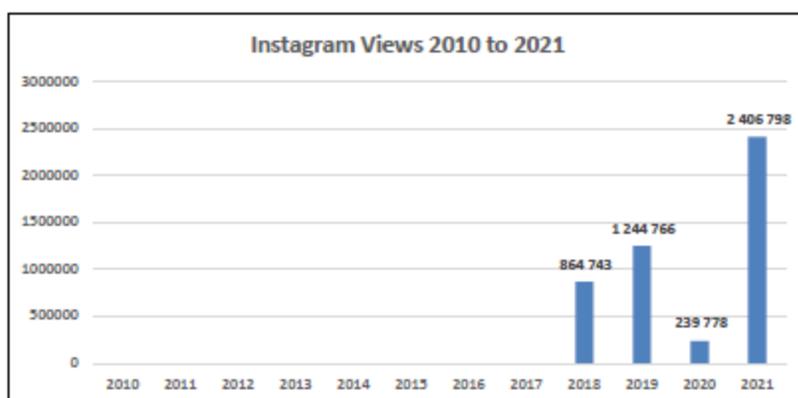
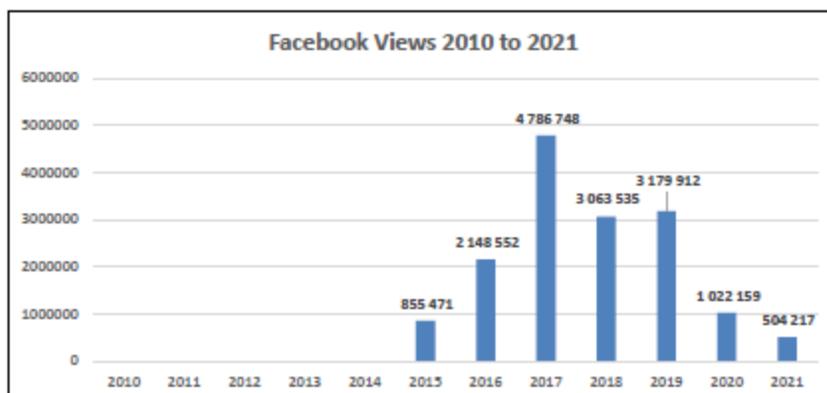


The numbers for 2020 are very low due to the pandemic and the cancellation of all World Rowing events - only the European Championships were hosted (in Poznan). In 2021 the numbers were better but still not to the level of 2019, mainly because the World Championships scheduled for Shanghai were cancelled.

Nevertheless, a huge increase in the Youtube video viewership was observed, meaning that people are following the youth events that are streamed on the YouTube channel.



The drop in views for Facebook videos can be explained by the continuing shift from Facebook to Instagram - we did not post a lot of videos on Facebook in 2020 and 2021.



## Communications

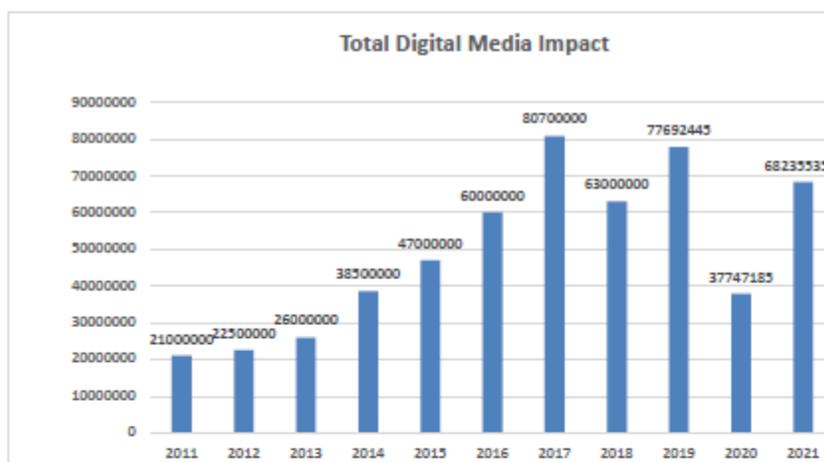
An important communications story of 2021 was the new World Rowing website project. We were informed mid/late 2019 that the software platform for our website would no longer be supported in 2021, thus we had one year to change software with our current provider (very expensive) or find a new provider and completely re-construct the website from zero during 2020. Of course, no one anticipated the pandemic which caused the whole construction of the new website to happen "from home" by all involved. The new website was indeed launched on 1 January 2021 and it took a few months to work through all the items that are incorporated into this vast and complex website. Special mention should go here to our Digital Communications Manager Brian Orsini who led this new website project from the beginning to the end, and to our partner Sotic, the new website provider. Thanks also to all the staff and advisors who contributed to the project which went live mid-December 2020.

The communications activity involves multiple platforms in social media that are changing constantly and intense work of a dedicated team during each event. In 2021, the main mission was to develop the main World Rowing digital platforms - while trying to develop some new channels to reach new audiences. World Rowing Twitter followers increased from 44,000

followers to 46,600 followers reaching more than 10 million impressions. Instagram continues to be the fastest-growing social media platform where we see an increasingly high number of young users. The World Rowing Instagram platform grew from 53,000 followers in 2018 to 116,000 in 2021 and generated more than 50 million impressions. Instagram has been increasingly used not only for “nice photos or videos” but also as a very efficient tool of communication through Instagram Stories, and to reach directly our athletes. In 2021 we decided to adopt a strategy based on more reposting, asking directly people from the community to re-post their own content - it worked very well. We also launched our TikTok account in late September this year - gaining 1,500 followers in three months.

In summary:

- Instagram following increase from 2020: 20.41%
- Twitter following increase from 2020: 5.76%
- YouTube subscribers increase: 28% vs 2020
- Number of media releases: 45
- Digital publications: World Rowing Media Guides (For ERCH and WRC / for 2020 Tokyo OG & PG)



\* Total Digital Media Impact = Website Page Views, Facebook Page Impressions, Twitter Impressions, Instagram Impressions, YouTube Video Views, Facebook Video Views, World Rowing Live and VOD Video Streams. As the popularity of social media platforms and algorithms change, it is difficult to maintain the same measurements.

The strategy on Chinese social media channels was oriented around three main channels – Weibo, WeChat, and Youku – with the main efforts going to Weibo. For the Chinese audience, the engagement was generated thanks to local stakeholders – big names in the China market that helped promote rowing. In April 2020 a Korean star featured in a new TV series with rowing scenes created a series of rowing introduction posts based on the scenes of this TV series – which generated a small peak in impressions. In October 2020, for the “1 Year To Go” to Shanghai 2021, we invited Chinese TV star Yang Chaoyue to film a promotional video that

generated the most engagements of the year – that was then surpassed by the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games with the Gold medal for the Chinese Women’s Quadruple Sculls.

## 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 and web streaming but also through social media. Unfortunately, our biggest annual event, the 2021 World Rowing Championship regatta, was cancelled and some “sure” sponsorship opportunities were lost.

New marketing opportunities were achieved through the virtual indoor championships and we are grateful to the companies that partnered with us for this; Concept2 and TenCent. Indoor Rowing is a great opportunity for growth of the sport and is a new, innovative opportunity for partnerships. This is being actively pursued.

A team of recognised experts in marketing and sponsorship met every two-weeks during 2021 to analyse the current situation given the drop of sponsorship activity, the rise of digital advertising, the impact of social media on marketing and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic during and post-pandemic. The group produced a number of proposals for the new Executive Director and the Executive Committee to discuss in early 2022. Thanks go to the members of this working group and for all the time they dedicated to this analysis.

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 & Integrity

A key task early in 2021 was the updating of the World Rowing Rule Book, to reflect the changes approved by the 2020 Extraordinary Congress. Through a collaboration with the Communications team and third-party service providers, the updated Rule Book was for the first time made available via an app - the World Rowing Rule Book app. This marks the end of the printing and distribution of a paper version of the Rule Book across the World Rowing membership, umpires and other stakeholders, and aims to provide a better user experience, a positive environmental impact and resourcing efficiencies.

In 2021, preparations began in earnest for the implementation of the new ‘Athletes’ Commission Regulations and Election Procedures’ and the first World Rowing Athlete Commission (AC) election process taking place in 2022. The 2020 Extraordinary Congress approved these new Regulations and at the same time approved that the AC Chair be a member of the World Rowing Executive Committee with full voting rights. The implementation of the new Regulations will result in an AC with 50% elected and 50% appointed members; 10 members in total, including 6 representing flat water rowing, 2 representing flat water para rowing, and 2 representing coastal rowing; with continued emphasis on full gender equality and diverse representation.

Since the introduction of World Rowing’s Policy and Procedures on Safeguarding Participants in Rowing from Harassment and Abuse in 2019, safeguarding continues to be a top priority for World Rowing. In March 2021, a webinar series was launched with 3 webinars covering the following topics: “What is safeguarding in rowing and how should we deal with it?”, “The Athlete & Coach perspective: creating a safe environment”, “Member Federation leaders and officials’

*perspective: practical guidance on developing policy & procedures". A further mini webinar series was prepared in the second half of the year specifically aimed at the athlete community, for launch in March 2022. I would like to thank all those who have been involved in promoting the importance of safeguarding across the rowing community. In particular, thank you to the Safeguarding Working Group members Lenka Dienstbach-Wech, Juergen Steinacker, Mike Wilkinson, Annamarie Phelps and Sandi Kirby for their invaluable and expert contributions which help ensure World Rowing continues to be seen as one of the leading IFs for safeguarding and related safe sport initiatives.*

During the pre-Games period, World Rowing collaborated with the IOC and participated in a social media campaign promoting the importance of the Prevention of Competition Manipulation. World Rowing is proud to have an athlete ambassador supporting our work in this area: Kirsten McCann (RSA).

The annual Ordinary Congress was again held as a virtual meeting, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was staged in November at the Lausanne World Rowing headquarters. 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 2021 Joint Commissions' Meeting (JCM) in its adapted virtual format taking place over several weeks in November and December.

## 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.

The World Rowing Council took the decision to transfer all anti-doping activities to the International Testing Agency (ITA) in April 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. Please see the report from ITA in these Agenda Papers.

## 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 648'070 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, this will be my last report as Executive Director as I stepped down as of 31 December 2021. I would especially like to thank the now World Rowing staff and consultants for their dedication and commitment to rowing and to our work. I give my best wishes to my successor Vincent Gaillard for a successful run as our new Executive Director. I will now join the Silver Foxes and hopefully meet many of you at events.

## ATTACHMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

### ITA 2021 Annual Review for World Rowing

This annual review lists some of the main activities and projects that the International Testing Agency (ITA) has driven in 2021 for the benefit of our partners and the clean sport community.

#### COVID-19

In 2021, the ITA continued its flexible strategy to mitigate as much as possible the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its partners' anti-doping programs and to maintain their compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code in the context of the ongoing pandemic.

Building on the lessons learned in 2020, the ITA incorporated the particularities of testing in the evolving context of a global pandemic into the strategies for its partners' anti-doping programmes for 2021. Flexibility was still required with regard to events and in-competition testing, as some postponements and cancellations still occurred. Thanks to these measures, the impact of COVID-19 on the ITA's clean sport activities could be anticipated and kept to a minimum. The ITA is pleased to report that more than 90% of its out-of-competition testing plan could be implemented despite the difficult sanitary context.

#### Major Events

Another consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic was that the ITA found itself in the unique situation of having to work simultaneously on the implementation of anti-doping programmes for three editions of the Olympic Games in 2021 - the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games and the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. In the summer of 2021, the ITA succeeded in fully implementing the anti-doping program for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 despite the demanding conditions caused by the pandemic.

The Games-time anti-doping operations were preceded by the most extensive pre-Games testing program ever implemented for an edition of the Olympic Games. For the first time at an edition of the Olympic Games, gene doping testing and the Dried Blood Spot (DBS) method were introduced by the ITA. In parallel to its on-site activities for Tokyo 2020 the ITA launched the pre-Games anti-doping program for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. Additionally, the ITA finalised the re-analysis programs for the Olympic Games London 2012 and the Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014.

Early 2021, the ITA established the first ever Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility (CLTSF) to host samples for long term for reanalysis purposes. Next to storing all samples collected during Olympic Games, the CLTSF also hosts pre-Games samples from anti-doping organisations participating in the program. The CLTSF and custom long-term storage strategies are also available to all ITA partners and anti-doping organisations worldwide who wish to expand their current anti-doping programs and add an additional layer of deterrence and detection time to them.

#### Establishment of Intelligence and Investigations, and Data Analytics Units

Throughout the year 2021, the ITA has further developed its Intelligence & Investigations (I&I) and data analytics capacities as intelligence and data collection, information-sharing and processing have become fundamental elements in the fight against doping. After launching its own whistleblowing platform REVEAL in the beginning of the year (now available in six languages), the ITA has proceeded to build a dedicated I&I Department that today consists of

six experts with backgrounds in law enforcement, criminology, intelligence, integrity, source-handling etc. with two more resources joining this team in early 2022. In June 2021, the ITA I&I and Legal Affairs departments concluded their first large-scale investigation into rule violations in weightlifting.

### Training of Anti-Doping Workforce

Since the launch of ITA's International Doping Control Officer (IDCO) Training & Certification program, it has received broad acceptance from NADOs and Sample Collection Agencies (SCAs) from all over the world who wished for their DCOs to receive this advanced training. So far, over 1000 IDCOs from 37 participating organisations from 65 different countries have graduated.

### Council of Europe Independent Observer Status

The International Testing Agency (ITA) has been granted observer status with the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe. The Convention lays down binding rules on the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe and 5 other States (Australia, Belarus, Canada, Morocco, and Tunisia) with a view to harmonise anti-doping regulations and to promote the important role of sport in moral and physical education as well as in international understanding. The ITA joins a group of other international organisations that also contribute to the implementation and further development of the Convention, such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

### Strengthening existing and forging new partnerships

All of ITA's Olympic IF partners have retained or extended their partnerships with the ITA and the organisation has entered the new year with over 50 International Federations and Major Event Organisers partners. The newest Major Event Organiser to join the ITA after the European Olympic Committees (EOC) is the International World Games Association (IWGA), as the ITA will be implementing the anti-doping program for the World Games 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama. The ITA is further pleased to report the successful integration of the cycling anti-doping program throughout the past year after its delegation to the ITA by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) in the beginning of 2021. This includes the onboarding of the majority of the former staff of the Cycling Anti-Doping Foundation (CADF).

Another partner that delegated its entire anti-doping program to the ITA in 2021 was World Rowing. The ITA also further pursues good collaboration and information exchange with NADOs/RADOs. For this purpose, a dedicated International Relations position was created in 2021. As of today, the ITA has standing collaboration agreements with 23 NADOs and/or NADO umbrella organisations.

### Education

The year 2021 saw the WADA International Standard for Education (ISE) in anti-doping coming into force. To ensure its partners' compliance with the ISE, the ITA supported over 20 IFs and MEOS with the planning and delivery of their education programs. 15 Education Plans were prepared, and 17 webinars and event-based education activities were delivered as the Education Plans were put into action by the ITA partners. Kicking off 2021, the ITA launched the IF Webinar Series – a new virtual education initiative. Five interactive modules were designed to guide, educate and inform the sport communities on their anti-doping responsibilities.

The series covered all key anti-doping topics and was delivered in English with simultaneous translation into Arabic, French, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish.

The ITA also continued to deliver publicly available monthly webinars tailored to the needs of athletes and athlete support personnel. 4,287 attendees tuned in for the 2021 webinars that covered a wide range of clean sport topics including the legal side of anti-doping, nutrition and supplements, as well as Games-specific information for Tokyo and Beijing. The voices of guest speakers, ITA experts and athletes provided a unique combination of professional advice and first-hand experiences.

### ITA 2021 Report on World Rowing

The International Testing Agency (ITA) has implemented a comprehensive intelligence-led and risk-based testing program on behalf of World Rowing throughout 2021. The transfer of World Rowing's anti-doping program to the ITA took place in April and represented a major shift in the few months leading up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Testing activities in 2021 saw a rise in the number of tests. This was due to the Tokyo 2020 Pre-Games testing recommendations and additional testing requirements relating to Paralympic athletes. Following the WADA audit of World Rowing in 2019, WADA indicated that additional testing by World Rowing was necessary for continued Code compliance, this had not been possible during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The ITA coordinated 487 successful tests. The ITA coordinated in-competition testing at 14 different events in 2021. The ITA's testing strategy focused on testing athletes ahead of both the Tokyo Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ITA has adopted additional safety measures in line with WADA's updated COVID-19 guidelines to protect the health of athletes whilst maintaining an effective anti-doping program on behalf of World Rowing. Despite the ever-adapting healthcare guidelines in specific countries during 2021, the ITA was able to still deliver a comprehensive testing program throughout the year. All mandatory Minimum Level of Analysis (MLAs) requirements of the Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA) were incorporated into World Rowing test distribution plan and were met for Rowing and Para-Rowing disciplines.

The ITA's Pre-Games Expert Group comprised of leading anti-doping experts were responsible for performing an independent risk assessment and providing testing recommendations to ensure an effective anti-doping program is implemented in the build-up to Tokyo 2020. As part of the Pre-Games Expert group's analysis, World Rowing received 1543 test recommendations on 405 athletes. Following WR's qualification process, 362 athletes detailed in the recommendations competed in the Olympics.

The World Rowing resources alone would not have been sufficient for testing numbers to cover all the Pre-Games testing Recommendations. The ITA is pleased to highlight that, in collaboration with the relevant NADOs, 212 (out of 362) athletes were tested accordingly and for 128 the expert's recommendations were partially met, accounting for 94% of the recommendations being covered from a testing standpoint. The ITA believes this demonstrates World Rowing effective Pre-Games testing program in place prior to Tokyo 2020. For the recommendations that were not met or were only partially met, the ITA will continue to build relationships with these NADOs to close any potential gaps for future major events. However, with the ITA managing the IOC testing program at the Olympic Games, we were able to identify these athletes and communicate any existing gaps to our team in Tokyo to ensure they were appropriately tested during the Olympic Games.

Ideally, from World Rowing perspective, given the number of rowers participating to the Olympics, most of the Pre-Games recommendations would have been covered by the NADOs whilst World Rowing would have focused on ensuring testing coverage of any identified gaps. Indeed, some NADOs such as CHN, NED and GER completed the Pre-Games testing recommendations on their own. However, as this was a key period to test prior to the Olympics, testing numbers were substantially increased. This level of testing will be eased in the following years of the Olympic cycle.

With 526 rowers competing in the Olympic Games and the selection of rowers often made close to the time of the event, a wide net would need to be cast to ensure that all athletes are well tested prior to an edition of the Olympic Games. It is important that sufficient resources are made available in an Olympic cycle to ensure that high priority rowers are well tested. Although no formal Pre-Games taskforce was established by the IPC, the latter filed a request to World Rowing recommending to increase Pre-Games testing activities. The implementation of such recommendation resulted in 76 urine samples, 7 blood samples and 81 blood passport samples collected OOC from Paralympic rowers.

Whilst there were successes in 2021, it was a transitional year and the ITA will strive to further develop and improve World Rowing's testing program. The key achievements were the focus on the Pre-Games testing recommendations and the increased testing of Paralympic rowers in the high-risk period prior to the Paralympic Games. In-competition testing which previously had been arranged by the Organising Committees was coordinated by the ITA in 2021. This also highlighted the level of change and the importance of communication across the various stakeholders. Despite some budget and organisational challenges, the transition for the organising of in-competition testing went smoothly.

The ITA would like to thank World Rowing for their collaboration in 2021 and we look forward to the partnership in 2022. The ITA will continue developing the World Rowing anti-doping program and protecting clean sport on behalf of World Rowing.

## ATHLETES' COMMISSION

Frida Svensson (SWE), Chair

The purpose of the Athlete Commission (AC) is to represent active national team rowers (including Under 19s and Under 23s), and to act as a liaison between them and World Rowing. The main activities of the Commission are to:

- To consider issues related to rowers and provide relevant input to the Council and Executive Committee.
- To engage actively with and to initiate rowing specific projects that protect and support clean athletes on and off the water.
- To consult with athletes in the evaluation of the Rules and Event Regulations of rowing and provide feedback to the Council and Executive Committee.
- To convene and conduct rowers' surveys and/or meetings at World Rowing Championships and to provide a report to the Executive Committee.
- To analyse the organisation of the World Rowing Championships and Olympic and Paralympic regattas and to report any findings to the Council.
- To support effective communication of information from World Rowing to the Senior National Team athlete community.
- To raise awareness of the AC election and appointment process amongst the active and recently retired athlete communities.
- To maintain contact with the IOC Athlete Commission

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

- At the 2020 Extraordinary Congress, the Member Federations (MFs) approved the Council's proposed changes for Appendix 55: 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. During 2021 the Commission focused on the preparation of the 2022 AC elections taking place at the World Rowing Championships in Racice, CZE and at the World Rowing Coastal Championships in Wales, GBR.
- The World Rowing Event Safeguarding officers were on site at the World Rowing events, in Varese, Tokyo, Lucerne and Zagreb.
- Participation in World Rowing Safeguarding webinars.
- Joined campaign with IOC on Competition Manipulation, 2 ambassadors from World Rowing.
- Athletes Commission representatives at major World Rowing events - Varese, Lucerne, Sabaudia, Zagreb and Tokyo.
- Athletes' Commission website – published regular updates on relevant issues around rowing and the global sport movement.
- AC Chair Frida Svensson, took part in the IOC AC forum on Safeguarding, as one of the panellists.

## Meetings attended in 2021

- Virtual Council meetings
- 2021 World Rowing Ordinary Congress, 6 November 2021
- Meeting with the Executive Committee as part of the 2021 JCM

## Focus for 2022

- ITA Outreach, Row like a Star. Anti-Doping education/webinars/ambassadors
- Social Media projects, educate and create awareness about AC work
- Sustainability – Big Plastic Pledge, plastic reduction at events
- Education Programme on Declaration of Athletes Rights and Responsibilities, competition manipulation
- Mental health awareness project/campaign on social media
- Involvement in the World Rowing media strategy;
- Revision of the current Commission structure
- AC Elections
- Integrity both
- Safeguarding webinars dedicated to athletes

## Summary

We left another challenging year behind us. 2021 has affected us all. Our athletes, coaches and rowing community had to face many challenges, finally Tokyo Olympic Games took place in 2021, and World Rowing successfully conducted all 3 World Cups, Olympic Qualification events and virtual indoor events.

It's always good to look back and learn from our past. 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. We repeat ourselves by using the same lines as we did in last year's report, but we are very proud to be part of this amazing community we have within our sport.

As athletes' 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. This year we had representatives at events but had to keep distance due the pandemic situation. The AC need to continue exploring other ways to communicate through social media and other communicative channels. Thanks to a great team effort from all World Rowing Commissions and staff, we were able to successfully deliver the full racing season.

A big thank you to our World Rowing community for all the hard work you have done for our sport and especially for all our athletes around the globe. Athletes Commission is very proud of the 2021 season.

## 2021 Commission Members

Frida Svensson (SWE) Chair

Julien Bahain (CAN)

Hannah Every-Hall (AUS)

Ka Man Lee (HKG)

PierPaolo Frattini (ITA)

Lawrence Ndluvo (RSA)

Robin Prendes (USA)

Moran Samuel (ISR)

Julia Michalska Plotkowiak (POL)

## COASTAL ROWING COMMISSION

**Guin Batten (GBR), Chair**

The coastal rowing Commission is one of three Discipline Commissions – it is made up of members who are experts on coastal competition and training.

The purpose of the Coastal Rowing Commission is to aid and encourage the growth of coastal rowing to support World Rowing's Strategy, to build capacity across the discipline by developing skills, knowledge, and experience in a range of areas serving coastal rowing and to oversee and promote on a national and international basis touring and recreational rowing.

The main activities of the Commission are:

### Discipline Oversight

- To guide the strategic growth of international coastal rowing competitions and to support the development of different competition formats.
- To centralise information about the discipline, as it relates to key stakeholders. Develop activities to build capacity across all areas of the discipline.

### Competition

- To analyse and provide advice on international coastal rowing competition in terms of composition (events, boat-classes, and categories), conditions, environment, and international regatta programme.
- To monitor and analyse relevant sporting and global trends to ensure the discipline remains relevant and sustainable e.g., in competitive standards, social and financial environment, global mobility, participation levels, safety.
- Support the organisation of the World Rowing Coastal Championship, World Rowing Beach Sprint events, and other coastal rowing events within World Rowing.
- Develop a range of competition opportunities and drive inclusion of the discipline in multi-sport, and other, events.

### Discipline Development

- To advise on training and education including support in the production of specific educational material and coaching courses and seminars.
- To assist in the implementation of the Coaching Development Programme in conjunction with the Development Department.
- To organise coastal rowing educational seminars, as appropriate, and provide coastal rowing coaching content for the Coaches Conference.
- To nominate appropriate coastal rowing coaching experts for the Coaching Development Cross Commission.

### Recreational Rowing

- To collaborate with Member Federations to share knowledge, expertise and develop tour and recreational rowing, in new countries and to new rowers.
- To develop activities to protect and promote heritage boat classes and support the traditional activities and regattas.
- To foster communication between the different rowing communities.

## Key activities and achievement in 2021

### Discipline Oversight

- **2021 Member Federation survey** - the Commission conducted a strategic consultation survey of which 38 nations replied. The findings from the survey have helped guide the Commission as they prepare for a potential Olympic inclusion decision in 2023.
- **Coastal Equipment Manufacturers survey** – coastal manufacturers remain valued stakeholders in the growth of coastal. This year the Commission repeated the 2015 survey to collate their views on the boat measurements within the rules.

The number of coastal boat manufacturers continues to grow, and the number of different designs is exciting to see. The Commission continue to encourage oar and boat builders to meet the specific challenges of coastal competition.

### Competition

- **2021 World Rowing Coastal Championships** was successfully held on Praia da Torres, Oeiras, POR by the Portuguese Rowing Federation. There was a record entry of 351 crews, 840 seats from 34 nations. It was the first time an entry fee was requested. The largest event was the men's solo, and the smallest was the women's double. Men made up 62% of the seats. The course provided challenges to even the most experienced coastal rowers, as the tidal current flowing in and out of the Tagus River caused many crews to miss judge their approach to Turning Point, and a number of mid-race capsizes. In the first two days the Atlantic swell meant a water start, by day three the swell had dropped, and the fans were rewarded to the mass beach starts. The 21 medals in seven events were won by nine different member federations. Spain won the Nations Trophy for the third time; Ukraine came second and France third.
- **2021 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals** was also held in on Praia da Torres, under the imposing walls of the Forte de São Julião da Barra. The 3-day regatta has 105 crews from 25 member federations competing in 9 events. Men made up 55% of the seats. It was only the second edition of this emerging format; the first-time U19 events have been included in a coastal championship. This was part of a strategic pathway for teams as they prepare their U19 crews for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games.
- **Future events** - The 2023 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and World Rowing Coastal Championships will be held in Sabaudia (ITA). The 2024 and 2025 World Rowing Coastal Championships and Beach Sprint Finals will be attributed as part of the 2022 World Rowing Strategic Event Attribution process. These events are schedule to be attributed on 26 September 2022.
- **Rules of Racing** - The Commission has worked closely with the Umpiring Commission and the Rules Working Group to review the endurance and beach sprint departures. To improve the rules in relation to fairness, event presentation and safety.

### Discipline Development

- **Coastal Coach Education** –The World Rowing coach development team continues to provid support to member federations (MFs), through the World Rowing Level 1 Coastal Coach Development Course and the Coastal Race Module.
- **2022 Coaching Conference** – Coastal specific speakers shared their experience at the World Rowing Virtual Coaches Conference, topics included detailed insight in preparation of athletes, learning from New Jersey lifeguard races, a MF reflection on the growth of coastal and a detailed look at the tidal challenges of Turning Point 1 in Portugal.

- **Coastal Event Development** - The Commission continues to support continental and regional events through webinars and advise on running coastal regattas: including providing the Technical Delegate to the 2021 European Rowing Coastal Challenge, Donoratico, ITA.
- **On water safety** – the Commission continue to monitor accidents and incidents and feed their recommendations onto manufactures, coach education and event organising committees. There is more work to support MFs to ensure crews at World Rowing competitions are suitably prepared for the maritime conditions.

#### Recreational 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.

#### Attributed Events & Upcoming Events

- 2022 World Rowing Coastal Championships – Pembrokeshire, GBR
- 2022 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals – Pembrokeshire, GBR
- 2022 European Rowing Coastal & Beach Sprints Championships – San Sebastián ESP
- 2023 World Rowing Coastal Championships – Sabaudia, ITA
- 2023 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals – Sabaudia, ITA
- 2023 European Rowing Coastal & Beach Sprints Championships – La-Seyne-sur-Mer, FRA

#### 2021 Meetings of the Commission

- World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals, Portugal, October 2021
- World Rowing Coastal Championships, Portugal, October 2021
- Commissions Meeting, virtual x10 throughout 2021

#### Summary

The members of the Coastal Rowing Commission were appointed in January 2022 with four new experts added to support the work of the Commission.

#### 2021 Commission Members

Guin Batten (GBR), Chair

Chen Chunxin (CHN)

Katharina von Kodolitsch (GER)

Richard Mouchel (FRA)

Marcelo Santos (BRA)

Pasquale Triggiani (ITA)

Ibtissem Trimech (TUN)

Recreational Rowing members:

Warwick Marler (AUS)

Andrea Ranner (AUT)

## COMPETITIVE ROWING COMMISSION

Rosie Mayglothling (GBR), Chair

The purpose of the Competitive Rowing Commission is to encourage and support the growth of rowing in support of World Rowing's Strategy and to act as a centre of excellence for the discipline of classic rowing and provide support for sustainable development. The main activities of the Commission are to:

### Discipline oversight

- To guide the strategic growth of international rowing competitions and support the development of different competition formats.
- Centralise information about the discipline, as it relates to key stakeholders. Develop activities to build capacity across all areas of the discipline.

### Competition

- To analyse and provide advice on international rowing competition in terms of composition (events, boat-classes and categories), conditions, environment, and the international regatta calendar.
- To monitor and analyse relevant sporting and global trends to ensure the discipline remains relevant and sustainable e.g., in competitive standards, social and financial environment, global mobility, participation levels.
- To undertake the tasks delegated to it by the Council or the Rules in relation to World Rowing events, including but not limited to fairness and seeding.

### Discipline Development

- To advise on training and education including support in the production of specific educational material and coaching courses and seminars.
- To assist in the implementation of the coaching development programmes in conjunction with World Rowing's Development Department.
- To provide appropriate coaching content and organise the annual World Rowing Coaches Conference.
- To nominate appropriate coaching experts for the Coaching Development Cross Commission.

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

- **World Rowing Virtual Coaches Conference** took place in 2021 with the conference due to be delivered in late January 2022. Learning from the first virtual conference in 2020 has led to the sessions either being facilitated panels or themed multiple short sessions. The Coastal, Indoor, Competitive, Para, Sport Medicine, Women's, Youth Commissions along with World Rowing President and Executive Director, Development, Governance and Event Team are all contributing to the event.
- **Coach Education** - Following last years development of the L1 framework for coastal, Classic and Para rowing the materials have been finalised and further virtual delivery was also augmented by in person delivery for the L1 Classic and Coastal and Coach Educator training.

- Seeding - Conducted seeding according to the Seeding Protocol at the European championships, World Rowing Cups, the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta and the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Fairness Committees – Fairness Committees nominated for the European Championships, World Cups, World Rowing Championships at U23 and U19, Olympic and Paralympic Games. Fairness Committees nominated for all the Continental Qualifications from within the continent and trained and supported by an experienced committee member. Weather data and Fairness preparation before events continues to be developed.

#### Competitive Commission meetings in 2021:

- Frequent virtual meetings throughout the year.
- Co-ordinated the first Coaching Cross Commission meeting.

#### Focus for 2022

- 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.
- Review the weather buoy and consider developing a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation. 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 delivering and supporting coaches in 2021. 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 and World Rowing Staff for their continued cooperation.

#### 2021 Commission Members

Peter Cookson (CAN)

Johan Flodin (NOR)

Nebojsa Ilic (SBR)

Rosie Mayglothling (GBR), Chair

Faycal Soula (TUN)

Marcello Varialle (BRA)

Mario Woldt (GER)

Henk-Jan Zwolle (NED)

## EQUIPMENT & 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 2021

- Commission member Marko Banovic (CRO) attended the Coastal Championships – Boatbuilder relationships
- Initiated discussion for more robust Coastal Rules
- Commission member Conny Draper (GER) attended the 2020 Paralympic Games – Equipment issues
- Review of equipment submitted as possible innovations

### Focus for 2022

- Para rowing: Seat rule
- Coastal rowing: rules, weights and measures for potential Olympic Games
- LA28: review and oversight of Long Beach flow study
- Indoor rowing: equipment for Indoor Rowing Championships
- World Rowing Rule Book: Rule revisions
- Review of equipment submitted as innovations
- New member to ETC Commission: Thomas Ebert (DEN)

## Summary

Our primary activities centre on racing, regattas and the development of equipment for them. There were a number of issues at Paralympics and Coastal Championships which we have reviewed and made recommendations for the future. The Coastal rules will have to be carefully reviewed to ensure that they are robust given the 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.

## 2021 Commission Members

Paul Fuchs (USA), Chair

Marko Banovic (CRO)

Mathias Binder (SUI)

Conny Draper (AUS)

Arnoud Greidanus (NED)

Stefan Piesik (GER)

## 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 World Rowing events with regard 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 and bidding committees of World Rowing events on the standard of facilities and regatta courses and organisation of events. To support the transfer of knowledge and best practice between event/regatta organisers.
- To maintain and improve the standard of regatta organisation at all major international events in co-operation with other Commissions as appropriate.
- To visit and inspect regatta courses and regattas.
- To provide advice, consultation and guidance at every stage from initial concept to final commissioning in the development of new courses and new regattas, advise on the upgrading of existing courses.
- To provide members for the technical group responsible for inspecting candidates of future championships and multi-sport Games candidates.
- To monitor, coordinate and advise on changes to the structure of the World Rowing international regatta calendar in conjunction with the World Rowing Events staff taking into consideration the advice of the relevant Commissions.
- To prepare and regularly update documents and manuals which specify the World Rowing 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.
- To train and develop Technical Delegates for events, and to propose to the Executive Committee nominations for the Technical Delegates for World Rowing events.

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

- With the exception of the World Rowing Championships and the Masters Regatta, all 2021 World Rowing events and the Olympic and Paralympic qualification regattas were staged successfully despite the unusual context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before cancelling the World Rowing Championships in Shanghai and the Masters Regatta scheduled for Linz, all aspects were carefully considered according to the Event Decision Policy. All event decisions about whether it was possible and safe to organise events were made based on a standard procedure. World Rowing officials considered all factors including local and global health regulations as well as aiming to minimise possible financial loss to teams and Organising Committees (OCs).
- The highlights of the 2021 season were the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Both regattas were highly successful even under the unusual circumstances due to the COVID-19 restrictions, extreme heat conditions and some adverse weather scenarios. We need to acknowledge the work of the Tokyo2020 OC and especially the Tokyo rowing team lead by Nathalie Phillips.

- Similar to 2020, the appointed Technical Delegates together with the Event Managers were in constant contact with the OCs assisting them to prepare the regattas to the highest possible standards. We continued to have regular online meetings with the OCs fully or partially replacing preparatory "physical" planning visits, because of restrictions on international travel.
- Attendance at World Rowing events - members of the Events Commission were involved in all "classic" World Rowing events, Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as Olympic and Paralympic qualification regattas organised in 2021. The Commission also continued to attend or provide advice to several continental events. Events Commission members were appointed as Technical Delegates at the above-mentioned events as well as the three continental championship events in Europe. Due to financial constraints a reduced number of World Rowing staff and commission members attended the events. This was an additional challenge however, it was managed well by those on site with others helping remotely. In several cases last minute changes some due to COVID-19 travel restrictions involved replacing the Technical Delegate very shortly before the respective event. The handover went smoothly in all such cases thanks to the good practice of sharing information and great help by the Event Managers.
- During the World Rowing Cup regatta in Zagreb, Time Trials were tested to prepare for the possibility that they might be needed at the Tokyo Olympics. Based on previous experience, clear instructions were prepared for athletes and officials. As a result of the improvements in communicating the Time Trials scenarios in a better way, continuous training of the Jury members by the Umpiring Committee members and repeated testing at World Rowing events, the Time Trials for spares races in Tokyo ran smoothly.
- The regatta course survey process description and requirements have been improved and clarified. As a result, consistent regatta course survey reports can now be provided by OCs.
- The improvement and update of the World Rowing Events Manual continued. A Water Safety review was also carried out by a third party expert. The Events Commission actively contributed to both processes.
- Commission meetings, including meeting with other commissions during the JCM, were held virtually.

## Focus for 2022

- Deliver a safe and successful World Rowing regatta season, assist with continental events and contribute to the successful staging of the FISU University Games Regatta in China (subsequently postponed).
- Continue the transfer of knowledge from the Commission and events staff to OCs and identify a "pool of talent" for the next generation of TDs for continental events. In cooperation with ARF and World Rowing Continental Representative for Asia, introduce event organisers' trainings and bidders' workshops.
- Continue to explore better ways of information sharing and knowledge transfer, possibly start using a new digital platform.
- Continue to fine tune the Time Trials instructions to all stakeholders; encourage the officials' trainings using the Umpiring Commission's video material.
- Translate the Continental and Basic World Rowing Manuals into Spanish and French – this initiative is linked closely to knowledge transfer and will extend beyond 2022. Implement

alternative formats for the meetings with the OCs, use virtual meeting formats, where possible, and minimise the physical presence at the regatta site where not absolutely required.

- A priority for 2022 is to review the water safety/rescue procedures, course evacuation & communication protocols.
- Continue testing of Athlete Lane Selection project, which is supported by the Athletes Commission. In order to do a proper test at one of the World Rowing Cup regattas in 2022 the full process needs to be elaborated in detail.
- Continue to update and restructure the World Rowing Manual.
- Continue to finalise an event scenarios playbook, contingency planning and readiness for critical events.
- 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.

## Summary

2021 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 2022 to stage 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 OCs and 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. Special thanks to the World Rowing Events staff for their highly professional work and extraordinarily good cooperation with the Commission members.

## 2021 Commission Members

Eva Szanto (HUN), Chair

Pascal Jolly (FRA)

Victoria Aguirregomezcorta (ARG)

Victor NG (HKG)

Joost De Geus (NED)

Svetla Otzetova (BUL)

Matt Draper (CAN)

Bill Schenck (CAN)

John Hedger (GBR)

Jernej Slivnik (SLO)

Selwyn Jackson (RSA)

Nikola Stojic (SRB)

## INDOOR ROWING COMMISSION

Peter Cookson (CAN), Chair

The purpose of the Indoor Rowing Commission is to aide and encourage the growth of indoor rowing to support World Rowing's Strategy and to differentiate indoor rowing as a standalone discipline of rowing, while honouring its traditions and history. The main activities of the Indoor Commission are:

### Discipline Oversight

- To guide the strategic growth of international indoor rowing competitions and challenges and to support the development of different competition formats.
- Facilitate collaboration between indoor rowing industry stakeholders for the benefit of the discipline.

### Competition

- To monitor and analyse relevant sporting and global trends to ensure the discipline remains relevant and sustainable e.g., in competitive standards, social and financial environment, global mobility, participation levels.
- Support the organisation of the World Rowing Indoor Championships and other indoor rowing events within World Rowing.
- Develop a range of competition opportunities and drive inclusion of the discipline in multi-sport, and other, events.
- Promote indoor rowing as an inclusive discipline providing both competitive and participation/recreational opportunities for all.

### Discipline Development

- Promote the health, cross training, and rehabilitative benefits of rowing in order to broaden the base of indoor rowers.
- Consolidate existing training and education materials and advice on technical issues; provide appropriate indoor rowing coaching experts for the World Rowing Coaching Academy.
- Organise indoor rowing educational opportunities and/or events and provide indoor rowing coaching content for the Coaches Conference.
- Prepare a certification programme to measure the precision of work output on indoor rowing machines wishing to receive World Rowing approval.

### Key Achievements and Activities in 2021

- Initiated and Creation of Commission in March 2021
- Reviewed & Updated Strategic Plan
- Identified new concepts for World Championships
- Reviewed calendar of events
- Created forum for discussion with indoor manufacturers
- Eric Murray and Linda Muri hosted discussions at the World Rowing Coaching Conference

## Focus for 2022:

- Clarify World Championship Concepts
- Review calendar for in-person and virtual events
- Review age categories for World Championships
- Continue working with manufacturers to identify opportunities within the discipline
- Create a stronger brand and identity
- Identify areas where technology can play a part in developing the sport further

## Summary

The Indoor Rowing Commission was formed in March 2021. Throughout 2021, the Commission met 11 times to begin the process of establishing the strategic path forward for Indoor Rowing. In this process, four (4) goals were established to further engrain Indoor Rowing in our communities. New concepts for the World Rowing Indoor Championships were formulated. For the first time ever, Indoor Rowing topics were included in the 2021/22 WR Coaches Conference. Indoor Rowing is truly finding its place within the World Rowing family.

As outgoing Chair of the Indoor Rowing Commission, I want to sincerely thank the members of the Commission who gave an extraordinary amount of time, guidance and intellect to advance indoor rowing. A special shout out goes to World Rowing's staff members, Matt Smith and Liz Soutter, whose guidance and diligence were exceptional during this initial phase of the Commission.

## 2021 Commission Members

Peter Cookson (CAN), Chair

Juliette Duchemin (FRA)

Filip Ljubicic (SRB)

Erik Murray (NZL)

Linda Muri (USA)

Helen Rowbotham (GBR)

## 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 2021

- **2021 World Rowing Masters Regatta cancelled-** 2021, like the previous year, was a time of great frustration and dashed hopes caused by the global pandemic. We began the year hoping that we might be able to stage the World Rowing Masters Regatta in Linz, postponed from 2020, but early in May it became clear that the vagaries of the pandemic would make staging the regatta impractical, and the organizing committee, Masters Commission, and Executive Committee all reluctantly agreed that the most responsible decision was to announce cancellation of the regatta rather than linger in uncertainty any longer.
- **2022 and beyond -** Once the decision was made to cancel the 2021 event, our attention naturally turned to assuring a successful return of world masters rowing as soon as global conditions permitted. The schedule for the next four years remains:
  - 2022 Libourne FRA
  - 2023 Tshwane RSA
  - 2024 Brandenburg GER
  - 2025 Banyoles ESP

So much has changed in the world since the last regular rowing season in 2019 that it would be foolhardy to predict that we can resume in 2022 in exactly the same way as we had before. We may have to revise ceremonies, racing schedules and land activities to account for sensible precautions needed to assure health and safety. Nevertheless, it will be our goal to preserve the essence of what had caused thousands of rowers to assemble each year and renew the bonds of friendship and friendly competition that characterizes the World Rowing Masters Regatta.

We have been in frequent consultation with the organizing committees both for Libourne FRA in 2022 and Tshwane RSA in 2023, and both venues will be memorable experiences. We hope to see many of you in the wine country of France in September 2022 as we resume the activity that has been a hallmark of so many of our lives.

- **Development of masters rowing globally** – The Commission will continue to explore opportunities to develop masters rowing globally. We have had fruitful discussions with the new Indoor Rowing Commission about ways to coordinate in our areas of shared responsibility, including the possibility of more virtual rowing events with the advent of improved technology that makes such competitions possible. Rowing is both a sport marked by tradition and history, but it is also an area in which innovation and progress is possible. The Commission will endeavour to promote both aspects of our sport in the particular area of masters rowing.

## Summary

I continue to be supported by exceptional Commission members whose diverse talents were especially needed in this difficult year. Normally the Commission would meet three times a year, but the Commission did not meet in person at all in 2021, but did meet 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.

Renewal and a return to normalcy will, we hope, be the hallmark of 2022. 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.

## 2021 Commission Members

Ron Chen (USA), Chair

Gary Bain (GBR)

Inga Daukantiene (LTU)

Sebastian Franke (GER)

Ana Nikolic (SRB)

Zdena Norkova (CZE)

Herman Van Velze (RSA)

## PARA ROWING COMMISSION

Rebecca Thomas Orr (CAN), (Interim) 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:

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

### Key Activities and Achievements in 2021

- Successful inclusion of para rowing races, despite two years of pandemic, into Continental Qualification regattas for the Paralympic Games. - the collaboration of all the various stakeholders including all of the LOCs, World Rowing, and all involved was phenomenal, and all should be particularly proud of this achievement.
- The Classification Advisory Panel (CAP) successfully hosted virtual classifications for each of the continental qualifiers to ensure all athletes were able to participate and ensure that racing was done in a fair manner. The virtual classifications proved a valuable tool in engaging with more local resources that are now on the radar for an Advanced Classification workshop to upskill and train more International Classifiers.
- The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games were delivered successfully. The Games themselves were well executed with stringent protocols ensuring all athletes and support staff were safe throughout the games. The support and collaboration among all commissions was a testament to how truly integrated para rowing is within World Rowing. The 2020 Games were the first Paralympic Games raced over 2000m. The event was so seamless, that it is hard to believe that the racing distance doubled over the last cycle. Great competition from all nations in all 4 Paralympic races showcased the qualification system worked well.
- Continued Engagement and planning with VIRTUS on the re-inclusion of Intellectually Impaired (II) athletes. This did stall a bit of course as a result of the pandemic, but there is an open dialogue and continued intent to work together to find the best path forward.
- In collaboration with the CAP and the Competitive Commission, successfully launched two virtual learning courses: Introduction to Para Rowing Classification and Para Rowing (coaching) Modules. The para rowing coaching modules have been translated and narrated into French and Spanish, offering greater flexibility to use the presentations for face-face and/or self-guided learning. They have been launched as part of the World Rowing Academy. There has been a very positive response to date, and we look forward to updating with feedback that is received.

- Full integration of para rowing into the World Rowing Coaches Conference: Simon Goodey moderated a discussion with Birgit Skarstein & Johan Flodin: Coaching and Developing Para rowers together with other rowers at an inclusive center - an example from Norway
- Para Rowing Commission virtual meetings were held bi-monthly
- A "fixed seat" working group that had members of the para commission along with the equipment and technology and umpires commission was established after Tokyo 2020 to update the wording within the regulations with respect to the fixed seat. The group submitted an update for the regulations that provide more clarity and less ambiguity.
- The addition of a fifth race, the PR3Mix2x, for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. This is an exciting addition as we hope it will open the pathway for more developing countries to start a program without having to invest in new equipment, while at the same time adding an additional exciting event the para program.

## Focus for 2022

- Increase MFs representation at international para rowing events, including multi-sport games, indoor rowing, continental events and coastal rowing.
- Develop para rowing specific safeguarding policies and best practices.
- Raise the profile and image of our para rowers and coaches wherever possible.
- Work with the development team for further integration of the para commission to support development camps and ensure there is continued mentoring opportunities.
- Integrate para rowing into World Rowing coastal rowing events. Also looking to explore other World Rowing events where there might be the opportunity to add para rowing events including U23, juniors, masters.
- Re-evaluate sport classes for indoor rowing to make it easier for participants to enter, provide meaningful competition experiences for athletes, and clarify the various para rowing categories used by World Rowing, Invictus Games, Warrior Games and Concept 2. Working group with representatives from Para Rowing Commission, Indoor Rowing Commission, Concept 2 and Invictus Games established.
- Encourage more participation for PR3Mix2x.
- Goal of 6 to 8 countries participating at the Asian Para Games.
- Goal of 6 to 8 countries participating at the Panamerican Challenge.
- Establish a clear process for MFs to ensure any innovations to seats or boats are eligible for competition prior to international racing.

## Summary

I would like to thank World Rowing for giving me the opportunity to step into the interim role of Chair for the Para Rowing Commission. The support that I have received from all of my World Rowing colleagues and Commission members has been much appreciated. It is a pleasure to work with the talented World Rowing staff, particularly Liz Soutter and the full Development Team.

I would also like to thank all of our Para Commission members for their continued work to support and grow para rowing both at their individual local levels, and internationally through the

work with the Commission. We are all looking forward to 2022 where we will continue to promote and grow para rowing.

## **2021 Commission Members**

Rebecca Thomas Orr (CAN), Interim Chair

Marco Galeone (RSA/SWE)

Simon Goodey (GBR)

Paola Grizzetti (ITA)\*

Han Seung Hon (KOR)

Monika Kuczma (POL)

Fred Mallrich (BRA)

Gordon Marcks (AUS)

\* Paola Grizzetti (ITA) stepped down from the role of Chair/member of the Para Rowing Commission in October 2021.

## 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 activities of the Commission include:

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

### Key activities and achievements in the COVID-19-Season 2021

In 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic dominated the work of the Commission with the goal to enable safe and fair training and competition.

- **World Rowing Event Doctors** - Our commission members continued their service at regattas as the WR Doctor in accordance with the Bye-Law to Rule 37. The events in 2021 are attached.
- **Representation** - The Chair represented World Rowing at the following events:
  - IF Medical Commission Chairpersons meeting with participation of OCOG in Monaco 23./24.11.2021
  - IOC World Conference on Prevention of Injury & Illness in Sport 25.-28.11.2021 in Monaco
  - IF meeting on Transgender and DSD 08.10.2021
  - IOC work group on water quality (regular virtual meetings)
  - IOC expert group on COVID-19 (regular virtual meetings)
  - IF Medical Commission Chairpersons meeting (virtual meetings)

- **Development** – No development activities due to COVID-19
- **Tokyo 2020 preparation and conduction**
  - Medical and rescue preparation of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games were continuously supported.
  - The heat guidelines were updated. Repeated meeting with IOC and LOCOC. Heat measures at Sea Forest waterway were at the very end rated as excellent.
  - Water Quality Sea Forest waterway – the water quality data from the test event 2019 were not satisfactory and caused huge efforts from Tokyo 2020. the water quality guideline were used successfully.
  - Dr Hiura served as venue medical director for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and for Paralympic games.
  - Dr. Smoljanowitch served as World Rowing doctor for Tokyo 2020, Dr. Wilkinson for the Paralympic games
- **The Rowing Low Back Pain Consensus project**, led by Fiona Wilson and supported by the SMC, was successfully published.
- **Athlete Safeguarding:** The SMC members of the World Rowing Safeguarding Working Group were the SMC Chair and Dr Wilkinson.

## Management

SMC meetings in 2021: four virtual meetings and 4 joint meetings at the WR JMC 2021

## 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 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 organizations and experts such as the Aerosol Society to provide evidence about safe rowing and training.

### Published guidelines:

- 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 Organizers and Member Federations (MFs)
- COVID bubble and testing protocols
- Advice for physiotherapists, (massage therapists, and other clinicians in very close contact) treating rowing athletes during and post Covid19 pandemic (Wilson / Ni Cheallaigh)
- World Rowing Use of Masks Guidelines

## Anti-Doping Advisory Panel (ADAP)

- Members of the ADAP in 2021 (upon change to ITA): Sports Medicine Commission Chair Dr Jürgen Steinacker, WR Executive Director Matt Smith, Council Member Dr Lenka Dienstbach Wech, Sports Medicine Commission Member Dr Mike Wilkinson.

## Rules

- **Gender Identification and Sex Assignment -**
  - Rule 13 – Men’s and Women’s Events is redrafted taking into account fairness of racing for protected disciplines, inclusion, non-discrimination and societal acceptability. The effects are continuously monitored
  - 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.
- **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 Rule 48 describing the duties of each MF and its rowers:
  - The rule also requires that MFs nominate a Chief Medical Officer
- The by-law to Rule 35 now states that it is the responsibility of organizing 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 organizing committees appoint a safety coordinator who is responsible for oversight of rescue services and coordination with Medical services and the Regatta Medical Officer.

## Water Quality guidelines

The guidelines on water quality and guidelines on water testing were successfully revised. The rowing venues have now scientific sound and validated guidelines which are founded on international standards.

## Working Groups

- a. **Water Safety for Regattas and role of FISA-doctor**  
the SMC-water safety group is Prof. Henning Bay Nielsen, Dr. Mikio Hiura, Dr. Michael Wilkinson, Dr. Petra Zupet, Prof. Juergen Steinacker
- b. **Coastal rowing** (Dr. Michael Wilkinson, Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, Dr. Donia Koubaa, Prof. Juergen Steinacker)
- c. **Lightweight:** Prof. Fiona Wilson, Prof. Mikio Hiura, Prof. Henning Bay-Nielsen, Dr. Kathryn Ackerman (and two nominees of athletes’ commission).
- d. **Para Rowing and injury: Musculoskeletal injury in Para and non-disabled rowers: a systematic review (IOC-Project)** (Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, Prof. Fiona Wilson), part of the IOC-funded project on a digital injury surveillance System of Dr. Tuakli-Worsume from Yale, USA.
- e. **Biomechanical evaluation of rowing ergometer:** Prof. Juergen M Steinacker and colleagues at the University of Ulm have study validity and reliability of rowing ergometers by construction of a test rig. (Dr. Gunnar Treff, Dr. Lennart Mentz and Professor Engleder from Ulm University of Applied Sciences).

## Publications

- Water quality guidelines
- 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.

## Focus for 2022

- The health and safety for participants at World Rowing events will further a main topic for 2022.
- 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 analyzed.
- 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 programs and work with the development program of World Rowing will also continue to be a priority for the SMC.

We see that the activities of the SMC with the World Rowing Sports Medicine and Science Conference 2018 in Berlin led to an increase in rowing-related publications and research.

These activities ensure that the Sports Medicine Commission continues to collaborate with World Rowing Commissions and international organizations 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 organization.

## 2021 Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	WR-WR-DOCTOR
May	Asia / Oceania Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta	Tokyo, JPN	Dr. Hiura
No information	Americas Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta	Rio, BRA	Dr. Wilkinson
5 - 7. April	2021 WR European Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta	Varese, ITA	Dr. Zupet
9 - 11 April	2021 European Rowing Championships	Varese, ITA	Dr. Bay-Nielsen
30 April - 2 May	World Rowing Cup I	Zagreb, CRO	Dr. Smoljanovic
3 - 5 June 2021	2021 WR Final Paralympic Qualification Regatta	Gavirate, ITA	Dr. Wilkinson
16 - 18 May 2021	2021 WR Final Olympic Qualification Regatta	Lucerne, SUI	Dr. Hannafin
21 - 23 May 2021	2021 World Rowing Cup II	Lucerne, SUI	Dr. Bay-Nielsen
4 - 6 Jun 2021	2021 World Rowing Cup III	Sabaudia, ITA	Dr. Koubaa
7-11 July	World Rowing Under 23 Championships	Racice, CZE	Dr. Ackerman
23 - 30 Jul 2021	2020 Olympic Games Regatta	Tokyo, JPN	Dr. Smoljanovic
11-15 August	World Rowing Junior Championships	Plovdiv, BUL	Drs. Zupet/ Smoljanovic
27 - 29 Aug 2021	2020 Paralympic Games Regatta	Tokyo, JPN	Dr. Wilkinson
4 - 5 Sep 2021	2021 European Rowing Under 23 Championships	Kruszwica, POL	Dr. Bay-Nielsen
9-11 Sep. 2021 (Cancelled)	African Beach Sprint	Tunis, TUN	Dr. Koubaa
24 - 26 Sep 2021	2021 World Rowing Beach Sprints Finals	Oeiras, POR	Dr. Wilkinson
01 - 03 October	2021 World Rowing Coastal Championships	Oeiras, POR	Dr. Wilkinson

## Publications

### COVID-19:

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3. Wilson F, Ackerman K, Smoljanovic T, Steinacker J, Hannafin J, Nielsen H, Hiura M, Wilkinson M (2020) World Rowing Covid-19 pandemic. Return to rowing and avoiding risk of injury. [worldrowing.com/news/return-training-advice-for-post-peak-and-post-pandemic-periods](https://worldrowing.com/news/return-training-advice-for-post-peak-and-post-pandemic-periods), Federation International Societies D'Aviron, June 2020, p1 – 5
4. Sports Medicine Commission: Covid-19 Pandemic - Return to Staging Regattas Advice for Event Organisers and MFs in 2020
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N Webborn, P Singleton, M Miller, F Pigozzi, YP Pitsiladis. Collateral Health Issues Derived from the Covid-19 Pandemic. *Sports Medicine - Open* (2020) 6:35 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40798-020-00267-6>

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#### Statement of the International Sports Medicine federation (FIMS) of Gender and disorders of sex development

15. Hamilton B, ... JM Steinacker, ... et al. (2021) Integrating athletes with disorders of sex development (DSDs) and transgender athletes into elite competition: the FIMS 2020 consensus statement. *Sports Medicine* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40279-021-01451-8>

#### 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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#### Rowing related research

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27. Mentz L, Engleder T, Schulz G, Winkert K, Steinacker JM, Treff G. The mechanical rower: Construction, validity, and reliability of a test rig for wind braked rowing ergometers. *J Biomech*. 2020 Jun 9;106:109833. doi: 10.1016/j.jbiomech.2020.109833.

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### 2021 Commission Members

Dr. Juergen Steinacker, GER (Chair)

Dr. Jo Hannafin, USA

Dr. Henning Bay Nielsen, DEN

Dr. Donia Koubaa, TUN

Dr. Mikio Hiura, JPN

Dr. Michael Wilkinson, CAN

Dr. Petra Zupet, SLO

Dr. Tomislav Smoljanovic, CRO

Dr. Piero Poli, ITA

### Co-opted Specialist members:

Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, USA

Dr. Fiona Wilson, IRL

Joanne Harper (GB, CAN)

### Former chair and permanent guest:

Dr. Alain Lacoste; FRA

## 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 World Rowing 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 World Rowing 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 World Rowing Commissions as appropriate;
- Continuously improve the standard of regatta organisation at all major events in co-operation with the other World Rowing 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 World Rowing as appropriate.

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

- The following World Rowing Events were attended:
  - World Rowing Cup I, II and III in Zagreb (CRO), Luzern (SUI) and Sabaudia (ITA);
  - World Rowing Junior Championships, Plovdiv (BUL);
  - World Rowing Under 23 Championships, Racice (CZE);
  - World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals & Coastal Championships, Oieras (POR);
  - Continental Olympic & Paralympic Qualification regatta in Varese (ITA), Rio de Janeiro (BRA) and Tokyo (JPN);
  - Final Olympic & Paralympic regatta in Luzern (SUI) & Gavirate (ITA);
  - Olympic & Paralympic Games regatta, Tokyo (JPN).
- The following Continental Rowing Events were attended:
  - European Rowing Junior Championships, Munich (GER);
  - European Rowing U23 Championships, Kruszwica (POL);
  - European Rowing Senior Championships, Varese (ITA);
  - European Coastal Challenge, Donoratico (ITA);
  - Youth Panam Games, Cali (COL);
  - Asian Rowing Championships, Banchang (THA).
- New World Rowing umpires – After more than 18 months finally 4 exam sessions were organised with a total of 16 successful candidates, representing 8 member federations (MFs).
- Seminars & clinics – 11 seminars (9 physical & 2 virtual) with a total of 253 participants; a number of online 'educative' clinics (6 x 2hrs), attended by a huge number of

potential candidates for future World Rowing and regional exams (example: Americas up to 142 registered for clinic in Spanish language); a number of 'rules updating clinics' (2hr session – 2021 World Rowing Extraordinary decisions and practical implementation) with a total of 218 participants.

- Other achievements of the Commission - participated actively in the Rules Working Group, the GEDI, Safeguarding and Water Safety working groups.
- Umpiring Commission meetings in 2021 - Virtual World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting, October-November; Monthly virtual meetings at World and European Rowing Umpiring Commission level; At the WR/ER events with the UC-members present.
- Some of the UC members were part of educational and development projects (as the online 6 session umpiring clinics), preparatory site visits and continental/regional working groups.

### Focus for 2022

- The 2022 season starts with:
  - 493 World Rowing umpires from 68 national federations;
  - 53 national federations having a total of 136 female World Rowing-umpires (or 28% of the total number);
  - 236 World Rowing Umpires selected for the different 2022 Olympic / Paralympic, World and European juries.
- To monitor permanently the availability of the selected 2022 jury members, due to the potential COVID-19 travel and quarantine restrictions.
- To continue the organisation of a number of (live or virtual) umpiring seminars and clinics to assure the renewal of the World Rowing umpire licenses.
- Geographical representation - continue to expand the number of federations with World Rowing and regional qualified umpires (via education, clinics and exams).
- Gender representation - further increase the number of female umpires.
- 'Relaunch' of the Umpiring newsletter via [www.worldrowing.com](http://www.worldrowing.com).
- Learning resources - continue to develop new resources for umpiring development.
- Contribution to practical race preparation of development crews during training camps and at World Rowing events.
- World Rowing projects - further contribution to new and ongoing rowing formats and procedures, with particular focus on athletes' lane selection, beach sprints and coastal rowing.

### Summary

The World Rowing umpiring commission will continue to contribute to fair competitions in cooperation with all parties involved.

### 2021 Commission Members

Patrick Rombaut (BEL), Chair	Gabrielle Isenschmid Weber (SUI)
Angela Alonso (ESP)	Vladimir Meglic (SLO)
Fabio Bolcic (ITA)	Jérôme Mouly (FRA)
Kristopher Grudt (USA)	Stefanie Palfner (GER)
Ines Hammami (TUN)	Takao Senda (JPN)
Nicholas Hunter (AUS)	

## WOMEN'S ROWING COMMISSION

Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED), Chair

In 2021 the Women's Cross Commission continued its work to sustain women's development specific projects with a specific focus in the areas of coaching and leadership while keeping the gender mainstream approach, promoting equal athlete representation at Olympic and Paralympic Continental qualification regattas and equal access to regional and continental development training and education opportunities.

As per previous explanatory note relative to the 2021 preparations for the transition from the Women's Cross Commission to the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Cross Commission, World Rowing responded to the need to have a greater understanding of diversity, and the issues and barriers to participating in rowing.

At the annual November 2020 congress GEDI was included in the declaration of principles of World Rowing and the Council, in particular the chair of the Women's Cross Commission, was asked to prepare a policy and structure for a GEDI Cross Commission.

In 2021 a temporary Working Group met biweekly to discuss the why and further on the what (to do) and how (to do it). Diversity can only be of impact if inclusion is well established. As exclusion is a systemic thing, it will take a systemic approach and a change of mindset to reach the World Rowing goals. An action plan was put in place to assist with the commission structure transition and help to determine what GEDI looks like for rowing globally.

The temporary Working Group consisted of members with professional and lived experience on the different subjects of GEDI. 13 Working group meetings starting February and ending August 2021, provided advice, suggestions, insights and models in the following GEDI areas: - Race and ethnicity; - Gender equality; - Gender identity; - Physical and intellectual abilities; - Sexual orientation; - Economic status; - Religion or beliefs; and Refugees.

Tacit knowledge and good narratives helped us to develop the declaration of Principles, the GEDI Strategic Policy and the list of Action Points, put forward

In the lead up to the 6th November 2021 ordinary congress, MFs were asked to review the strategy and related documents. According to the commitments of the 2020 Ordinary Congress, the GEDI Cross Commission (replacing the Women's Commission) was created and a new chair of the GEDI Cross Commission was elected.

### Key Activities and Achievements in 2021

- Transition into GEDI Cross Commission
- Collect information and inspiration
- Terms of reference for GEDI
- Profile of future cross commission members
- Data (WR Membership Survey to support and monitor GEDI objectives)

### Focus for 2022

As per Congress approval the following structure is foreseen

1. GEDI Advisory Panel consisting of outside experts who can review and evaluate the defined strategy and actions of the GEDI Cross Commission, chaired by the GEDI Chair. These individuals would be asked to be available for a video conference call each six months.
2. World Rowing GEDI Cross Commission composed of one member from each Commission who would dedicate themselves to implement the defined strategies within the work of each commission
3. World Rowing Management Group – members of staff have dedicated part time to the GEDI strategy within the office to ensure that the strategies are applied in the programmes operated by staff.

## Summary

Special thanks to the World Rowing GEDI Working Group members and WR staff support:

Amanda Kraus and Ellen Minzner (USA), Amina Lanaya (FRA/MAR), Anna Mguni (ZIM), Deqa Niamkey (SOM/SUI), Gabriella Bascelli (ITA), Jercyl Leryn (PHI), Mirna Rajle Brođanac (CRO), Mpumelelo Geza (RSA), Privel Hinkati (BEN), Robert Morini (GBR), Sarah Cook (AUS), Sergey Lezhin (ASOIF) and to GEDI external experts Shiv Paul, Joanna Harper, Kathryn Ackerman, Ronald Chen, Mehdi Garidi, Amina Rouba, Fayçal Soula, Bob Ramsak and Graham Clifford supported by Jacomine Ravensbergen, Matt Smith, Lucy Trochet, Liz Soutter, Brian Orsini, Claire Lambe and Daniela Gomes.

A final word to all World Rowing continental representatives, commissions and Member Federations for their sustained support throughout 2021.

## 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 World Rowing 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 2021

- Event support and Management - the Commission fulfilled its functions at the Under 23 and Junior World Championships. Primarily this supported the new and young coaches, particularly those from development countries as well as Safeguarding and Fairness. A Coaches Meeting was organised and statistics analysed to provide future recommendations regarding trends to the Executive Committee and other Commissions.
  - Fairness - Barbara Grudt and Mehdi Garidi were part of the Fairness Committees at the U23 and Junior Championships.
  - Collaborated to provide speakers for World Rowing Coaches Conference.
  - Development – Axel Müller and Mehdi Garidi assisted the Development and Masters Fund coaches and athletes during the Junior World Championships in Plovdiv, (BUL).
  - Safeguarding - Barb Grudt was the World Rowing Event Safeguarding Officer at the U23 Championships in Racice (CZE).
- Governance Working Group – Chair Algirdas Raslanas served on this group
- World Rowing Coaches Development Program – Axel Müller and Mehdi Garidi contributed materials for this programme.
- Masters Fund for Youth Rowing - thanks to the one Euro subvention provided by participants at the Masters Regatta many coaches have now passed through the scholarship coach programme to become full-time professional coaches in their own national programs. Participants 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)

The Commission is seeking a Youth Coastal Coach Candidate and Crew in addition to the next Traditional Rowing candidates.

- Youth Rowing Commission meetings in 2021 – Hybrid meeting in Racice (CZE), Virtual Joint Commission Meetings November 2021.

### Focus for 2022

- World Rowing U19 & U23 Championships: 2022 Varese (ITA), 27-31 July
- FISU University Games: 2022 Chengdu (CHN), 26 June – 7 July
- World Coastal Rowing Championships (7-9 October) & Beach Sprint Finals (14-16 October): 2022 Saunterfoot (GBR)
- Youth Coaches Conference: 2022 Limassol (CYP) – TBA (Rescheduled from 2020)
- Masters Fund for Youth Rowing Project
- Youth Coastal Rowing Development, Promotion & Safety
- Fairness and Safe-guarding at events
- Monitor statistics and trends in Youth events including Coastal
- Participation in Safe-guarding Advisory Group and Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion Cross-Commission
- Continued Participation in Governance Working Group
- Support Rigging Survey

### 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 national federations, for their proposals and suggestions. Their active contribution is greatly appreciated.

### 2021 Commission Members

Algirdas Raslanas (LTU), Chair	Barb Grudt (USA)
Antonio Colamonici (ITA)	Zhongming Huang (CHN)
Jaime Fernandez (AUS)	Axel Müller (GER)
Mehdi Garidi (ALG)	Olga Tarasova (BLR)

## CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFRICA

Mehdi Garidi (ALG)

The role of the World Rowing Continental Representative 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 2021

#### National Development Activities

- Lesotho, a boat donation and a site visit has been done by Sizwe Ndlovou in November 2021
- Cape Verde, Coastal Rowing Level 1 coaching course, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, by Rui Faria.

#### Continental and regional activities

- Training camp in Tunisia for qualified nations to the Olympic Games, through athlete scholarship, May-June 2021, LBA, NGR, TOG.
- Arab Beach Sprint Championships, held in UAE from 25-27<sup>th</sup> November 2021, assistance and guided coaching sessions for participating countries, 7 African countries, TUN, MAR, LBA, EGY, SUD, DJI, SOM with a total of 32 athletes, 21 Male and 11 Female.
- ANOCA - NOC SG's meeting Niger 26-27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 attended by Anna Mguni, World Rowing development manager, rowing was one of the only 3 sports invited to make a presentation, with Teqball and Sailing.

#### World activities

- Memorial Paolo d'Aloja Regatta, Piediluco, ITA - a training camp for African nations was organized: 6 countries participated BEN, CIV, NAM, MAR, TUN, ZIM (4 athletes Male and 4 Female, 4 male coaches)
- Final Paralympic Qualification Regatta, Gavirate, ITA - Support to the participating development nations, 5 African countries participated ALG, SUD, KEN, CPV, NGR with a total of 12 athletes (6 Male and 6 Female) Tokyo Olympic Games – 15 African NOCs qualified to the games, in Rio 2016 they were 9 NOCs only, support to the participating development

nations, meetings with NF's, CNO's and Sports Ministries representatives from TOG, UGA, EGY, SUD, NGR, LES, BEN.

- **WRU23CH Racice, CZE** - Equipment and logistical support for participating developing nations, TUN, MAR, CIV
- **WRU19CH Plovdiv, BUL** - Support to the participating developing nations, 3 Countries, TUN, ZIM, EGY, 11 athletes, 7 Male and 4 Female
- **Coastal Rowing Module Coach and Coach Educator training, virtual sessions + face to face course in Portugal Oeiras, attended by 7 coaches from 4 countries TUN, EGY, ALG, RSA Sahbi khardani, Chokri Benmiled, Fayçal Soula, Ibtissem Trimech, Mehdi Garidi, Emma Benany, Sizwe Ndlovou.**

## Participation

In total, 123 athletes (77 Male and 46 Female), 78 crews, representing 16 African countries participated at the 2021 World Rowing, Olympic and Paralympic events.

- **World Rowing Indoor Championships Virtual** – 154 participants from 10 African Countries TUN, EGY, ALG, RSA, ZIM, CPV, KEN, MAR, NAM, UGA
- **World Rowing Cup I, Zagreb, CRO** – 2 countries participated, TUN, BEN
- **World Rowing Cup II, Lucerne, SUI** – 7 crews from 4 countries participated EGY, ALG, ZIM, BEN
- **World Rowing Cup III, Sabaudia, ITA** – 5 crews from 4 countries participated EGY, ALG, ZIM, NAM.
- **Final Olympic Qualification Regatta, Lucerne, SUI** – 5 crews from 3 countries participated TUN, EGY, RSA.
- **Final Paralympic Qualification Regatta, Gavirate, ITA** – 6 crews from 5 countries participated, ALG, CPV, KEN, NGR, SUD.
- **World Rowing U23 Championships, Racice, CZE** – 7 Crews from 6 countries participated, TUN, EGY, RSA, ZIM, MAR, CIV.
- **World Rowing U19 Championships, Plovdiv, BUL** – 9 Crews from 4 countries participated, TUN, EGY, RSA, ZIM
- **World Rowing Beach Sprint Final, Oeiras, POR** – 11 Crews from 4 countries participated, TUN, EGY, ALG, CPV.
- **World Rowing Coastal Rowing Championships, Oeiras, POR** – 9 Crews from 3 countries participated, TUN, EGY, ALG.
- **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games** – 15 Crews from 14 countries participated, ALG, TUN, EGY, RSA, ZIM, BEN, NGR, SUD, MAR, NAM, CIV, TOG, UGA, LBA
- **Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games** – 2 countries participated, KEN, NGR

## Meetings Attended in 2021

- **Virtual World Rowing Council meetings:** 15, 22 & 29 January, 26 March, 28 May, 13 August and 22 September.
- **Meeting with the World Rowing Executive Committee** 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## Focus for 2022

- Organise successfully the 1<sup>st</sup> African Beach Sprint Championships, Tunisia, September 2022
- Organize successfully the African championships, December 2022 TBC
- The 14<sup>th</sup> Tunis lake International regatta, March 2022
- Assist on the Review process of the FASA Statutes
- Assist on the Organisation of the FASA Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assembly 2022, date and location TBC
- Assist the African NFs/AT/COA to participate in the international and continental championships (via SO)
- Development, training and education (coaches, umpires – face to face / virtually)
- Assist and cooperate with the 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, Egypt 2022
  - The African Beach Games, Tunisia, 2023
  - The African Games, Ghana, 2023
- Keep good level of interaction with MFs (monitor their situation during the pandemic)
- Assist FASA on the organization of Extraordinary and Ordinary general Assembly
- Improve FASA governance
- Encourage and support both FASA and the African MFs to improve their governance standards
- Encourage FASA and the African MFs to take action towards equality in their governance structures
- Encourage and assist the MFs to sustainably develop classic, indoor, coastal and para rowing where possible Organize a successful continental and regional championships, in Classic, Coastal, Para, and Indoor rowing
- More learning opportunities through the new World Rowing CDP (focus on safety and safeguarding)
- Promote coaching support to new nations through the continental coach educators
- Work with the World Rowing and FASA Umpiring Commission to deliver umpiring education

## CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE AMERICAS

Victoria Aguirregomezcorta (ARG)

The role of the World Rowing Continental Representative, 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 2021

- **World Rowing Indoor Championships** – Participating member federations (MFs): ARG, BRA, CAN, CHI, ECU, MEX, PAR, URU, USA.

Highlights: USA - various first places in wide scope of events

ECU and MEX - 3 and 4 places in para rowing events

PAR - 2 place in M90 event

CHI - 1 place in M60 event

URU – 1 place LM U23 (Olympic athlete) and 2 place WU23

- **Americas Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta**, Rio de Janeiro, BRA - Strong working group concept fostered staging and delivery of event. It was a pioneer event in the 2020/2021 COVID-19 related context in terms of defining timeline with assessment of the local and international situation. Parallel support to athletes included psychology and antidoping webinars, as well as coaching and equipment. All these resulted in a successful COVID-19 bubble, with no positive cases during or post- event.
- **PanAm Youth qualification Regatta**, Yucatán, MEX - Twelve countries participated, seven of which obtained medals. The program included 10 gender balanced events ( 1x, 2x, 4x, 2-, 4-).
- **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games**. The good communication with Hudson Boats resulted in organised boat support and provision. Participating NOCs were ARG, BER, BRA, CAN, CHI, CUB, DOM, GUA, MEX, NCA, PAR, PER, PUR, TTO, URU, USA, VEN. It is relevant to mention that 87% of the final standings maintained the positions obtained in the continental qualification regatta. Unfortunately, and in line with the qualification system for 2020, the 3<sup>rd</sup> quota place from the LW2x was not used in the continent.  
Congratulations to all participants, especially to URU for its final A in the LM2x!
- **Training Camp and PanAm Youth Games**, Cali, COL - During the camp, the youth Athlete Development Programme delivered education and training on the Olympic values.

- National development projects were launched in COL (coach and umpire education, national team technical support, selection policies and test performance programme, equipment repair and donation) and URU (coach education and mentoring, including a focus on High Performance development pathway for female club coaches)
- Digital learning and development were implemented in order strengthen blended learning and coaching support. Para Rowing modules were translated into and narrated in Spanish. A Coastal Rowing booklet was also translated into Spanish.
- Continuous support was provided throughout 2021 by the World Rowing Development programme team at the following events: Continental Qualifier, Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Racice WRU23 Championships and Plovdiv WRJ Championships.

## Events and meetings attended in 2021

- Virtual Council meetings: 15, 22, 29 January; 26 March; 28 May; 13 August; 22 September; 29 October.
- Olympic Continental Qualification Regatta, March, Rio de Janeiro – Brazil
- Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, Tokyo - Japan
- 2021 World Rowing Ordinary Congress
- Meeting with the Executive Committee November 2021, as part of the JCM

## Focus for 2022

- In cooperation with COPARE and CSAR, establish an improved planning process and visibility for the Americas Continental Calendar (South American CH U23+Jr, ODESUR, Central America Cups)
- Continue to roll out the new World Rowing Coach Education Programme
- Shape digital strategy for test performance programme and coaching education as a complement to the essential on-site courses/ training camps and events
- Strengthen support to regional and continental events for coastal and para and introduce/ reinforce education, guided coaching sessions and training camps prior to events
- Coastal rowing development activity – deliver Coastal Rowing training camp and regatta in Lima, Perú. (dates to be confirmed)
- Copa America - Staging of Central American and Caribbean Cup, San Salvador, El Salvador. 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 involve in 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 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 2021

- **Asia and Oceania Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta, Tokyo, JPN** - After excellent coordination between OC and World Rowing via regular working group meetings, 18 member federations (MFs) from Asia competed and 17 MFs ultimately qualified for the OG. It was also the first time for Para rowing events to be offered at the Continental Qualification. These were joined by 5 MFs - namely IND, JPN, THA, SRI and UZB. JPN and SRI took the qualifying slots in PR1W1x and PR1M1x respectively.
- **2021 Arab Championship Rowing Beach Sprints, Dubai, UAE** - With the support from Sharjah Sports Council and the UAE Sailing and Rowing Federation, 11 countries took part in the regatta, including 4 Asian MFs - namely BRN, KUW, PLE and UAE.
- **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games** - A total of 17 qualified NOCs from Asia competed at the Olympic Games. China won three medals. Three other Asian countries reached semi-finals - JPN (2 crews), IND, IRI. During the Games, development meetings were held with coaches and leaders from 11 MFs, namely INA, IND, IRA, IRI, KUW, KSA, PHI, SIN, TPE, UZB, VIE.
- **National Development Planning** - The development team are working to approve a tailor-made project for Palestine after their first racing appearance in Dubai. A rebuilding project is also underway for Lebanon after the destruction of their rowing facilities in an explosion.
- **Continuous Development Support** - The Development Programme supported 13 MFs at the Continental Qualification Regatta and 1 MF at the WRJCH in Plovdiv. Active communications were held with 20 out of 37 MFs, and 30 responded to the World Rowing survey. Follow-up on offering equipment and training support or Development of National Structure schemes are ongoing.

## Meetings and Events Attended in 2021

- Virtual Council Meetings on 15, 22 and 29 January 2021.
- Virtual Preparation Meetings for Safeguarding seminars in February and March.
- Virtual Preparation Meetings of AOCOPQR in Feb, March and April.
- Virtual ARF Executive and planning Meetings on 8 Feb, 24 July, 6 August, 16 October 2021 .
- Virtual Development Meetings on SOWG, PRK, GEDI, CAM in February, June and September 2021.
- Women Lead Sports Webinar from March to May 2021.
- AOCOPQR in Tokyo from 1-8 May 2021.
- Virtual Council Meetings on 28 May, 13 August, 22 September, 29 October 2021.
- Virtual Preparation Meetings for Tokyo 2020 in June and July 2021.
- Olympic Regatta Tokyo 2020 from 22 - 31 July 2021.
- Virtual Ordinary Congress on 6 November 2021.
- Virtual Joint Commissions Meeting from 19 Nov and meeting with EC on 3 December 2021.
- Virtual ARF Congress on 11 December 2021.

## Focus for 2022

- In cooperation with ARF established an improved planning process and visibility for the Asia regional and continental calendars.
- Prepare coach educators in Asia and phased launch of new coach education courses.
- Strengthen support to regional and continental coastal and para rowing events.
- Introduce/reinstate face-to-face education, guided coaching/mentoring sessions and training camps when appropriate.
- Work with inactive MFs namely AFG, BAN, JOR, KGZ, MGL, NEP, SYR, TKM.
- Asian Para Games 2022 – achieving entries by 8-10 NPC will be critical. Work on improvements for regional classification and coach education.
- Encourage ARF to consider registration as a Continental Confederation.

## Summary

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 in the region. 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 World Rowing Continental Representative 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 organizers 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.
- 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 2021

- **2021 European Rowing Indoor Championships** - Due to COVID-19 restrictions this event was virtual as a part of British Rowing Indoor Championships.
- **World Rowing European Olympic and Paralympics Qualification Regatta Varese (ITA)** 5-7 April 2021. It offered the following events: PR1M1x, PR1W1x, M1x, W1x, LM2x, LW2x. The regatta was held under COVID-Prevention Guidelines. 67 athletes in 50 crews representing 23 MF competed for Olympic slots.
- **European Rowing Championships, Varese (ITA)**, 9-11 April 2021. Very high sporting level of the competition. 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of participating countries in the history of this championships; 609 athletes, 236 crews representing 35 MFs.
- **European Rowing Junior Championships, Munich (GER)** 09-10 October 2021. It was rescheduled from the original date of 22-23 May. Experienced OC delivered a well-organized and safe event; 490 athletes in 151 crews representing 27 MF.
- **European Rowing U-23 Championships, Kruszwica (POL)**, 4-5 September 2021. Gopło Kruszwica Rowing Club organized this championships for the second time. Thanks to the engagement of the local and state authorities the infrastructure of this natural course improved during last year; 651 athletes in 169 crews from 32 countries competed.
- **General Assembly of the European Rowing Confederation (ERC)** - It took place virtually on 6 November 2021. Delegates elected a new ERB member, Asuncion Loriente (ESP), who replaced Ryszard Stadniuk (stepped down due to reaching age limit). Annamari Phelps was elected as new ERB Chair. GA approved European Rowing Confederation Statute and Rules and Event Regulation changes.
- **European Rowing Coastal Challenge 2<sup>nd</sup> edition** - After the first edition in 2020 ERB assisted and cooperated in preparation and organizing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of this event held

on 28-31 October 2021 in Marina di Castagneto, Donoratico (ITA). Combined coastal and beach sprint regatta, supported by David Filippi, was again very successful. Athletes from 15 European countries competed there with attendance of Olympic medallists from Tokyo.

- World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting - Attended virtually.

### Accomplishments:

- Delivery of four successful European Rowing Championship events under COVID-19 pandemic conditions. High participation figures.
- Virtual European Rowing Indoor Championships.
- Attribution ERICH 2022 to Jonkoping (SWE)
- Successful bid process for attribution of the 2022 & 2023 ERCBSCH-San Sebastian (ESP) and La Seyne-Sur-Mer (FRA).
- Organised virtual General Assembly and elections.
- Inclusion of para rowing events and LW2-, LM2- in the program of the ERCH Munich 2022.
- Good transition of knowledge between Council-ERB-MF

### Focus for 2022

- Successful delivery of all European Rowing events, the first ERCBSCH.
- Organisation of the Presidents Meeting as part of regular consultation with MFs.
- Finding a substitute host for ERU23CH following Duisburg withdrawal.
- Continuation to improvement of safeguarding and environmental policies aligned with, and in support of World Rowing.
- Submitting new project applications for EU funding.
- Improving the European Rowing 'brand' identity to add value to European and World Rowing.

### Summary

Year 2021 was a second, very challenging year for European Rowing. Thanks to the positive engagement pre, during and post events between World Rowing Sport Medicine Commission, World Rowing Events Team, local Organising Committees and ERB members, five important sport events took place in Europe despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire rowing community acted with a great responsibility and discipline.

2021 was the last year for me as Continental Representative for Europe and I would like to express my great gratitude to my colleagues from World Rowing Council, ERB and all representatives from Member Federations for their friendship and excellent cooperation during many years. It was a fantastic and unforgettable part of my life.

## CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OCEANIA

Lee Spear (NZL)

The Role of the World Rowing Continental Representative 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 development initiatives and advise World Rowing on rowing development within their continent;
- Observe the major international regattas held within their continent;
- 6.5 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 2021

Oceania comprises eight World Rowing member federations (MFs) – Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa, Fiji, Tonga and Kiribati. However, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga and Kiribati are not currently active. The disruption to the 2021 Rowing year by COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the Oceania national federations particularly because of the various national border restrictions.

Australia (Rowing Australia "RA") - Australia, along with all MFs, faced a second year fraught with challenges resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games provided the rowing community in Australia with a reprieve from uncertainty brought about by the pandemic. A summary of the year is found below:

- After the cancellation of the Australian Rowing Championships in 2020, RA welcomed 1599 athletes, coaches, volunteers and supporters to scenic Lake Barrington in Tasmania for the 2021 Aon Australian Rowing Championships. The King's and Queen's Cups were won by the Victorian crews and the Interstate Women's Eight celebrated 100 years since the first Queen's Cup was rowed. The Rowing Australia Cup for most successful State in the Interstate Regatta, was presented to New South Wales.
- At the height of the pandemic, Olympic and Paralympic athletes travelled to Europe to attend the Final Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regattas. The trip resulted in qualification for the Women's Quadruple Scull and PR2 Mixed Double Scull, which saw a total of nine Australian Olympic crews and three Paralympics crews qualified for Tokyo.
- After 18 months of uncertainty and two years without international racing, Australian crews achieved historic results at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Australian team consisted of 28 debutants amongst a 38 strong Olympic Rowing Team and six debutants in an eight strong Paralympic Rowing team.

- At the Olympics, Australia celebrated an 'hour of power' at the Sea Forest Waterway where four medals were won over 60 minutes. The Australian Men's and Women's Fours stormed home for Gold and the Men's and Women's Quadruple Sculls claimed Bronze – it was the most successful period in the history of Australia's Olympic Team, and it saw Australia finish second on the Olympic Regatta Medal Table.
- At the Paralympics, Kathryn Ross made history before racing started, becoming one of only a handful of rowers to compete at every Paralympics Regatta. Australia also celebrated a Silver Medal won by Erik Horrie OAM in the PR1 Men's Single Scull.
- On the eve of the Olympic Games, Brisbane was announced as the host city of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is an incredible opportunity on which RA is poised to capitalise, and is well equipped to grow and develop the sport of rowing in Australia and the region for generations to come.
- RA, in consultation with and support from its State Associations and Major Partner Sport Australia, has reset the objectives for the whole of the sport to ensure that they align with the opportunities that come with the staging of a home Olympics and Paralympics. The Rowing in Australia 5+5 Strategic Plan will be released later in 2022, and will provide the roadmap for the sport in Australia over the next decade. Australians continue to embrace Indoor Rowing with the discipline attracting new participants year-on-year. Several events were held throughout the year:
  - For the second consecutive year, RA and Rowing New Zealand joined forces to deliver the Anzac Day Indoor Rowing Challenge, won in 2021 by New Zealand. Anzac Day is held annually on 25 April (24-04) and is a day for both nations to reflect and remember the sacrifices made by active and retired defence service personnel. Beginning at Dawn and concluding at Dusk, the Indoor Rowing Challenge sees New Zealanders and Australians unite to record 2504 metres, as many times as possible, at home and on their indoor rowing machine.
  - The 2021 Indoor Interstate Regatta attracted approximately 250 participants who rowed 9,905,276 metres which is 1.7 times the total coastline of Australia.
  - The 2021 Australian Indoor Rowing Championships attracted 894 participants who were as young as 11 and as old as 85. Participants joined the races virtually and from event centres in Adelaide, Brisbane and Darwin. With the support of RA Partner Coles, more than 330 young people from seven Australian schools were able to take part.
  - The Australian Indoor Rowing Championships was a qualification event for the 2022 World Rowing Indoor Championships and several participants used the opportunity to set a qualifying time for this event.
- The Australian Masters Rowing Championships were held with great success following their diversion to Adelaide's West Lakes. The 2022 installment will be held at Ballarat, Victoria.
- Disappointingly, RA was forced to cancel the inaugural Coastal Rowing and Beach Sprints Championships due to ongoing internal border closures between the Australian states. This event has been rescheduled for 18-21 August, in Noosa (Qld) with the inaugural event already attracting great interest and requiring the regatta to be extended from the original planned 2 days to 4 days.

Looking ahead to 2022, RA welcomes the resumption of Australian Rowing Teams travelling and competing overseas at World Cups and World Championship events. In preparation for the international season, the Men's and Women's National Training Centres welcomed the first intake of athletes in early January 2022. The journey to Paris 2024 is well and truly

underway and the Australian Para Rowing community has welcomed the addition of a fifth boat class, the PR3 Mixed Double Scull to the Paralympic Rowing Regatta.

Nationally and at a grassroots level, RA is working hard to retain and upskill coaches and officials and the Coaches and Officials Conference, scheduled for 22-24 April on the Gold Coast has attracted an international line-up of speakers. RA continues to pursue opportunities to attract new participants to the sport, particularly through initiatives aimed at Indoor Rowing and Coastal Rowing participants. The appointment of RA's Chief Operating Officer Sarah Cook OLY to three positions within World Rowing – the Oceania Representative to the World Rowing Council, the Coastal Rowing Commission, and the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission – is advantageous to the growth and development of the sport not only within Australia, but the entire Oceania region.

**New Zealand (Rowing New Zealand) - NZ** has had a year of unbelievable highs with its team's results at the Tokyo Olympics along with the ongoing challenge of delivering a quality season to our rowing community with the constraints of COVID-19. In 2021, RNZ farewelled its long-time Chief Executive, Simon Peterson, who has been an outstanding leader of Rowing NZ and rowing in New Zealand.

Post the Olympics, RNZ has undertaken the most comprehensive review ever of its performance programme as we look forward to Paris, Los Angeles and Brisbane. At a time of material social change around sport, many of the recommendations in the review relate to how RNZ can ensure that its programme is better for those who work (athletes, coaches, support staff) within the intense environment that is high performance sport. RNZ acknowledges our government agency support during uncertain times (in 2021) and its confirmed and continued support of our athletes, coaches and our performance programme through to Paris 2024.

RNZ looks forward to being able to travel to Europe in 2022. Due to COVID-19 some of its U23 rowers have never travelled overseas to row and that has severely compromised the development of a number of young and talented athletes as RNZ looks forward to Paris and beyond.

**The Pacific Islands - World Rowing** is fortunate to have had the assistance of Andrew MacKenzie over the last few years. Andrew was engaged on a part time basis as the Pacific Islands' Rowing Development Officer. However, his ability to engage with the Pacific Islands was severely curtailed in 2020 and 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 travel restrictions. Andrew's appointment has now come to an end but he remains committed to work with ORCON (the Oceania Rowing Confederation) and World Rowing in this development field as international travel restrictions ease. I am grateful to Andrew for the time and expertise that he has put into his development work. Andrew reports:

**Pacific Development -** The continued closure of international borders in many Pacific Islands further limited participation in international competition. With limited opportunities to compete, each country progressed their efforts to raise awareness of rowing with a particular emphasis on coastal rowing. Communication via zoom conferencing made it possible to maintain the programs activities as much as possible.

**American Samoan Rowing Association (ASRA) -** The ASRA continued to build the opportunities to raise awareness of coastal rowing and build membership of the local rowing community. ASRA conducted two learn to row weekends before and after the Fautasi (long boat) race. Interest in rowing spiked in the lead up to the annual Fautasi race in April, however, this race had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, frustrating efforts to recruit rowers. ASRA ran an indoor rowing competition in conjunction with its general fitness programs which promoted health and wellbeing for those who lost jobs as a result of the pandemic.

Vanuatu Rowing Association (VRA). - In 2021 public awareness of the sport of rowing was increased through a range of local and international media channels, including print, radio and online. Additionally, the VRA showcased rowing at the annual Olympic Day run by the national Olympic Committee.

A range of training programs continued to operate during 2021, including: the Elite Rowing Program; the Masters Rowing Program; the Learn to Row Program; the Training Squad Program; and the Coach Development Program.

Furthermore, 2021 proved to be an extremely successful year for the VRA on the international stage, with rower Rillio Rio Rii making his Olympic debut and representing Vanuatu in the Men's Single Sculls event at the Tokyo Olympics. This is the second Olympic Games that the VRA have had an athlete compete alongside the world's best rowers and that alone represents an incredible achievement.

In a second major international achievement in 2021, VRA rower Antonie Bonke represented Vanuatu in the 2021 Oceania Indoor Rowing Championships, winning gold in the 2000m race and placing third in the 500m sprint. Those wins should have qualified Antonie for the World Indoor Rowing Championships to be held virtually in February 2022 but he was regrettably not able to compete due to a misunderstanding.

Fundraising and effective governance of the VRA was maintained by the Executive, enabling the Association to continue functioning and the people of Vanuatu to access rowing. Due largely to COVID-19 border restrictions, the VRA was unable to host either a domestic or an international regatta.

## Summary

This is my final report as a member of the Council of World Rowing. It has been a distinct privilege to work with both the members of World Rowing's office and my fellow Council members.

## CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

**Masakuni Hosobuchi (JPN)**

World Rowing may appoint up to two Co-opted Members to complement the skills of the Council. The Co-opted members shall be appointed by the Council, upon proposal by the Executive Committee.

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

As the Co-Opted Council Member, my duty is to commit to World Rowing activities in general and to work proactively on improving awareness and presence of Rowing and sport through Council initiative.

Both socially and economically, we went through a very difficult year. While fighting with the invisible virus, World Rowing members in collaboration with Member Federations (MFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and local members put forth our best efforts to make 2021 a valuable year for the athletes. 2021 was a worthwhile year that everyone relevant to sports put efforts and aimed at our goal hand-in-hand, and thought about Rowing future together. I believed that we could exit from this long tunnel by continuing to encourage each other and step forward together. Colleagues and partners who went along and rowed side by side were such a great support.

Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games - Preparations were needed in various fields and there were ups and downs on the way. As a World Rowing Council member, I considered that we should prioritize to be "athletes-first" for the successful Olympic/Paralympic Games in corporation with IOC, World Rowing, the Japanese government, the Tokyo metropolitan government, and the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee. In 2020, we had our priority on "protecting health and safety of athletes" amid pandemic. In 2021, we also focused on proceeding towards Olympic/Paralympic Games in 2021 in addition to above.

Olympic/Paralympic Games are the dream stage for the athletes, and it was our mission to provide the best environment for the athletes gathered from all over the world for their best performance. In regard to rowing, our mission was to improve its presence and to provide participating athletes a great environment for "faster, stronger, and more beautiful" rowing performances. That environment included Asia and Oceania Continental Olympic and Paralympic Qualification and of course, Tokyo 2020. Although our important task was to prepare the best stage for the athletes who put their utmost effort for four years plus an additional year, we have faced many difficulties and challenges. I would like to express my gratitude to an excellent manager and collaborator who supported us in tackling these challenges, Nathalie Phillips, World Rowing event manager and Tokyo2020 Rowing Sport Manager.

In summary, as the World Rowing Council, I have actively committed myself to sport activities and World Rowing through the preparation for Tokyo2020 and participation in relevant meetings with governmental/public/civil organizations that would contribute to the growth of World Rowing.

### Collaboration with relevant parties/organizations

- I have actively exchanged opinions with members of World Rowing, IOC, NOC, MF, local organizations to improve the presence of World Rowing in sports and to share the challenges and future vision of Rowing.

## Initiatives for Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020(2021)

- Summarization of issues caused by postponement to 2021 and information gathering
- Preparation for Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Strengthening coordination with World Rowing, IOC, NOC, MF, 2020OC
- Collaboration with relevant Japanese organization and government (Japanese government and Tokyo Metropolitan Government), other countries (NOC), and other sports (NF)
- Organization of Asia - Oceania Continental Qualification Regatta
- Discussion on post-2020 legacy
- Information gathering of World Masters Games (alignment with OC - IMGA)

## Summarization and Review for achieving World Rowing's goals

- World Rowing marketing program
- Significance of governance
- Sport integrity
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion direction

## Meetings attended in 2021

- Virtual Council meetings -15.22.29 Januar, 26 March, 28 May, 23 to 31 July 2021 (Olympic Regatta), 8 and 13 August, 27 to 30 August (Paralympic Games), 22 September, 7 .12, 14, 17, 19 October (JCM prep meeting), 29 October, 19 November 2021 (JCM opening session)

## Focus for 2022

Society and the environment surrounding sports are changing drastically. In addition to the penetration of various digital technologies, the global spread of COVID-19 forced us to boost more on digitalization. Even Tokyo2020 was held with no spectators, people would watch sports games remotely and athletes could be connected to their supporters directly via video conferencing technologies. However, preciousness and the attraction of sports remain the same. Athletes' mutual respect and performance with all their strength are so powerful and reach a great number of people.

Diversity, sustainability, and environmental initiatives would grow their significance in sports, and also in the future of rowing. In Tokyo 2020, we have witnessed courage, hope, impassion, interaction and friendship with rivals, and uncompromising efforts for achieving goals. I believe that our task is to create new values of sport fit with the times and disseminate them to the world through rowing.

Since 2020 Tokyo is also a step for 2024 and 2028, we need to maintain good partnership with the IOC. 2020Tokyo's legacy and both tangible and intangible elements would be great assets for not only the city of Tokyo but also for World Rowing.

In 2022, we need to review the issues and challenges that we faced in the preparation of 2020Tokyo and to utilize them in the future World Rowing management and Rowing activation.

- Enhancing and vitalizing Rowing public image
- Review on Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 (succeeded points and points to improve)

- Review on World Rowing Asia/Oceania Continental Olympic/Paralympic, and Qualification Regatta for Tokyo 2020
- Continuous collaboration with World Rowing, IOC, NOC, MF, AF, 2020OC, and TMG
- Review on Tokyo2020 Olympic/Paralympic legacy and sharing Olympic values
- Review and utilization of Sea Forest Water way
- Support the Rowing development in the Asian region

I will continue to work on enhancing the presence of Rowing, environmental initiatives, and creation and development attractive Rowing for future.

## Summary

The world was still in the midst of COVID-19 outbreak in 2021. However, athletes courageously competed in Tokyo2020 for "faster, higher and stronger" performance. And their performance delivered courage, dream and hope to people around the globe. It applies to us as well, together with the support from World Rowing members and MF, athletes' performance gave us the courage, reassurance and power to work on our tasks in supporting Tokyo2020.

Sports and Rowing would have an additional value in this difficult social circumstance. I believe that sports would have the power and strength to assist tackling the challenges international society faces. Through collaboration with relevant parties in other sports, we can establish the shared value of sports and understanding of Olympism. Olympic/Paralympic games would also have a role to promote Olympism and to realize the society where everyone embraces the joy of life with sports. There are people facing very difficult time now. My thoughts are with them, and I hope that any type of violence to be eliminated. For world peace and also for Rowing future, a global Rowing family have to be a Perfect Accord.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to World Rowing Staff, Council, Executive, all Commission members, and MFs for your continuous support.

## CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

Lenka Dienstbach-Wech (GER)

World Rowing may appoint up to two Co-opted Members to complement the skills of the Council. The Co-opted members shall be appointed by the Council, upon proposal by the Executive Committee.

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

- World Rowing Safeguarding Working Group
- World Rowing Athletes Commission Election and Appointment procedures
- World Rowing Anti-Doping Advisory Panel
- IOC Medical Commission
- WADA Health, medical and research Committee

As a Co-Opted member to the Council my focus was to further develop World Rowing Safeguarding strategy within our Federation. We held two successful webinars for athletes focusing on athletes' rights and on creating a safe environment for athletes.

I was active in the development of the Athletes Commission election procedures and will chair the Election panel as we will hold the first elections in 2022.

As a member of the Anti-Doping Advisory Panel, I was involved in the smooth transition of outsourcing the anti-doping activities to the International testing Agency (ITA) and adapting the existing panel to international standards of good governance.

As member of the IOC medical Commission, I was part of the games group in Tokyo. A major focus beside COVID-19 countermeasures was on heat illness and prevention of heat illness. As an outdoor sport, rowing has a very high probability to encounter heat related injuries. The developed countermeasures will continue to be beneficial for rowing both for the prevention but also for the emergency treatment.

I attended the Congress for Prevention of illness and injury in Monaco. There we had various meetings with the Chief Medical Officials from various countries to discuss Tokyo Games from the medical perspective and the Beijing winter games. A big focus was of course on COVID-19 countermeasures in a pandemic and what to learn for the future major events.

I attended two virtual meeting 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 measurements for disease control. With the help of this strategy, national and international testing was able to recover during 2020 after a serious decrease during March, April and May 2020. I attended the virtual council meetings. I also had the opportunity to meet with the new Executive Director in a virtual meeting.

### Focus for 2022

A major project will be the new election and appointment procedure for the Athletes Commission. We are working on preparing for all contingencies to hold fair elections for the first time in the World Rowing Athletes Commission history. In the Safeguarding Working Group we will do a reassessment of our education strategy. There will be a focus on regional projects and in the light of the receding pandemic on more personal training on all levels.

I am very honoured to continue to be a part of the World Rowing Council and looking 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.

## PAT LAMBERT (BEL)

### Council member

The pandemic and the end of the Event Promotion Commission at the end of 2020 have changed my tasks in the Council. I consider to have positively contributed to World Rowing's goals and objectives in different ways.

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

- I actively prepared and participated to the virtual Council meetings, analysing the documents and listening to all points of view to take informed and reasoned decisions.
- To build on the experience of the Event Promotion Commission, I created a concise document on event promotion to share with the chair of the Event Commission. This document describes the different elements of event promotion from creating a vision, defining the key topics, considering the target audiences, stating the channels and reminding the importance of promotion and its timeline. I strongly believe that promoting the event and improving stakeholder experience are key elements which have to be taken into account when designing rowing courses as well as regattas from the bid document onwards.
- In agreement with the President and the Executive Director, I am following the sustainability file with World Rowing staff. We discussed different topics including the strategy and its work plan as well as a Carbon Footprint (greenhouse gas) calculator.

### Actions and challenges for 2022

- Identify on the work plan of the sustainability strategy the "low-hanging fruits" and actions that can be achieved quickly and with reduced resources.
- Review the available material and prepare an updated wireframe to publish on the website.
- Identify sources of inspiration for communication and actions in literature of IFs and organisations.

I want to express my sincere thanks to World Rowing staff for a constructive and positive collaboration.

## AMERICAS ROWING CONFEDERATION (COPARE)

Fernando Ucha Martinez (URU), President

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

The year 2021, even in a pandemic, marked a series of activities for our organization marked by strict safety and health control protocols in all instances.

In the month of May, qualification for the Junior Pan American Games took place. This event was held in the town of Merida, in the Province of Yucatan, Mexico. In addition to the resurgence of a beautiful rowing venue, the brilliance of the competition and the quality of the organization were a demonstration of a well-organised federation like the Mexican Rowing Association which has contributed to great achievements in our sport.

An important meeting of COPARE with the countries of Central America and the Caribbean was also held in Merida, establishing the conditions for the activities to be carried out in 2022 and 2023.

In the month of August, and in the beautiful waters of Lake Calima, in Cali, Colombia, the rowing regatta corresponding to the First Junior Pan American Games was held. Colombia, which is reorganizing itself in terms of rowing and giving its organization a national scope, collaborated in the brilliance and quality of an unforgettable event.

It should be noted that both in Merida and Cali, the sanitary measures established by World Rowing were strictly respected, ensuring attendees the necessary conditions and requirements

Finally, it should be noted that two South American Championships were held, one in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and one at the end of the year in Asunción, Paraguay.

## EUROPEAN ROWING CONFEDERATION

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 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 decision of the 2017 Extraordinary Congress in Tokyo 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 Lucerne, 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 2021

2021 was a second, very challenging year for European Rowing (ER). Thanks to the positive engagement before, during and after each of the European Rowing Championships between the World Rowing Sport Medicine Commission, World Rowing Event Team, local Organising Committees and ERB members, all planned sports events took place in Europe despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire rowing community acted with a great responsibility and discipline. Virtual event management was successfully tested to help reduce costs and travel.

- European Rowing Championships, Varese (ITA), 9-11 April 2021 attracted the second highest number of participating countries [35] in the history of this championships, with 547 athletes and 209 crews. The balance of male:female crews was approximately 59%:41% which is consistent with other ER events. This event included para-rowing events for the first time in a European championship event and was well-received by the athletes and federations.
- European Rowing Junior Championships, Munich (GER), 9-10 October 2021, was rescheduled from the original date [22-23 May] due to concerns about COVID-19 and travel restrictions. The experienced OC delivered a well-organised and safe event, and it was a good rehearsal for the multisport European Championship event due to take place in August 2022. A total of 490 athletes in 151 crews represented 27 MFs, again the balance of male : female athletes was approximately 59%/41%.
- European Rowing U23 Championships, Kruszwica (POL), 4-5 September 2021, was organised for a second time by Gopło Kruszwica Rowing Club. Thanks to the engagement of the

local and state authorities, the infrastructure of this natural course had been upgraded. A total of 453 athletes in 169 crews from 32 countries competed, with the number of female athletes approximately 41% a statistic that has remained fairly constant since 2017.

- **European Rowing Indoor Championships.** Due to COVID-19 restrictions this 2020/2021 event was held in early December 2020 as part of the continental qualification series for the virtual World Rowing Indoor Championships. It was hosted in a virtual format by British Rowing rather than as a stand-alone event.
- A second edition of the **European Rowing Coastal Challenge** (including Beach Sprints) was held at Marina di Castagneto, Donoratico (ITA) 28-31 October 2021, and was well supported logistically and financially by David Filippi and by the attendance of local dignitaries. Athletes from 15 European countries competed including a number of Olympic medallists from Tokyo.
- The first **European Olympic and Paralympics Qualification Regatta** was held in Varese (ITA) immediately prior to the ERCH to give European MFs an opportunity to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games, offering the following events: PR1M1x, PR1W1x, M1x, W1x, LM2x, LW2x. A total of 67 athletes in 50 crews represented 23 European MFs took part.
- Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold a Presidents' meeting in 2021 due to ongoing concerns and restrictions around COVID-19 and travel restrictions.
- The **General Assembly** was held virtually using Lumi to provide secure voting. A total of 26 nations had delegates attending as well as the ERB members and representatives of World Rowing.
  - Due to the retirement of Ryszard Stadniuk and the natural rotation of members, elections took place for two Board members. Nominations for six candidates were received for the two positions on the ERB, these comprised three male and three female candidates. Annamarie Phelps GBR and Asuncion Lorient ESP were elected to the ERB. Subsequently Annamarie Phelps was unanimously elected Chair of the ERB. The three World Rowing Council Nominated Candidates were individually ratified: Patrick Rombaut BEL; Dušan Macháček CZE; Algirdas Raslanas LTU.
  - The ERC is very grateful to Ryszard Stadniuk to European Rowing for his enormous commitment to the ERB over 13 years, since the European Rowing Board had been established. As an expression of gratitude the title of Honorary Chair of the ERC was conferred on Ryszard Stadniuk for his long service.
  - The ERB attributed its first ER Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships to San Sebastian for 2022 and to La Seyne-sur-Mer for 2023.
  - Three documents relating to Rules and Regulations were reviewed and updated and approved at the General Assembly: ER Rules of Racing, ER Indoor Rowing Rules and Regulations, ER Coastal and Beach Sprint Departures: each was supported unanimously.

## Focus for 2022

- Successful delivery of European Rowing events, including the first ERCBSCH in San Sebastián.
- Organisation of an annual Presidents' Meeting as part of regular consultation with MFs.
- Finding a substitute host for ERU23CH following Duisburg withdrawal.

- Continual improvement of safeguarding and environmental policies aligned with, and in support of, World Rowing.
- Submitting new project applications for EU funding to support Gender Equality and Inclusion ambitions.
- Improving the European Rowing 'brand' identity to add value to European and World Rowing.

**ERB 2020-2021:**

Ryszard Stadniuk (POL), Chair

Annamarie Phelps (GBR), Deputy Chair

Eva Szanto (HUN), Secretary

Nebojsa Jevremovic (SRB)

Dusan Machacek (CZE)

Algirdas Raslanas (LTU)

Patrick Rombaut (BEL)

## 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 - Australia, New Zealand and Vanuatu. 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 that are members of World Rowing, that are members of their respective national Olympic association and which otherwise meet the terms of membership.

Membership of ORCON currently consists of the following four members of World Rowing: Rowing Australia (RA), Rowing New Zealand (RNZ), the Vanuatu Rowing Association (VRA), and the American Samoa Rowing Association (ASRA). The rowing associations of Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati 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 has been 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 again possible to travel between the Pacific Islands.

ORCON will also undertake a review in 2022 to ensure that it is relevant to the needs of the member federations (MFs) in Oceania and that the structure is also supportive of the objectives of ORCON.

## AFRICAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (FASA)

Khaled Zein Eldin, President

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

#### Continental and regional activities

- Training camp in Tunisia for qualified nations to the Olympic Games, through athlete scholarship, May-June 2021, LBA, NGR, TOG.

#### World activities

- Memorial Paolo d'Aloja Regatta, Piediluco : 6 countries participated in a training camp for African nations was organized BEN, CIV, NAM, MAR, TUN, ZIM (4 athletes Male and 4 Female, 4 male coaches)
- Final Paralympic Qualification Regatta, Gavirate : Support to the participating development nations, 5 African countries participated ALG, SUD, KEN, CPV, NGR with a total of 12 athletes (6 Male and 6 Female)
- World Rowing Indoor Championships Virtual : 154 participants from 10 African Countries TUN, EGY, ALG, RSA, ZIM, CPV, KEN, MAR, NAM, UGA
- World Rowing Coastal Rowing Championships, Oeiras : 9 Crews from 3 countries participated, TUN, EGY, ALG.
- Tokyo Olympic Games : 15 Crews from 14 countries participated, ALG, TUN, EGY, RSA, ZIM, BEN, NGR, SUD, MAR, NAM, CIV, TOG, UGA, LBA
- Tokyo Paralympic Games : 2 countries participated, KEN, NGR

### Focus for 2022

Our greatest challenge in the coming years will be to further promote and develop rowing in Africa. Our goals are to:

Work hard to implement the 2022 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.

Help the African National Federations to participate in the international championships - assist with lodging and boats and attending the World Rowing Congress to have an effective role in the decision that are taken.

Encourage indoor rowing and beach sprint rowing in the African Countries which do not have a regatta course.

I would like to thank World Rowing for its support to promote and develop rowing on the Africa Continent.

## 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.

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

While 2021 was another challenging year for the rowing community, the CRA is pleased that Dominica Rowing Association has now joined the association bringing our membership total up to 35 members: Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, 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.

Commonwealth Rowing Association members competed in all of the major on-water World Rowing events in 2021. In total, 16 CRA members participated in WR events as per the following table:

Commonwealth Rowing Association 2021 Participation - major World Rowing events						
	U19 World Champs	U23 World Champs	Olympic Games	Paralympic Games	Beach Sprints	Coastal Endurance
1	CANADA	CANADA	AUSTRALIA	AUSTRALIA	CANADA	CANADA
2	CYPRUS	CYPRUS	BERMUDA	CANADA	INDIA	GREAT BRITAIN
3	SOUTH AFRICA	GREAT BRITAIN	CANADA	GREAT BRITAIN	NEW ZEALAND	INDIA
4		SOUTH AFRICA	GREAT BRITAIN	KENYA		NEW ZEALAND
5			INDIA	NIGERIA		
6			NAMIBIA	SRI LANKA		
7			NIGERIA			
8			NEW ZEALAND			
9			SOUTH AFRICA			
10			SINGAPORE			
11			TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO			
12			UGANDA			
13			VANUATU			
Total of 16 of the 35 CRA member federations competed in at least one major World Rowing event or Olympic Games/Paralympic Games						

The CRA held a successful virtual Annual General Meeting in December, 2021.

### Focus for 2022

In 2022, the CRA Championships will be held in Swakopmund, Namibia, a very exciting venue and location. We are looking forward to significant participation from CRA members.

### Executive Committee members

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

## COUPE DE LA JEUNESSE

Gary Harris (GBR), President

The Coupe de la Jeunesse's main goal is to stage the annual 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.

The membership consists of the following federations:-

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

### Quadrennial Delegate Assembly February 2021

Due to the pandemic and the consequent restrictions on international travel the Quadrennial Delegate Assembly scheduled for February 2021 had to be held by video conference over several days. Gwenda Stevens, the Secretary General, was able to organise and run these meetings so that discussion and voting could take place as normally as could be expected in the circumstances.

The delegates agreed to the equalisation of racing events between males and females, to align the rule on nationality of competitors with that of World Rowing and to clarify the eligibility criteria for rowers in relation to the European Rowing U19 Championships and the World Rowing U19 Championships.

Judit Meszaros of Hungary was elected to serve a four-year term as the Technical Advisor (Facilities and Race Control). This election was held over from August 2020 and the term of office stated from August 2020. The other members of the Executive Committee are Gary Harris of Great Britain, President, Gwenda Stevens of Belgium, Secretary General and Bas Labordas of the Netherlands, Technical Advisor (Logistics and Services).

### Coupe de la Jeunesse 2021

The Coupe de la Jeunesse 2021 was held at Linz-Ottensheim, in Austria, over the weekend of 6 to 8 August. The COVID-19 pandemic caused severe difficulties for the Organising Committee over the two years leading up to the regatta. Firstly, the postponement of the regatta in 2020 and then dealing with the regulations which affected international travel and the Austrian regulations under which the regatta operated. Despite the additional work involved, only one member nation was unable to send a team to the regatta, Great Britain. Norway and Sweden competed as members for the first time.

The Coupe in Linz-Ottensheim was well run, in good conditions and with exciting racing. Above all, the rowers performed to an excellent standard. Italy won the overall team prize of the Coupe de la Jeunesse Trophy.

Everyone who attended the Coupe at Linz-Ottensheim in 2021 applauds the achievement of the Organising Committee in running such a successful regatta in exceptionally difficult circumstances. I thank them all for their hard work and dedication in creating this edition of the Coupe.

## Delegate Assembly August 2021

The Delegate Assembly 2021 scheduled to take place during the Coupe at Linz-Ottensheim was postponed to February 2022 in Castrelo de Mino to reduce the work load of the Organising Committee and the Executive Committee during potentially difficult circumstances.

## Future events following rescheduling

1. 2022 Castrelo de Mino (ESP)
2. 2023 Amsterdam (NED)

## Geoffrey Brook (in memoriam)

In February 2001 Geoffrey Brook of Great Britain, past President of the Coupe, passed away. Geoffrey was Delegate and Team Manager for Great Britain at the Coupe before serving as the Secretary General from 1989 to 2001 and as President from 2001 to 2013. He was a dedicated servant of the Coupe and made an invaluable contribution to its development over the period of his involvement. In 2013, Geoffrey was awarded the British Rowing Medal of Honour in recognition of his outstanding contribution to rowing, national and international.

A rowing 'lifer', Geoffrey will be much missed by those he coached and led, and by the Coupe family he worked with across Europe. His was a rowing life dedicated to helping others.

## 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.

### Key activities and achievements in 2021

In 2021, to reactivate post-pandemic activities, we organised two South American Championships (Rio de Janeiro and Asunción) for the following categories: Seniors, Lightweight, Para rowing and juniors, for both men and women, with the objective to activate racing experience for our athletes, after the forced break.

Within this strategy we have included 4- and 8+ Women events as well as 4- y 8+ Junior Women in addition to the PRMIX, having achieved broad participation from Member Federations.

In the first edition of the Cali Pan Am Juniors South American rowers took all the top spots evidencing the region growth.

South American umpires took part in online seminars for updates.

Indoor rowing events were organised in different countries.

Coastal rowing developed in Peru and Brazil.

### Focus for 2022

Continental Games

## ARAB ROWING FEDERATION (FAA)

**Khaled Zein Eldin, President**

FAA currently has 17 member federations as members and held the 12<sup>th</sup> Arab Rowing Championships in 2021. Membership is open to Arab National Federations which submit an approved application from the respective 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.

### Continental and regional activities

- Arab Beach Sprint Championships, held in UAE from 25 to 27 November 2021, assistance and guided coaching sessions for participating countries, 7 African countries, TUN, MAR, LBA, EGY, SUD, DJI, SOM, UAE, PAL, KWI, BAH with a total of 32 athletes, 21 Male and 11 Female.

### World activities

- World Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships: 154 participants from 4 Arab Countries TUN, EGY, ALG, MAR,
- World Rowing Coastal rowing Championships, Oeiras 5 countries participated, TUN, EGY, ALG, UAE and KSA.
- Tokyo Olympic Games : 9 countries participated, ALG, TUN, EGY, SUD, MAR, LBA, QAT, KSA and IRQ

### Congress meeting

The ordinary assembly was held in UAE in participation of delegates from six countries: SUD, BAH, KWI, TUN, LIB and MAR.

### Focus for 2022

The main challenges will be to further promote and develop African rowing.

Our goals are to:

- Work hard to implement the 2022 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.
- Trying to help the Arab National Federations participate in International Championships as we must provide assistance with lodging and boats also attending the World Rowing Congress to have an effective role in the decision making process.
- Encourage Indoor Rowing and Beach Sprint in the Arab Countries which do not have regatta course.
- At the 2022 Ordinary Assembly the board members elections will take place.
- The Extraordinary Assembly will be held in 2022 to amend the Statutes.

I would like to thank World Rowing for its support to promote and develop rowing in the Arab countries.

## BALKAN ROWING ASSOCIATION (BRA)

**Nebojsa Markovic, 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.

### 2021 Activities

2021 Balkan Rowing Championship regatta was held for the first time ever in Struga-North Macedonia. All Balkan members supported the initiative of North Macedonia to organise the event in Struga. The Bulgarian RF set the cables of the Albano system on the venue, the Greek RF brought the catamarans and the Serbian RF brought the timing system and led all team managers meetings. The Romanian RF was responsible for all communications. Eight international umpires from Balkan countries participated. All contributed to the success of this regatta.

Croatia Rowing Federation has applied for BRA membership and the 2021 Ordinary Congress which was held on Saturday, September 11 in Struga -MKD unanimously approved this request.

## 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

### Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to put pressure on the organisation of international events and activities in 2021. With the exception of the cancellation of the World Rowing Championships planned for Shanghai and the World Rowing Masters Regatta scheduled for Linz-Ottensheim, nearly all World and European Rowing events were successfully and safely staged in 2021. After the historical postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, these were eventually held in July and August 2021. This was a great relief for World Rowing's finances as much of the income comes from the share of the IOC television rights from the Olympic Games.

### 2021 Financial Result

The financial result for 2021 was a surplus of + CHF 648'070. This result is partly due to the positive valuation of the securities portfolio at 31 December 2021 (+ CHF 335'011). In the past a conservative approach of valuing securities at the lower value between our accounts and market value was applied. PricewaterhouseCoopers, our auditors, encouraged us to change our approach and value our securities at market value in line with other similar clients of theirs. This appears to be a fairer, more transparent and current practice.

### Income

The overall income of CHF 6'904'367 is 6.2% higher than forecasted. The provision of a competition manager for the Olympic Games in Tokyo and the cooperation with China in the area of events and communication are revenues that were not included in budgeting. Similarly, the compensation claims following the cancellations of our World Rowing Cups in 2020 (TV and commercial rights) were accepted by our insurers and received in 2021.

### Expenses

Total current expenditures of CHF 6'587'105 are 4.7% lower than budgeted. As the financial future at the time of budgeting for 2021 was very unclear given the pandemic and the potential consequences, strict additional reductions in expenses were carried out after the budget was published. These cuts resulted in a reduction in planned expenditures in areas such as event management, logistics, communications and governance. The pandemic situation, the unanticipated cancellation of the World Rowing Championships in Shanghai and strict budget reductions for Council and Commission members' travel to meetings (converted to zoom) and competitions all contributed to reduce expenses without impacting the successful delivery of our events. As a result, the expenditures of the Council and various Commissions decreased significantly (-80%) compared to the budget.

### Balance sheet

Following the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in July 2021, the IOC approved the distribution of Olympic television rights revenues for a total of USD 17,305,168. This amount was received in two instalments in 2021 and completed in April 2022. The full amount was allocated to reserves for future expenses. The IOC pandemic support loan of USD 2'150'000 (received in 2020) was deducted from the 2021 tv rights payments and it was decided to immediately repay in full the

two COVID-19 loans received from the Swiss Confederation (CHF 786,000). As a result of the new portfolio valuation, there is no longer a provision for unrealized loss on securities.

### **Conclusion**

At the end of this accounting period, the reserves amounted to CHF 16,378,311 which is roughly CHF 1 million above previous expectations. The years leading to the next Olympic Games in 2024 will require careful management of financial resources. The full impact of the covid 19 pandemic is still playing out and the global financial impact of war in Europe is still unknown.

## Four year financial plan 2021-2024

(amounts in Swiss Francs)

	2021	2021	2022	2023	2024
INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET
Events Management	868'000	910'048	924'820	700'000	350'000
Events Marketing and TV	1'000'000	896'561	1'108'275	850'000	200'000
Development Programme	86'000	162'311	82'000	86'000	86'000
Marketing	150'000	130'935	130'000	200'000	80'000
Governance	100'000	510'114	126'750	100'000	100'000
Contribution from reserves	4'000'000	4'000'000	4'000'000	4'000'000	4'000'000
Finance	500'000	294'398	250'000	175'000	100'000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6'504'000</b>	<b>6'904'367</b>	<b>6'621'845</b>	<b>6'111'000</b>	<b>4'916'000</b>

	2021	2021	2022	2023	2024
EXPENDITURES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET
Events Management	1'250'000	1'066'494	493'710	500'000	600'000
Events Logistics	650'000	484'762	487'098	800'000	600'000
Events Marketing and TV	800'000	814'527	1'247'598	500'000	350'000
Events Communications	80'000	45'150	61'000	50'000	45'000
Development Programme	500'000	347'679	398'150	400'000	400'000
Communications	150'000	176'268	165'561	150'000	150'000
Marketing	85'000	42'641	110'000	85'000	65'000
Governance	800'000	674'749	499'500	725'000	695'000
Administration & Finance	2'800'000	2'934'835	3'159'228	2'500'000	2'500'000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>6'915'000</b>	<b>6'587'105</b>	<b>6'621'845</b>	<b>5'710'000</b>	<b>5'405'000</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Result	-411'000	317'261	0	401'000	-489'000
Exchange rate loss		-4'202			
Year-end securities portfolio valuation		335'011			
2020 OG revenue, final payment from IOC			1'600'982		
<b>Result for the year</b>		<b>648'070</b>	<b>1'600'982</b>	<b>401'000</b>	<b>-489'000</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>16'378'311</b>	<b>13'979'293</b>	<b>10'380'293</b>	<b>5'891'293</b>