

Annual report 2022



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PRESIDENT

Jean-Christophe Rolland (FRA)

Introduction

As announced in Prague at the 2021 Congress, the year 2022 marked the 130th anniversary of World Rowing, as well as the 60th anniversary of the first World Championships and the 20th anniversary of inclusion of Para-rowing in these championships.

As the oldest International Olympic Federation (even if the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) does claim this honorary title; a European office (FEG) had indeed been founded in 1881, but it would only become an International Federation in 1921 only, well after World Rowing), we can be collectively proud of our predecessors and of the path travelled. If our history is incredibly rich, we have been able over time and in a constantly changing world, to adapt and remain a sport that counts within the Olympic Movement.

As I like to repeat, the past, however rich it may be, does not guarantee the future. We must constantly adapt if we want to ensure a sustainable future. While the challenges are immense in a highly competitive context, we can also count on extraordinary opportunities.

Our sport, rowing, consists of three disciplines.

All perfectly complementary, it allows us to envisage an ambitious development of the rowing community across the world. If "Classic Rowing", a true pillar whose history has built our sport, remains a fundamental value of the Olympic programme, the development of Coastal Rowing, and Indoor Rowing are in great expansion.

The global health crisis of Covid 19 had strong impacts on the world of sport, direct impacts with cancellations of competitions, phenomenal constraints, and their associated costs, but it has also brought some positive changes which will remain moving forward. The new work's flexibility and the use of new communication tools through more frequent virtual meetings are concrete examples. The 2022 Congress was held for the first time in hybrid mode. Nonetheless, I remain convinced of the added value of face-to-face participation for this important gathering, and I encourage the Member Federations to embrace this option as much as possible.

2022 was expected as a return to normality with the hope of an end to the global health crisis. This has been pretty much the case with successful competitions, in a less constrained environment. However, we had to manage a new crisis.

War in Ukraine

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia, with the support of Belarus, happening between the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, has generated another major crisis impacting the world of sport. While the global Covid 19 pandemic was satisfactorily slowing down, this new crisis has disrupted the return to normal.

The Executive Committee reacted quickly and on 1 March 2022 published a decision, (1) strongly condemning this invasion and the violation of the Olympic truce signed by all the members of the United Nations, (2) supporting the Ukrainian people and in particular the rowing community and their families and (3) suspending the participation of athletes and officials from Russia and Belarus in international competitions. The European Rowing Confederation on 2 March 2022 adopted same measures and suspended the relations with the organisers of European competitions planned in these two countries.

As I have said on several occasions and in particular before the Congress in Prague, I would like to express my gratitude and warmly thank all the Member Federations for their remarkable solidarity actions, their logistical and financial support for the Ukrainian rowers and their families. The crowdfunding launched by World Rowing has also helped the Ukrainian national rowing teams in their preparation and for their participation in all International Regattas and World Championships. I also thank the efforts of the Organising Committees. The performances of these teams were a great response to everyone's commitments. Unfortunately, the war and its atrocities are still ongoing and no one can tell for how long. If the International Sports community is mobilised, if the IOC makes a significant contribution, I can also envision the difficulties to pursue solidarity commitments over the long term.

The Russian Rowing Federation (RRF) made an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the decision of the Executive Committee based on two grounds: on the one hand on the legitimacy of the latter to take such a decision considered as a suspension of the Federation and whose authority would rest with the Congress, and on the other hand on the discriminatory nature of the decision, in contradiction with the fundamental values embedded in our Statutes. This appeal was eventually withdrawn by RRF three days before the CAS hearing.

The suspension of the athletes' participation was initially motivated by the possible impact of the war on Ukrainian rowers, and as a preventive measure on the athletes' safety. It was nonetheless a big dilemma. The recommendation of the Olympic Summit in December 2022, the declarations of the resolution A/77/L.28 of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the conclusions of the rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on February 1, 2023 pointing out both the dimension of independence of sport and the principle of non-discrimination lead us to reconsider the position. These elements indeed made it necessary to review the dilemma and to carry out a deeper reflection on the participation of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport with the Paris 2024 Games in sight.

The world of sport must acknowledge the dilemma, despite all the emotion generated by the war, by having a long-term vision of the place of sport in the world. Sport should remain a tool for promoting peace, dialogue and reconciliation and should not let politicians and governments decide whether athletes will participate in international competitions. This is the reason why politicization is unacceptable.

While the decision for the Paris 2024 Games has not yet been taken, the governments, mainly from Europe for reasons of sensitivity and proximity, criticize even the exercise of reflecting on the definition of relevant conditions of eligibility for participation of athletes who have no responsibility in a war. Even before the completion of this exercise, threats of boycott are heard. Boycotts have never solved anything other than depriving athletes of their dreams. Sport cannot stop war. Politicians should take their responsibility, and instead of exploit athletes, sport could remain the last link of dialogue between individuals.

Management

2022 has also been an "era of change" for our organisation. After 26 years (25 as Executive Director), Matt Smith has decided to take a new turn in his professional life. The 2022 Congress, under the recommendation of the Council, has decided to award Matt Smith with the title of Honorary Council Member as a recognition of his dedication and commitment to our sport; I am particularly delighted with such a decision, and on behalf of World Rowing I wish Matt and his family all the best for this new chapter of their lives.

The transition went smoothly throughout the year, and I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the remarkable commitment of our Executive Director Vincent Gaillard in his new role. He has taken a very open-minded approach while learning about our sport... all in a rather complicated context, given the many internal and external challenges.

Coming from a different sport background, Vincent's arrival into the world of rowing has offered an opportunity to develop our organisation.

I take this opportunity to thank the staff members who left our organisation during the past year. I would like to thank Lucy Trochet, Head of Integrity and Governance, for her contribution in the different areas of Governance, particularly around Safeguarding.

After 22 years of loyal service as an accountant the oldest member of staff, Emilio Pastorello, has decided to take his professional career in a new direction. This is a turning point for him and for our organisation, and I would like to wish him, all the best for the future.

I would like to thank Paolo Mattana, from the Development team, Andy Couper, Marketing Director, and Liz Soutter, responsible of our strategic events attribution process, and reference person for both Indoor Rowing and Para Rowing.

I also would like to express my warm welcome the newcomers: Monika Briedyte, Mauricie Summers, Christian Osterode, Ngoc-Bich Pham, Jodie Cameron, Ana Djalo, Matt Draper, and Priscilla Moreira. Working in the world of sport, and at World Rowing, is certainly exciting and engaging, however the work can be intense particularly given the workload due to the significant developments of recent years which have caused more administrative activities.

Finance

A Finance report can be found under the finance section and in our Treasurer's report, so I won't go into detail here. However, I would like to emphasise once again the very cautious management of our resources. We came out of the uncertainty around the Olympic revenue due to the possible cancellation of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and given the very complex and costly conditions for postponement. The Executive Committee has pursued a policy of restricting expenditure, while ensuring that our priority missions were fulfilled, namely the smooth delivery of international competitions and the promotion of our sport, all in accordance with the rules of good governance.

The Executive Committee has approved the project to review our marketing and commercial approach, a project which was presented at the 2022 Congress. We are committed to adapting to a context that has evolved, with a business and partnership model that has changed radically. It is essential that we have the resources to invest in promoting our sport and competitions. If we look at our disciplines, we can clearly see the different potentials of our sport.

In parallel with the above-mentioned project, we have launched a project to review our events and the international competitions' calendar. To repeat what I said at the 2022 Congress, we are facing the major challenge of rethinking our approach. The observations are straightforward: whether it's the attractiveness of World Cups, or the large - too large? - number of events and duration of our World Championships... when the number of international competitions valued by broadcasters is low, we need to rethink and adjust our deliverables for tomorrow's survival. That's the whole point of this project, which should be completed by the end of 2024 followed by significant amendments to the Rule 25 of the World Championships Programme.

Governance

The year 2022 will be marked by the implementation of new statutes relating to the Athletes' Commission. Following approval by the Extraordinary Congress in 2020, the structure of the Athletes' Commission has changed, with some of the members now being elected by the athletes themselves, while the remaining members appointed by the Council. For the first time, elections were held during the World Championships in Racice and Saundersfoot. I would like to thank all the candidates for their commitment, congratulate the elected and appointed members, and warmly welcome them to the organisation. I would also like to congratulate Frida Svensson, who was proposed by the athletes on the Commission as its Chair, a proposal that was then ratified by the Council.

I would like to emphasise the constructive relationship we have with our Member Federations. During 2022, various MFs meetings were held at different events and virtually by video-conference.

We will continue with this approach of ongoing exchanges to discuss all challenges and numerous and certain deadlines quite critical for the future of our sport.

The Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) has published its fourth Governance Review, an exercise that compiles self-assessments, then moderated by an independent external expert, based on a 50-question

questionnaire in five key areas of governance: Transparency, Integrity, Democracy, Sport Development & Solidarity and Control Mechanisms.

World Rowing has made progress since the last assessment, and even if there is always margin for improvement, we can proudly say that we are in a strong position in different areas.

World Rowing is a leading international sports federation when it comes to gender balance, with 50% female representation on both the Executive Committee and Council.

We are recognised for our commitment to diversity and inclusion thanks to the implementation of the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Commission and for ensuring that the voice of the athletes is at the centre of our decision-making. Few organisations have the Chair of the Athletes' Commission as a full voting member of the Executive Committee.

I can assure you that we will continue to demonstrate our commitment to continuous improvement for good governance, and I can only encourage our Member Federations to also engage in the exercise.

Olympic Strategy

2022 has been crucial for our Olympic strategy. As I have explained it on many occasions, no need to detail here again. It is reassuring and comforting that this strategy is well understood by all our Member Federations and the rowing community around the world.

At the IOC Session in Beijing in February 2022, the Los Angeles 2028 Games sports were approved, and while this was no great surprise, rowing has been confirmed again.

As part of the evolution of the process for determining the Olympic programme, an additional stage to validate the disciplines has been added between the decision of the sports on the programme and the decision of the list of events, with the latter decision scheduled for December 2024 after the Paris Olympic Games. Our gratitude goes to the IOC for taking this World Rowing proposal in consideration. The IOC Executive Board will make its decision on the disciplines in September 2023.

Like all the International Federations, we submitted a complete file to the IOC in June 2022, with a proposal to include the discipline of Beach Sprints (three events, the women's and men's solo events and the mixed double) to compensate for the disappearance of the lightweight events. I have to say that our proposal makes perfect sense in the current context of pressure around costs and complexity for the organisation of the Games. We have continued our constructive discussions with the IOC, and are also in contact with the Los Angeles Organising Committee (LA28 OCOG), who are one of the decision-makers. Vice President Tricia Smith, Executive Director Vincent Gaillard, President of the US Rowing Federation Nobuhisa Ishizuka, and I made a very useful visit to Los Angeles at the end of February 2023.

There is no doubt that such an event at the LA28 Olympic Games in Long Beach, near to the "Classic Rowing" regatta course, would be a tremendous opportunity for our sport.

I am pleased to note that this discipline has been included in the programme for the World Beach Games to be held in Bali (Indonesia) in August 2023, as well as the Commonwealth

Games in Victoria in 2026, which will also be the year of the Youth Olympic Games to be held in Dakar, Senegal.

As I write this report, we are now closed to the meeting of the Olympic Programme Commission and the decision of the IOC Executive Board. While our bid and our proposal are strong and offer undeniable added value, the fact remains that the context is extremely difficult. I think I can say that on our side, everything possible was done to lead this historic decision. Like all good rowers, we'll be fighting right up to the finish line and to the last stroke

Continents

As I have always done in the past, it was a great pleasure for me to join again the Continental Rowing Confederations' Congress which were able to resume after the pandemic period. I attended the Asian Rowing Confederation (ARF) Congress in Pattaya, Thailand, held at the same time of the Asian Rowing Championships in early December 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected members of the Board, and in particular Mr Chen Chunxin, the new President. I would also like to warmly thank Admiral Chairarong, President of the Thai Rowing Federation and outgoing President of the ARF, for his remarkable commitment to our sport in his country and, more broadly, in Asia.

My thanks also go to the Egyptian Rowing Federation, which organised the Congress of the African Rowing Confederation (FASA) in Al Alamein on the occasion of the African Rowing Championships, a congress that was postponed several times due to the pandemic. My sincere congratulations to the new President of FASA, Mehdi Garidi, our Continental Representative for Africa and Council Member, and to his entire board. I would also like to thank Khaled El Zein Din for his outstanding commitment to our sport over so many years which led to the development of rowing in Africa.

It is with great pleasure and interest that I will be taking part in the Congress of the American Rowing Confederation (COPARE) during the Pan American Games scheduled to take place in Chile in October 2023.

Development and Sustainability

Allow me to underline World Rowing's commitment to all the major causes of our society. At a time when we are suffering the consequences of climate changes, and when protecting the environment and biodiversity are becoming global priorities, World Rowing is making a lot of efforts to play its role. As such, on behalf of World Rowing, I have signed the "Sports for Nature Framework" with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which aims to implement positive transformative action for nature in all sports by 2030 and beyond, by enabling sports to defend nature and contribute to its protection and restoration.

I would also like to mention that we have sent our candidacy for European Union funding as part of our sustainable development policy. An adapted strategic proposal, "Water Wardens by Rowing", drawn up in close collaboration with our friends at the French Rowing Federation, has been made in this context, and its outcome will be known in 2023.

I would like to thank Daniela Gomes, who has taken over responsibility for sustainable development, supported by our former Council member Pat Lambert, whom I would also like to thank very much for her continued commitment to our sport and to our federation.

After the Covid years, we are going to continue and develop our partnership with WWF International and give our commitment to guarantee a whole new dynamic of water. We hope that this partnership will activate both at local and national level opportunities for each of our members, in partnership with WWF's national offices. In this context, it is possible that this strategy will lead to a reconsideration of our historic "Kafue River Rowing Centre" project, which will be confirmed during 2023.

Health and protection of athletes

Another key priority is the protection of athletes, their well-being and the fight against all forms of harassment. We take this issue very seriously and are moving forward with determination. We have continued our commitment, and I would like to thank our experts for their contribution in this area for all the initiatives they have undertaken, particularly in the areas of prevention and awareness raising, as well as making sure that there is a person of contact at each competition. The safeguarding of the mental wellbeing of our athletes is crucial, and education is a fundamental and essential part of the strategy.

Another quite sensitive area is the participation of transgender athletes in sport competitions which became a reality in certain countries. As societies and regulations evolve, it is essential to adapt our rules. In this context, a working group of specialists and international experts was able to issue a recommendation based on current scientific knowledge and studies, which after appropriate analysis and discussion of the medical, societal, ethical and legal aspects, was approved by the Council. I recognise the extreme sensitivity and complexity of this topic, and it goes without saying that we will continue to adapt our rule as necessary.

2022 season

The 2022 competition season has been a great success. I would like to thank all the contributors, the Organising Committees and in particular the many volunteers, the local authorities and the staff for their commitment to providing the best conditions for our athletes. A full report on our 2022 events is included in the Executive Director's report.

Conclusion

I would like to conclude this report by expressing my gratitude to all Member Federations for their support, their active participation, and their contribution to promote our sport despite all challenges and difficulties. Although financial resources in the world of sport are constantly growing and reaching new heights, they are not always fairly distributed which might cause some concerns. Nevertheless, I am optimistic because we have opportunities ahead of us.

I would like to thank our Honorary President Denis Oswald for his availability when called upon, particularly on legal issues. A member of the IOC Executive Board, Denis is still very much involved in the Olympic movement.

I also address my gratitude to my colleagues on the Executive Committee for their active contribution and their commitment to assuming their responsibilities, always in a constructive spirit and for being always available despite the high demand from our side. At the same time a big thank you to the Council to whom I express my gratitude for their commitment to the governance of our sport and our organisation.

Jean-Christophe Rolland

VICE PRESIDENT Tricia Smith (CAN)

The role of the Vice President is to:

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

Key activities and achievements in 2022

Another year started with a COVID-19 challenged Olympic Games, this time the Winter Games in Beijing. Lessons learned from Tokyo were well used but there is no doubt, overall, like the rest of the world, the Olympic movement was challenged. We had hoped to be able to then turn our full attention to the upcoming competition calendar and the next Games in Paris, but geopolitics intervened. As Vice President I supported the President, the Executive Committee and Executive Director, in all matters related to the many necessary decisions which had to be made due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and supported by Belarus. This included the suspending of the participation of RUS and BLR athletes and officials, following the recommendation of the IOC.

The Executive Committee continued to meet twice monthly and is overseeing the strategic refresh led by our new Executive Director and the President. I continue to be part of the Governance Working Group led by Anna-Marie Phelps.

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.

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, safe sport, the promotion of women in sport, and promotion of rowing in the many regional Games. I continue as a member of the IOC Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission, the Coordination Commission for the XXV Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, and the IOC Legal Affairs Commission. In 2022 more of the meetings were held in person. A list of some of the key meetings is set out below.

Meetings and events attended in 2022:

World Rowing Activity:

- January 11, 2022, WR Interview for Continental Representative Europe
- January 12, 2022, WR Interviews for Continental Representative Europe
- January 12, 2022, WR Onboarding meeting with Vincent Gaillard
- January 13, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- January 17, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- January 20, 2022, WR Council Meeting – Session 1
- January 22, 2022, WR Council Meeting – Session 2
- January 23, 2022, WR Council Meeting – Session 3
- March 2, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- March 16, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- March 25, 2022, WR Council Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
- March 26, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
- April 6, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- April 20, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- May 4, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- May 16, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- May 24, 2022 WR Council Meeting
- June 1, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- June 15, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- June 27, 2022, WR Council Meeting – Session 1
- July 5, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting, Oxford, UK
- July 6, 2022, WR Council Meeting – Session 2
- August 11, 2022, WR Consultation
- August 23, 2022, WR Council Meeting
- September 7, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- September 15, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- September 20-27, 2022, WR Championship, Racice, Czech Republic
- September 22, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting, Racice, Czech Republic
- September 23, 2022, WR Council Meeting, Racice, Czech Republic
- September 25, 2022, WR Council Meeting, Racice, Czech Republic
- October 24, 2022, WR Council Meeting
- October 26, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting
- November 10, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting – 2022 Awards

- November 19-21, 2022, WR JCM, London, England
- November 21, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting, London, England
- November 23, 2022, WR Meeting, WR Office, Lausanne, Switzerland
- December 9, 2022, WR Executive Council -JCM Sessions
- December 14, 2022, WR Council Meeting
- December 14, 2022, WR GWG Meeting
- December 21, 2022, WR Executive Council Meeting

International Work 2022:

- January 30 – February 21, 2022 – XXIV Olympic Winter Games, Beijing, China
- February 2, 2022, meeting with Mr. Gou Zhongwen, Minister of Sport of China and President of the Chinese Olympic Committee
- February 3 & 19, 2022, 139th IOC Session
- February 6, 2022, meeting of the ANOC Executive Council
- February 8, 2022, meeting with IOC President Thomas Bach
- February 9, 2022, meeting with IOC Member Matlohong Moiloa-Ramogopo
- May 7-11, 2022, Global Sports Week, Paris,
- May 13, 2022, Meeting with Commonwealth Games group
- May 14-15, 2022, Panam Sports Executive Board meeting, virtual, officially in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic,
- May 19, 2022, 139th IOC Session continuation,
- June 28, 2022, Meeting with IOC President Bach
- August 26-September 4, 2022, Panam Sports Executive Board Meetings and General Assembly, Santiago, Chile
- September 1, 2022, Re-elected to Panam Sports ANOC Executive Council
- October 8, 2022, Trinidad & Tobago Olympic Committee 6th Annual Women in Leadership Forum - guest speaker
- October 17, 2022, ANOC Executive Council Meeting, Seoul, Korea
- October 19, 2022, XXVI ANOC General Assembly, Seoul, Korea
- October 19, 2022, Meeting with IOC President, Thomas Bach
- October 20, 2022, XXVI ANOC General Assembly, Seoul, Korea
- October 20, 2022, ANOCA Extraordinary Meeting
- October 21, 2022, ANOC Executive Council
- October 21, 2022, ANOC Special Theme Sessions – Speaker on Sustainability Panel
- November 10, 2022, Panam Sports Executive Board Meeting
- November 22-December 3, 2022, IOC Commissions meetings in Lausanne, Switzerland
- November 25, 2022, IOC Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
- November 28, 2022, Panam Sports Extraordinary General Assembly Zoom Call

- November 30, 2022, IOC Legal Affairs Commission Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
- November 30, 2022, IOC Olympic Golden Rings Awards Beijing 2022, Lausanne, Switzerland
- December 2, 2022, ICAS Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
- December 8, 2022, ANOC Executive Council Meeting Zoom Call
- December 10-14, 2022, 3rd Coordination Commission Meeting Milano-Cortina 2026. Milan, Italy
- December 15-17, 2022, IOC representative and speaker COP15 Event, Montreal, Canada

Thank you to Jean Christophe, Vincent, 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 also to our athletes, coaches, and officials. As always, I feel extremely fortunate and proud to be working with all of you.

TREASURER

Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED)

The role of the World Rowing Treasurer is to:

- Liaise with and support 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;
- Chair meetings of the Finance Committee, and reports to the Executive Committee on the activities of the Finance Committee;
- Act as member of the Internal Audit Committee and is responsible for convening the meetings; and to
- Submit a report and present the financial statements to the Ordinary Congress each year.

Key activities and achievements in 2022

Apart from participation in Executive Committee Meetings, my principal activities in 2022 continued to be oversight of World Rowing's financial activities in coordination with the Executive Director Vincent Gaillard and the Controllers Emilio Pastorello (until December) and Ana Djalo (as of December). The report on the 2022 accounts appears elsewhere in the agenda papers. Given continued uncertainty around income arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, World Rowing continued to work at an (unsustainable) low cost level for most of 2022, leading to a positive operational result of CHF 385'893 versus the budgeted expected loss of CHF 0 (Nil). With the stock and bond markets facing strong corrections throughout 2022 following economic uncertainty, high inflation and increasing interest rates, our investment portfolio was hit negatively, resulting in loss on the portfolio of CHF 1'244'709 (including exchange result), leading to an overall result for the year of CHF - 858'817.

Meetings and events attended in 2022

- Bi-weekly Executive Committee virtual meetings
- Audit committee virtual meetings
- Council virtual meetings
- World Rowing Championships, Racice
- Finance Committee, Lausanne, Feb 21/22nd
- ExCo, Lausanne, March 25/26
- Audit Committee physical meeting, Lausanne, Nov 4
- JCM and Exco, London, Nov 18-21

Summary

Given continued uncertainty around COVID-19 pandemic impact until well after the summer World Rowing maintained a strict cost control policy throughout most of 2022. Fortunately, the Olympic revenue amount for Tokyo ended up what we

were expecting and with the effects of COVID-19 pandemic fading out the Executive Director has taken action in the 2nd half of 2022 to bring the World Rowing team back to the required staffing level, with the related financial impact.

As World Rowing operated a large period of the year still at the (too) low cost base and there was still reduced travel because of COVID-19, the overall operational result came in above budget. However, for 2023 this will result in an increased cost base versus the 4-year plan that most likely cannot be covered fully with additional revenue.

Next to strengthening the team back to the required level, the Executive Director has been working on various initiatives to realize other revenue streams. This is a key priority for several reasons. Firstly, the current cost base to deliver on what is expected by all stakeholders from World Rowing is above the revenues World Rowing generates. Secondly, costs are rapidly increasing as i) the scope of all activities that World Rowing is delivering continuously increases, and ii) the inflationary environment is increasing existing costs significantly.

Finally, World Rowing needs to become less dependent on the Olympic revenue. Several of the initiatives to generate other revenue streams will require upfront investments from World Rowing, which fortunately is possible given the strict cost control maintained through the COVID-19 pandemic. World Rowing will carefully evaluate any investments it will make, as this does reduce the carefully build up reserve.

I look forward to continuing working with the Executive Director Vincent Gaillard and his team in successfully realizing one or more of the revenue-generating initiatives they are working on to get World Rowing in a more sustainable financial position.

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 2022

The Internal Audit Committee met virtually in April and May and had a physical meeting in Lausanne in November. Key topics that were reviewed and discussed included the risk assessment matrix, the annual report including a discussion with the auditors, the budget and financial 4-year planning, efforts to diversify World Rowing's revenue, recommendation of the audit and auditor for next year, and water safety and IT, two topics that were identified as focus areas for this year.

Summary

The review of the financial audit, 4-year financial planning, IT (i.e. cyberattack, personal data /GDPR compliance and IT systems/servers back up) and water safety did not reveal any (potential) shortcomings or new risks given actions/measures taken on both IT and water safety. The high dependency on one source of income (Olympic revenue) is a (known) risk where the Audit Committee has continued to stress to intensify efforts to identify other sources of income and monitored progress.

2022 Committee members

Gerritjan Eggenkamp, Chair
Germaine Bauer
Hans-Jorgen Aversen

WORLD ROWING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Vincent Gaillard (SUI)

2022 marks a year of transition in the executive management of World Rowing, and "my" first year with our organisation. At this occasion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our President, to the members of our Executive Committee, Council, Commissions, Working Groups and Panels, to my predecessor Matt Smith and finally to the World Rowing Team for their warm welcome, friendly advice and unwavering patience as I was aiming to find my way - probably very clumsily - around the world of rowing. The support they have provided me with during this first year is a testament to the quality of World Rowing's governance and of the various extraordinary individuals that compose it.

The year 2022 provided me with the opportunity of meeting and enjoying constructive discussions with many of you, our members and partners. Here too, the friendly welcome reflects very favourably on the 'rowing culture' as a whole and on the people who make up our organisation across countries and continents. The many discussions with you have allowed me to become more familiar with your environment and the various challenges you face in the development of rowing in your respective regions. For this, I am very grateful.

If the year 2022 has undoubtedly been very productive, it has also been challenging, in some respects: while we have been fortunate to finally be able to operate in an environment largely free of COVID constraints, another dramatic event has considerably darkened the international situation. The unbearable aggression of the Russian army, supported by the Belarusian army, on Ukraine - immediately and unambiguously condemned by our organisation - has indeed had very significant consequences on our operating environment.

This aggression has caused far too many victims. In this dramatic context, I would like to express World Rowing's deepest compassion to their relatives and families, to the Ukrainian people and to the Ukrainian rowing community, for the dramatic upheaval suffered, which unfortunately continues at the time of writing.

To a much lesser extent, other challenges have occupied us this year, including significant changes in the World Rowing team following several departures and arrivals, which have resulted in a general reorganisation of tasks, roles and responsibilities, against a backdrop of general concern with limited resources and an increasing workload across all our critical functions.

While the year 2022 provided an occasion to better appreciate the fragile financial situation of our organisation - one which will require important decision in the near future, on both the cost and revenue sides - it however concluded positively from a financial standpoint with an operational result, before financial income/expenses, of +385'893k.

The year 2022 has also brought about many important decisions, notably at the levels of the Executive Committee

and executive team, aimed at assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation, determining the strategic and operational priorities for the months to come and initiating some priority work. Among the strategic and operational priorities that have occupied the year 2022 (and which will continue into 2023):

- Developing and implementing the 'Strategic Commercial Partnership/Investment Project', with an objective to improve the commercial potential and revenues of the organisation.
- Launching the Strategic Event & Calendar Reassessment process, focused on Classic Rowing, with an objective to make our competition calendar 'future-proof' and our events more attractive from a sporting, fan-engagement and commercial standpoint.
- Developing the Indoor/Connected Rowing strategic plan, our future event calendar and a certification program for rowing machines, with an objective for World Rowing to have a greater role in shaping the indoor rowing ecosystem.
- Accelerating our Olympic campaign for the inclusion of Beach Sprint Rowing at LA28; and elevate Coastal / Beach Sprint Rowing event delivery wherever possible, in partnership with relevant Organising Committees.
- Re-energizing the WWF International / World Rowing 'Clean Water' partnership and our overall Sustainability strategy.
- Consolidating Governance administration, including coordination of work at Commissions level and developing a framework for the collaboration of World Rowing with the different rowing Confederations.
- Reassessing general good-governance objectives and resource requirements, including safeguarding.
- Growing innovation culture within World Rowing and implementing relevant projects across main World Rowing functions.
- Consolidating, strengthening the World Rowing Team; improving the general People administration and Lausanne office environment.
- Transitioning the Accounting department; deploying budgets with all departments with increased individual accountability.
- Developing communications, media / social media engagement and public relations strategy; growing federation-to-business and federation-to-fans outreach.
- Pursuing "low-hanging" revenue and budget-offsetting opportunities wherever possible.

Ultimately, we are pursuing the long-term objective of transforming the image, reach and revenues of rowing, strategically and responsibly. We intend to enable a more

impactful promotion of our sport to current and future generations of elite athletes, casual practitioners, and fans. With three different, yet complementary forms of rowing – Classic, Coastal and Connected – in the process of being well established on a global level, each providing something unique to both athletes and fans, we have everything it takes to achieve the objective.

I feel particularly honoured and privileged with the opportunity of leading such a talented Team working both at our Lausanne Headquarters and outside, in various countries around the world. I would like to thank them all sincerely for their unwavering commitment, passion and hard work, in the interest of our organisation and of the development of rowing around the world. The reports of our various departments for the year 2022 follow.

Development and Sustainability

World Rowing's commitment to Development is underpinned by its strategy which sets out in five key areas: participation, integration, opportunities, quality/education and universality.

The impact of Covid and War across the entire WR membership, in a context of the sustained growth of our sport and its disciplines, are additional factors requiring the existence of a strong membership support system. Accordingly, the WR priorities for the current quadrennium, as it relates to Development, aim to provide Member Federations (MFs) in need the opportunity to access resources and expert advice to develop rowing foundations at national level and contribute to further strengthening balanced participation and excellence at regional, continental and world level.

The new Integrated Coach Education Programme is a valuable tool to ensure the development of rowing across the world. Its holistic approach is fundamental to contribute to the achievements of the development programme (DP), from foundation to elite, and thus improve both participation and quality/performance. Well-prepared educators/experts are the foundation to:

- sustain worldwide development of rowing,
- protect our sport, rowers, entourage and promote participation.
- ensure consistency and safety.

Coach Educator training for classic and coastal rowing was organised in Wales - GBR (October), in Hammamet - Tunisia (October) and Rio - Brazil (November). Para rowing Educator training was organized in Gavirate (May). At the end of 2022, 35 classic, coastal and para rowing coach educators were trained across all continents (Americas 13, Africa 5, Asia 2, Europe 13, Oceania, 2).

In 2022, Development continued its efforts to support over 75 nations in the following domains:

- Continental Development: Training Camps for athletes/para-athletes and capacity building for coaches, understanding realities by region, assessing needs and identifying education/training/competition opportunities where nonexistent in alignment with Regional-Continental Calendars, for all disciplines.
- Equipment Assistance (donations & project-based assistance).
- World Rowing Developmental Camps & Events Support during WR key international events (WRCHS-WRU19CH-

WRU23CH-WR Coastal and Beach Sprint CH- ERCH-ERU23CH-ERU19CH).

- World Rowing Coach Development Programme – a Coach Education Scheme of Work for classic – coastal – para rowing.
- Technical assistance in the practical implementation of the Olympic Solidarity programmes, namely
 - Development of National Sports System - Capacity Building and Coach Education
 - Technical Courses for Coaches (national – regional)
 - Olympic Scholarship for athletes
- Building relationships with membership and support stakeholder network.
- Systematic approach to implementing Sustainability (GHG emissions inventory), in line with the commitments with the UNFCCC Sport for Climate Action Framework and the Sports for Nature Framework.
- Support to Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion Cross Commission roadmap and operations.
- Support with the preparation and the delivery of the World Rowing Coaches Conference in close co-operation with Competitive, Coastal, Para, Sports Medicine, Youth Commissions, Coaching Development and GEDI Cross commissions and several staff.
- Co-support to Ukraine via the WR community donations campaign and WR Membership, OCs and Governments solidarity.

In cooperation with the International Olympic Committee, Olympic Solidarity, National Olympic Committees, National Federations, Organising Committees and governments a series of development programme (DP) activities were delivered, including education/training/event support benefiting targeted nations across continents:

- WR DP Training Camp pre Central America Cup (April, Lago Lopo, El Salvador)
- WR DP Training Camp pre-XXXVI "Memorial Paolo d'Aloja" International Regatta (April, Piediluco, Italy)
- World U23 and U19 Championships (July, Varese, Italy)
- European U23 Championships (September, Hazewinkel, Belgium)
- DP Training Camp (September, Racice, Czech Republic)
- World Championships DP support (September, Racice, Czech Republic)
- World Beach Sprints Championships DP support (October, Wales, Great Britain)
- Africa and Arab Beach Sprint CHs DP support (October, Tunisia)
- Commonwealth Rowing Championships DP support (November, Namibia)
- African Rowing Championships DP training camp and event support (December, Egypt)

Specific Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) projects targeting Member Federations, coaches and leaders were implemented. WR launched its toolkit with the aim to support Member Federations (MFs) with the recruitment, development and retention of female rowing coaches, established the first High Performance Female Coaches Network with 9 coaches, and the WISH programme with 4 coaches. Two future leaders were put forward for the ASOIF Women Lead sport programmes. To address gender equality,

diversity and inclusion an Unconscious Bias Workshop was delivered as a part of the World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting, with over 100 participants from over 30 countries, all WR commissions and staff.

WR launched the Green House Gas Calculator and assessment project with the aim to present mid-2023 the Certified carbon footprint (Scopes 1, 2, & 3 via calculator results and the integration of the accounting records) as per commitment to measure and report emissions related to all World Rowing's activities, on an annual basis, through a partnership with the carbon accounting platform Greenly. The accurate assessment of World Rowing's carbon footprint is an essential first step in order to identify areas for emission reduction or offset.

In addition, a thorough reassessment of the Kafue River and Rowing Centre project was initiated, including two site visits to Zambia and the presentation of a comprehensive set of updated considerations, conclusions and recommendations to WR Executive Committee with the broader aim to strengthen our sustainability strategy and re-energize the WR/WWF partnership in 2023 and beyond.

Opportunity is taken here to extend a warm thank-you to the Development team and all Development consultants, subject-matter experts and partners, at international, Continental and Country level for the collective effort and their sustained commitment to developing rowing across the world.

Sport & Events

The 2022 events season saw a step back towards "business as usual" following the COVID-impacted 2020 and 2021 seasons. Early in the year, the 2022 World Rowing Indoor Championships due to be staged in Hamburg, GER was cancelled because of travel uncertainty and impacts resulting from the COVID situation globally. Following the success of the fully virtually 2021 WR Indoor Championships, the decision was taken to hold the 2022 event in the same way, completely virtually. The support of our presenting sponsor, Concept 2, and the other technology and broadcast partners was integral to the success of this event.

In the classic rowing discipline, three World Rowing Cup regattas were staged successfully in Belgrade, Poznan and Lucerne – with the event in Belgrade being a test event ahead of the 2023 World Rowing Championships. At both Poznan and Lucerne World Rowing Cups a further test of the Athlete Lane Selection (ALS) took place, with feedback being collected and reviewed by the ALS working group. The combined Under 19 and Under 23 World Rowing Championships was hosted in Varese, Italy. The end of the regatta season saw a very popular Masters Regatta staged in Libourne, France and the classic season culminated in the successful 2022 World Rowing Championships in Racice, Czech Republic.

2022 also saw the second edition of a successful multi-sport European Championships held in Munich in August, the benefit of which are felt by World Rowing in terms of promotion of the sport within Europe and beyond, deriving financial benefits that support our work across the globe.

The coastal rowing discipline continued to grow in 2022 in line with our Olympic Strategy, with confirmation of the inclusion of Beach Sprints in the 2023 ANOC World Beach Games in Bali, Indonesia and the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Australia. The 2022 World Rowing Coastal Championships and Beach Sprint Finals were held in Pembrokeshire, Great Britain.

The third World Championships of the Beach Sprints format saw a record number of member federations and athletes competing, while the endurance format enjoyed a high level of entries from club crews.

Away from the planning and delivery of the events, the Sport and Events Team continued in their collaboration with many of the World Rowing Commissions, departments and external stakeholders on projects relating to the three disciplines and events. This has included the management of event bidding and attribution, and para-rowing classification, as well as continuing to look for improvements and efficiencies in order to support an increasing number of events.

Opportunity is taken here to extend a warm thank-you to the Sport & Events team, consultants, subject-matter experts and partners, as well as all organising committees of all World Rowing events, for the collective effort and their sustained commitment to staging events in a challenging post-Covid context and the ever-increasing inflation/costs resulting from the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Corporate Services

As a newly formed department, Corporate Services was led by Prateek Gumber (IND) who was ably supported by Monika Briedyte (LTU) who joined World Rowing in Feb 2022.

All major event service providers, event suppliers and event consultants' contracting and relationship management was efficiently handled ensuring a quality delivery for the events of the 2022 season.

For a sport that depends primarily on accurate timing of races, the service providers, Swiss Timing led by Ralf Hoffmann, Poznan Timing Team led by Adrian Moczulski and Time-Team managed by Harm Hermen and Alexander Hoogerheide provided timing services across events of different disciplines. A special note of thanks to them for providing high quality service ensuring fair competitions.

Multiple Tenders were conducted and concluded in 2022 and a few others initiated, for the selection of the following service provisions – Boat Rental Services for 2023 WRMR Tshwane/ RSA, Sports presentation provider for 2023-2024, Medals Provider for 2023 and 2024 and Coastal Rowing Timing and Data Services provider for 2023-2024.

Special Focus was given to upgrade the Technology across various aspects of the operations of the headquarters. Office 365 licenses were procured with a vision to migrate to cloud-based services for data and knowledge management. Following new systems were implemented/installed – a Logitech Video conferencing system for enhanced meeting experience, attendance management system for better HR management, a secure and efficient Voting management system for the first ever Athletes Commission elections and upgrade of the Anti-Virus system. Plans have been put in place to create SharePoint servers in 2023. Olivier Caillet – our long time IT Consultant continued to assist in Technology operations.

Sports Data, Entry and Accreditation services were delivered seamlessly across all events with the team continuing to forge a very close and collaborative relationship with Team Managers.

Opportunity is taken here to extend a warm thank-you to the Corporate Services team, consultants, subject-matter experts and partners, for the collective effort and their sustained

commitment to supporting the delivery of our events around the world and all critical functions of our organisation.

Broadcast, Marketing, Commercial

This year 2022 has been marked both by a major transition in the team – the arrival of Christian Osterode in June and the departure of Andy Couper in December – and by the undertaking of critical commercial development projects, some of which are mentioned in the Executive Director introduction.

In particular, thanks to the financial efforts made by the organisation, we were able to initiate the Strategic Commercial Partnership/Investment Project, in collaboration with the Deloitte Sports Group and legal advisors Charles Russell Speechlys. This project, critical to increasing the reach and commercial revenues of rowing, has allowed us to consult with many of our members, to develop a commercial vision for our various disciplines and to have some initial, encouraging discussions with several potential partners and investors. This project was presented at the 2022 Congress in Racice.

We have also, in partnership with the Indoor Rowing Commission led by Filip Ljubicic, worked on the strategic and commercial development of the Indoor/Connected Rowing discipline with the foundations of a certification programme which is now in discussion with some key manufacturers. We hope this initiative will generate revenue for World Rowing from 2024 onwards, thereby allowing us to reinvest into the development of the discipline to the benefit of our members around the world.

In parallel to these strategic initiatives, the commercial aspects of our events have been satisfactorily delivered in terms of broadcasting, brand visibility, licensing and merchandising, contractual relations with the Organising Committees, and the relationship with our many partners and consultants.

The priority is now to continue to put in place the "fundamentals" of our future commercial strategy. As is explained in our Treasurer's report, it is vital that we find ways to diversify our revenue in front of the ever-growing cost and complexity of modern sport governance, and to reinvest into the promotion and growth of our Classic, Coastal and Connected Rowing disciplines.

Opportunity is taken here to extend a warm thank-you to the Marketing/Broadcast/Commercial team, consultants, subject-matter experts and partners, for the collective effort and their sustained commitment to growing our brand presence and commercial footprint around the world.

Communications, Media and Social Media

The Communications & Media team has the role of not only sharing the information from World Rowing, but also helping promote the sport outside of it. This past year saw the return to the first "normal" Rowing season since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With spectators attending events and limited travel restrictions, everyone seemed to find their pre-pandemic rhythm, and the World Rowing Communications & Media team was no exception.

A large change in the staffing of the Communications & Media team – the departure of long-serving Communications Manager Melissa Bray in December 2021, replaced in her position by Brian Orsini, and the addition of Mauricie Summers in February 2022 as a Digital and Social Media Coordinator –

meant finding a new swing and re-evaluating the efficiency of the current tasks and roles. The changes put in place in 2022 have already yielded great results, which we hope to build on in years to come. Special mention should go here to the Media consultants and photographers that have worked countless hours to provide great content and footage to promote the sport of Rowing.

Social media numbers are back to near where they were before 2020, and growing beyond that on newer platforms, such as TikTok. With the growth of coastal rowing and Beach Sprints, we have added an Instagram channel to this effect.

The World Rowing website, which was rebuilt in 2020, has been smoothed out from any larger issues, and we can now start to focus on fine-tuning it and adding new features.

The media operations at events have been structured in a more professional way, to allow accredited media to have an easier and smoother access to athletes and various information at events. For the first time since 2019, a press conference with the World Rowing President and Executive Director was staged at the 2022 World Rowing Championships, allowing media representatives to question the leaders of our organisation.

New Implementations

Video production with focus on stories beyond events:

The vast majority of content is produced at events. In order to ensure that not only each bit of content is properly highlighted, and each story given its own space, but that there is content to share outside of events, we have been focusing on content that is relevant beyond the event. This also allows us to use it within other projects, such as the World Rowing Awards. Examples of this can be seen in the different features produced by World Rowing Productions / Quattro Media, or by our consultants.

Gathering of athlete information via QR code: Useful not only for stories and other content produced by the communications team, this has also been very helpful for commentators, who want to be sharing the most up to date information about athletes when commenting their races.

Use of race data in graphics: With social media constantly looking for new information and ways of displaying it, we have been testing incorporating race data into graphics, such as the boat speed during the A-Final of the M8+ at the European Rowing Championships. This generated a huge engagement on our various channels.

World Rowing Awards: Tasked with the production of the 2022 World Rowing Awards, the World Rowing Communications & Media team took a different approach to how this was presented in previous years. Partnering with Row360 to produce the project, World Rowing commentators Peter O'Hanlon and Camilla Hadland-Horrocks presented the recorded program of the 2022 World Rowing Awards from Leander club in Henley-on-Thames. An all-around success in terms of numbers and media impact all across the world.

Archive and digitization process: After a 2018 flood in the World Rowing archives, it has always been a eventual project to ensure the historical content is digitized, should anything happen to it in the future. The digitization of the media archives started this year, with the purchase of a slide scanner, and a VHS player. These images and videos are now on the World Rowing server, and are also being used in web stories, 'throwbacks' on social media, and various other projects. Amongst many tasks, our 2022 summer intern spent much

of his time at the office undertaking the thankless chore of tagging videos on the website. This allows each race that an athlete participated to then be displayed on their profile.

Key Figures

In 2022, 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 46,000 followers to 48,600 followers reaching more than 4 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 131,000 in 2022 and generated more than 40 million impressions. Instagram has been increasingly used not only for "nice photos or videos" but also as a very efficient tool of communication to reach directly our athletes. The feedback was very positive and we will continue to communicate our key messages and information through our various social media channels in the future.

We also launched our TikTok account in late September 2021, and while we posted only at selected events, the reach grew exponentially - one of our videos got more than 6 million views, which is unprecedented in the organisation and shows the potential of this fast-growing channel.

Our Chinese social media channels (WeChat & Weibo) have been growing thanks to the appetite of the Chinese Rowing community for our events. Special thanks to our consultant Zhenyu Xiao who helped in creating and translating content for our Chinese audiences. A particular effort will be made in the future with the attribution of the 2025 World Rowing Championships to Shanghai, China.

In summary:

- Total number of followers across the different channels : 403k
- Number of impressions in 2022 : 53.2 million
- Number of web stories published : 275
- Number of webpage views : 8.7 million
- Number of accredited media at events : 700+

Opportunity is taken here to extend a warm thank-you to the Communications team, consultants, subject-matter experts and partners, for the collective effort and their sustained commitment to supporting our communications, media / social media, public relations and various outreach initiatives around the world.

Governance & Integrity

One of the key achievements of 2022 has been the implementation of the new Athletes Commission Regulation and Election Procedure. At the World Rowing Championships, and World Rowing Coastal Championships & Beach Sprint Finals, participating athletes had the opportunity for the first time, to elect the members of the World Rowing Athlete Commission. Out of the 10 members, five members were elected and the remaining five were appointed by the Council taking into consideration different factors such as knowledge transfer, skills, gender balance and universality. The Chair of the AC automatically being a full voting member of the Executive Committee demonstrates World Rowing's commitment to ensuring the athlete's voice is at the centre of its decision-making.

The fourth ASOIF (Association of Summer Olympic Summer Federations) governance evaluation report has been published indicating an encouraging growth in the level of good governance, especially considering the limited resources available.

The 2022 IF Gender Equality Survey conducted by the IOC recognised World Rowing as a leading international sports federation on gender equality matters, with 50% female representation on both the Executive Committee and Council. World Rowing has also been recognised for its commitment to diversity and inclusion with the creation of the Gender Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (GED/I) Cross Commission.

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. Since April 2021 all World Rowing anti-doping activities are managed by ITA. The Full report of ITA can be found in these Agenda Papers.

Safeguarding continues to be a top priority for World Rowing. As part of the significant work in the area of education and awareness, in March 2022 the second version of the Safeguarding webinar series was launched to raise awareness on this critical subject and to discuss how rowers and the World Rowing Community can contribute to a safer environment across our sport.

During the 2022 Season, two Integrity Booths were organised in collaboration with the IOC (Athletes 365), the International Testing Agency (ITA), the World Rowing Athletes Commission and World Rowing Ambassadors. The organisation of the Integrity Booth was a crucial opportunity to run education based- events and have direct contact with athletes and athletes' support personnel to raise awareness on important topics such as Anti-Doping, Prevention of Competition Manipulation, and Safeguarding. A big thanks to our Athletes Commission for their great contribution to ensuring the Integrity of our sport remains an essential aspect.

I also take this opportunity to thank our Ambassador for Prevention of Competition Manipulation, Kirsten McCann (RSA), and Saulius Ritter (LTU) for their great contribution and for their support in promoting the importance of fair sport.

Following two years of virtual congresses due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2022 World Rowing Ordinary Congress was held on 26 September 2022 in Prague Czech Republic in a hybrid format to allow participation to all members despite the challenges relating to the pandemic. The Mauritania Rowing Federation has been admitted as a new member of World Rowing, this admission increased to 157 the total number of member rowing federations.

The main annual governance events were organised throughout the year, Council and Executive Committee meetings, MFs Consultation meetings and finally the 2022 Joint Commissions' Meeting (JCM) was held in London, Great Britain during the month of November.

Opportunity is taken here to extend a warm thank-you to the head of the department Lucy Trochet, who left in June. Following her departure, Ludovica Caprino has taken over for all Governance and Integrity aspects and Inas Hussein, Development Manager, took over as Safeguarding Lead.

ATTACHMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT International Testing Agency (ITA) 2022 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 2022 on behalf of World Rowing.

Testing

The ITA has implemented a comprehensive intelligence-led and risk-based testing programme on behalf of World Rowing throughout 2022. The ITA coordinated 226 out-of-competition test attempts, collecting 178 urine and 222 blood samples between January-December 2022. This included 37 test attempts on Para Rowers. In general, the testing numbers were slightly reduced in 2022 following the increase related to the pre-Olympic Games testing in 2021. The distribution of out-of-competition testing was broadly focused on the build-up to the WRCH in Racice with around 40% of testing being conducted in July, August, and September 2022. Off-season testing was also conducted to ensure sufficient coverage and baseline testing for the blood passport programme. Of the 226 OOC test attempts, 16 were unsuccessful; accounting for 7% of the World Rowing's OOC testing programme. It is worth mentioning that the unsuccessful attempt rate is slightly higher than in 2021 (at 2%). The ITA will continue monitoring unsuccessful attempts in 2023 as well as educate and support athletes regarding the importance of submitting and regularly updating whereabouts information to enable no advance notice testing.

In 2022 the ITA also conducted 206 in-competition tests, resulting into 206 urine and 3 blood samples collected over 18 events.

Furthermore, in 2022, World Rowing met all mandatory minimum requirements as part of the Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis. In addition, the implementation of the World Rowing sample collection and further analysis policy as well as World Rowing's access to ITA's confidential whistleblowing platform and education service have ensured an effective and robust testing programme. The ITA's focus in 2023 will be to successfully maintain these anti-doping activities to ensure an effective anti-doping programme is in place ahead of an important year in terms of qualification for Paris 2024.

Compliance

In 2022, World Rowing underwent WADA's Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ). In this process, the ITA provided dedicated support to World Rowing in compiling responses and supporting documents in relation to the delegated areas, with the aim of alleviating any compliance burdens on World Rowing.

The Corrective Action Report (CAR), issued by WADA did not reveal any major nonconformities. World Rowing received a minimal number of Corrective Actions (CAs), none of which were deemed to be substantial.

We are pleased to report that, based on the ITA's analysis of more than 40 CARs, entrusting the full programme to ITA generally resulted in a reduction both in the incidence and severity of CAs, which proved the case also for World Rowing.

The ITA continuously monitored the delegated areas of the World Rowing anti-doping programme to ensure compliance with the World Rowing Anti-Doping Code and the International Standards. In addition, the ITA offered on demand general compliance assistance throughout the year as needed.

The year in review was of particular significance from a compliance standpoint, as it witnessed the issuance by the WADA CCQ. The CCQ serves as a compliance assessment tool to evaluate the anti-doping programme implemented by AD organisations.

Following the issuance of the CAR, the ITA has worked very closely with World Rowing to swiftly resolve any nonconformity raised by WADA. Notably, no major failures or shortcomings were uncovered in the CAR. It is noteworthy that the number and nature of CAs reported for World Rowing is negligible; based on the trends noted by the ITA, this outcome was also thanks to the full delegation from World Rowing to the ITA as the observed pattern indicates a lower incidence of CAs for fully delegated programmes. As part of the CCQ/CAR support process, the ITA also endeavoured to provide World Rowing with practical guidance and support also in relation to questions outside of the ITA's realm, such as for instance, in the data privacy field and other general areas. As of 25.03.2023, 3 CAs have been completed by the ITA and World Rowing and signed off by WADA, while 1 CA awaits WADA's final review. No other WADA compliance proceedings or other types of requests in relation to the delegated areas of the World Rowing anti-doping programme were reported to the ITA in 2022.

Based on the outcomes of the Risk Assessment, the ITA in consultation with WORLD ROWING, developed a tailor-made TDP that prioritizes appropriately between: Disciplines (physiological risk), Athletes (country, performance & testing history risks), periods during the season, types of testing, types of samples collected and types of sample analysis according to the TDSSA. This TDP was also updated regularly as and when additional and relevant information was provided such as APMU recommendations and intelligence. In collaboration with World Rowing, the ITA elaborated a Risk Assessment aligned with WADA's ISTI. This service includes: - the collection of a large spectrum of data that influence the risk of doping

in Rowing - the integration of this material in a structured methodology that assess the Physiological/Pharmacological / Country / Individual Risks - the analysis and combination of all the relevant parameters to provide the prerequisites for an effective and proportionate Test Distribution Plan the World Rowing Risk Assessment update was delivered in November 2022.

In 2022, the Intelligence and Investigations (I&I) Department significantly expanded its capabilities, both through the onboarding of additional highly skilled staff and the implementation of advanced open-source and social media intelligence tools. This expanded approach has benefited the World Rowing Anti-Doping Programme, due to the ability to conduct more intelligence collection, and to respond to more investigations in support of the ITA's Result Management services. The activities in 2022 were focused on conducting intelligence collection activities in high-risk countries relevant for World Rowing in coordination with the NADO in said country, as well as conducting I&I activities into several cases. In 2022, there were two (2) cases received via REVEAL, as well as six (6) Case Transmission Forms ("CTF" reports) from WADA which were actioned accordingly. Additionally, the ITA worked on a several AAF case in support of the Results Management process on behalf of World Rowing. Further, the ITA's multisport approach to I&I has also benefited World Rowing due to the ITA's ability to view across multiple sports as intelligence collected or produced in relation to other sports occasionally contributes to rowing inquiries on behalf of World Rowing, as does rowing-based intelligence collected contributing to other sports. The I&I Department continues to work in a 'triangle' team, including the Testing and Science & Medical Departments, to best combat doping in rowing, as well as with the Legal Affairs Department on Results Management matters.

The ITA would like to thank World Rowing for its proactive collaboration with the ITA during 2022 and look forward to continuing to protect clean rowing on behalf of World Rowing in 2023.

ATHLETES COMMISSION Frida Svensson (SWE) Chair

The purpose of the Athletes Commission (AC) is to represent active elite rowers from all continents. To act as a liaison between World Rowing and the elite athlete community concerning any issues affecting the sport of Rowing.

The main activities of the Commission are:

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

Key activities and achievements in 2022

- Continuing monitoring the World Rowing Safeguarding Policy to protect participants in rowing from harassment and abuse – 2 Online Webinars were delivered.
- World Rowing Integrity booth - for the first time the AC together with the Governance and Integrity department created a place and an opportunity for athletes and teams to connect and educate themselves about anti-doping, prevention of competition manipulation and safeguarding. The Booths were delivered in collaboration with the IOC and the International Testing Agency at both the combine 2022 WRCHU19/WRCHU23 and the 2022 WRCH where was also present the Prevention of Competition Manipulation ambassador Saulius Ritter.
- For the very first time, the AC's elections took place during the WRCH and WRBSF. 55% of eligible athletes took part in the vote. Elections were supervised by two dedicated neutral people appointed by the Council. From 2023, for the first time, out of 10 Commission members, 50% will be elected and the remaining 50% will be appointed by the Council.
- Athletes Commission representatives at major World Rowing events: World Cup Poznan, World Cup Lucerne, WU19/WU23 Championships, World Championships, WR Coastal Championships, World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals.

Focus for 2023

- World Rowing Integrity booth at 2023 events
- Social media and website strategy and project
- Sustainability projects
- Anti-Doping education and activities
- Education Program on Declaration of Athletes Rights and Responsibility
- Mental health awareness project
- Athlete Lane selection

Summary

We leave another fantastic but also challenging year behind us. Some of our athletes and coaches had to face terrible challenges in 2022, due to the invasion of Ukraine. The AC is very proud of the rowing community, and we would like to express our gratitude to those who have provided support to the Ukrainian rowing community during this challenging time.

2022 is a year that will forever be remembered by the athlete's community and World Rowing as an International Federation. 2022 was the year of the very first elections for the AC. Many years of preparation, discussions, and planning came true. I could write much more on this topic, it is so important but first and foremost it, once again, prove that World Rowing and its MFs always put the athletes at the center of its decision-making processes. Thank you to everyone for making this come true and congratulations to World Rowing for leading by example and making way for athletes and athletes' voices. A big thank you to everyone at World Rowing for all the hard work you do and have done for our sport, especially for all our athletes around the globe. It's an honor to be part of this sport, and I am proud to be part of the World Rowing Athletes Commission and our community.

2022 Commission Members

Frida Svensson (SWE) Chair
Julien Bahain (CAN)
Hannah Every-Hall (AUS)
Lawrence Ndlovu (RSA)
Robin Prendes (USA)
Moran Samuel (ISR)
Julia Michalska Plotkowiak (POL)
Pierpaolo Frattini (ITA)
Ka Man Lee (HKG)

COMPETITIVE ROWING COMMISSION

Rosie Mayglothling (GBR), Chair

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

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 2022

- **Virtual Coaches Conference** – World Rowing delivered a successful Coaches Conference in January 2022, held in a virtual format for the second time. The Commission has been preparing for the next Conference which will be held in March 2023. The Coastal, Indoor, Competitive, Para, Sport Medicine, GED, Youth commissions with World Rowing President, Executive Director, Governance, Development and Event Teams all contributing.

- **Coach education** - Extensive development and training of a Coach Educator workforce capable of delivering at a continental level. More in person delivery for L1 Classic, Coastal. Delivery of the Coastal Race and Para Rowing modules.
- **Seeding** - Conducted seeding according to the Seeding Protocol at the European Championships, World Rowing Cups and the World Rowing Championships.
- **Fairness Committees** – Fairness Committees nominated for the European Championships, World Rowing Cups, World Rowing Championships at Senior, U23 and U19. Weather data and Fairness preparation before events continues to be developed.
- **Competitive Commission** meetings in 2022 – frequent zoom meetings throughout the year and in person meetings at rowing events.
- Continue to co-ordinate the **Coaching Cross Commission** meeting.
- Supporting coaches the WISH programme (Women in Sport High Pathway Programme)
- Confirmed the viability of the new weather buoy

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.
 - Continue to Support the Women's Development strategy and in particular developing women coaches and coaches of women.
 - Support initiatives from the GED group to increase diversity and inclusion in coaching.
- Deploy the new weather buoys at 2023 Key events. 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 2022. 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 to the Council, Executive and World Rowing Staff for their continued cooperation. A special thanks to Johan Flodin and to wish him well in his new role with the Swedish Olympic Committee.

2022 Commission Members

Peter Cookson (CAN)
Johan Flodin (NOR)
Nebojsa Ilic (SRB)
Rosie Mayglothling (GBR), Chair
Faycal Soula (TUN)
Marcello Varialle (BRA)
Mario Woldt (GER)
Herk-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 2022

- Commission member Mathias Binder (SUI) attended the Coastal Championships – Boatbuilder relationships
- Measured coastal boats to check if they comply with Rule 26 (secondary beam measurement point)
- Introduced new commission member Thomas Ebert (DEN)
- Review of equipment submitted as possible innovations
- Transition of duties to new chair of E&T commission
- Para rowing: Seat rule
- Coastal rowing: rules, weights and measures for potential Olympic Games
- Los Angeles Olympic Games 2028 (LA28): review and oversight of Long Beach flow study
- Indoor rowing: equipment for Indoor Rowing Championships
- World Rowing Rule Book: Rule revisions

Focus for 2023

- Coastal rowing: rules, weights and measures for potential Olympic Games

- LA28: review and oversight of Long Beach flow study
- Indoor rowing: support Indoor rowing commission on equipment related topics
- World Rowing Rule Book: Rule revisions
- Review of equipment submitted as innovations
- Add. Content to webpage
- Update list with electronic devices
- Technical review of "Click" shoe-stretcher system
- Design and build measurement tool for coastal boats
- Review innovation rule on practicability for para seat

Summary

Our primary activities centre on racing, regattas and the development of equipment for them. There were a number of issues during the Paralympic Games in 2021 and Coastal Championships which we have reviewed and made recommendations for the future. The Coastal regulations 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.

I would like to thank the World Rowing family for many years of cooperation, collaboration, and accomplishment. It has been a pleasure to work with so many who appreciate the values and quality of our sport and this organisation from around the world. Most importantly I have made many valuable friendships which I am sure will continue into the future. Thank you.

2022 Commission Members

Paul Fuchs (USA), Chair
Marko Banovic (CRO)
Mathias Binder (SUI)
Conny Draper (AUS)
Arnoud Greidanus (NED)
Stefan Piesik (GER)
Thomas Ebert (DEN)

EVENTS COMMISSION

Eva Szanto (HUN)

The purpose of the Events Commission in conjunction with relevant Commissions and staff members and in line with World Rowing policies, 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
- The appointed Technical Delegates together with the Event Managers were in constant contact with the Organising Committees assisting them to prepare the regattas to the highest possible standards. We continued the practice of the previous years and had regular online meetings with the Organising Committees, which occasionally fully or partially replaced preparatory planning visits, trying to achieve sustainability objectives, and also optimising costs.
- Attendance at World Rowing events - members of the Events Commission were involved in all World Rowing events (classic rowing) in 2022. The Commission also continued to attend and advise on several continental events. Events Commission members were appointed as Technical Delegates at three continental championship events in Europe. Due to financial constraints a reduced number of World Rowing staff and commission members attended the events, which was an additional challenge. Despite this the events were managed well by the ones on site, the others helping remotely.
- The concept of the Athlete Lane Selection (ALS) was further tested during the 2022 season. At World Rowing Cup II in Poznan an AS test was conducted successfully for all races following the first round with the exception of televised A Finals. A second test was carried out during World Rowing Cup III in Lucerne, with some improvements in the process. Events Commission members made major contribution to this initiative, played a key role in the ALS working group as well as assisted operationally when running the tests. Feedback from athletes, team managers and coaches was collected through questionnaires. In order to further improve the ALS, the challenge is to find ways of how the lane selection can happen shortly before the start and find technology solutions for that. The ALS working group continues discussions.
- We continued to improve the survey process description and requirements. As a result, the course survey reports provided by Organising Committees improved and were more consistent.

Key activities and achievements in 2022

- In the 2022 Rowing season all World Rowing events were staged successfully. The Events Commission members contributed in the preparation and organisation of classic rowing events in excellent cooperation with World Rowing Events Team and members of the other commissions. It was always a priority for the Technical Delegates and Event Managers to create and maintain good relationships with the Organising Committees.
- The FISU Summer University Games regatta in Chengdu (CHN) was postponed again to a new date in 2023 due to the COVID-19 situation in the host country.
- In Racice (CZE) during the World Rowing Championships the non-standard (11.9 m) lane width was implemented successfully.
- The Events Commission members continued to actively contribute to the Rules working group, the Water Safety working group and GEDI Cross Commission.
- Commission meetings were held virtually during the year. After two years without proper in person meetings the Joint Commissions Meeting in November 2022 provided a great opportunity for some in depth discussions, analysing the 2022 season, planning and sharing with the other commissions.

Focus for 2023

- Continue planning for and deliver events, implementation of a successful regatta season World Rowing and continental events, contribute to the successful execution of the FISU University Games Regatta. The site visits should be a combination of physical site visits and virtual update calls with the Organising Committees.
- Continued transfer of knowledge across the Commission to Organising Committees of rowing regattas; identification of a "pool of talent" - the next generation of TDs for continental events.
- Find ways of how the expertise of the Events Commission can be used in Coastal Rowing & Beach Sprint events, through better cooperation with the Coastal Rowing Commission
- Continue to explore better ways of information sharing and knowledge transfer, start using a new sharing platform. Set up a shadowing scheme and organise a TDs workshop.
- Recommend running Time Trials tests at one of the World Cups. The test would require the ongoing improvement of the Time Trials instructions, training videos provided to athletes, coaches, officials.
- Ongoing improvement of the course survey reports, review and update requirements, produce new templates.
- Progress the Athlete Lane Selection project, based on the feedback.
- Continue to update and restructure the World Rowing Manual.
- Continue to work on and finalise an event scenarios playbook, contingency planning, and readiness for critical events.
- Contribution to the Water Safety WG, implementation of guidelines, refining processes, reporting of incidents, setting up extreme weather protocols, in close collaboration with the Sport Medicine Commission.
- Continue to support the GED group and the Safeguarding initiatives by raising awareness with OCs and including specific discussion topics in site visit agendas
- Continue to contribute to the Rules WG and the Strategic Event and Calendar Re-assessment project.

Summary

2022 was another season with new challenges, including the war in Ukraine, last minute changes of OCs and venues, the combined World Rowing U23 and U19 Championships, changes in the Events Team. The top priority for 2022 was the implementation of a safe and successful regatta season. The Commission's goals included the improvement of event-related internal processes, close cooperation with other commissions, and ongoing contribution to the World Rowing strategic objectives.

As a consequence of unfavourable economic conditions globally the organising committees are facing serious challenges to remain within their budgets and maintain the required standards for the events. This means the TDs and Event Managers are seeking to help the OCs find ways for optimising costs and in the long term the Commission

should continue to be attentive to the demands which venue requirements make on the future of our sport.

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

Special thanks to Selwyn Jackson, who retired from the Commission at the end of 2022, and to Nikola Stojic, who also had to stop his involvement in the Events Commission for their contribution.

I would like to express our thanks to the World Rowing Events staff for their highly professional work and extraordinarily good cooperation with the Events Commission members.

2022 Events Commission Members

Eva Szanto (HUN), Chair
Victoria Aguirregomezcorta (ARG)
Joost De Geus (NED)
Matt Draper (CAN)
John Hedger (GBR)
Selwyn Jackson (RSA)
Pascal Jolly (FRA)
Victor NG (HKG)
Svetla Otzetova (BUL)
Bill Schenck (CAN)
Jernej Slivnik (SLO)
Nikola Stojic (SRB)

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 2022

- **World Rowing Masters Regatta returns in 2022!**
- After a very difficult two year hiatus due to the global pandemic, the World Rowing Masters Regatta returned we had an exceptionally well organize regatta in Libourne, FRA. The sense of relief and joy that the masters rowing community was able to reunite and renew the bonds of friendship once again was palpable. It was a very successful regatta, with over 12,000 seat entries, over 4300 boat entries, 706 clubs and 3200 individual competitors from 50 countries. Certainly our Commission's primary goal of restoring our principal event to its prior stature and quality was achieved.
- **2022 and beyond** - The schedule for the next three years remains:
 - 2023 Tshwane RSA
 - 2024 Brandenburg GER
 - 2025 Banyoles ESP (postponed from 2020)
- **2026 SEAP Process:** In 2023, we expect to conduct the process to select the 2026 WRMR venue.

Focus for 2023

- **2023 World Rowing Masters Regatta :** Our primary goal will be to ensure the success of the 2023 World Rowing Masters Regatta in Tshwane South Africa. This will be an historic event, and the first World Rowing event on the continent of Africa. Already we have seen an unprecedented level of preparation and extension of hospitality to the masters rowing community to come to South Africa.

- **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 very able and high-functioning Commission members whose diverse talents were especially needed in this year in which we renewed our event. We met live for the first time in two years at a delayed site visit in Libourne in March, at the regatta itself in September, and at the live Joint Commissions meeting in London in November, supplemented by numerous videoconferences.

2022 was the last year on the Commission of Zdenka Norkova from CZE, who first joined the Commission in 2003 and has been our foremost expert on registration and arranging the race schedule. While we will miss Zdenka as an active member of our commission, we expect to continue to see her as an active competitor, since she is only becoming a still relatively youthful "H" competitor (70+ years old). We will welcome Santiago Fuentes (MEX) to the Commission, who will broaden our global perspective and help us expand our communications, particularly with masters rowers from the Central and South American countries.

2022 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), 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 2022

- Successful execution of 3 Para Coach development training camps:
 - Certification of 6 Level 1 Para Educators
 - Certification of 8 Level 1 Para Coaches
- Virtual learning opportunities
 - Continued positive feedback on both the Classification and Coaching development online training
 - We continue to update the in-person components of workshops to ensure we are making the best use of time together in person, considering the virtual learning that has been done prior to attending.
 - Initiated para education sessions (webinars) with athletes/coaches and the wider rowing community to share the results of the research on the contribution of the trunk to fixed seat rowing.
- Increased representation in the PR3Mix2x:
 - 6 boats from 2 continents at 2022 World Rowing Championships in PR3Mix2x; great close racing in many categories (2 countries DNC due to visas – would have been 3rd continent)
- Further collaboration with World Rowing Development team and Continental Representatives for successful Continental Development Camps. We will be trying to use the learnings from a fantastic camp in Rio (7 countries; PR1 M1x, PR1 W1x, PR3 Mix2x), and host similar camps in the other continents.
- Increased participation in the smaller non-Olympic boat classes that were added with the intent of increasing development opportunities for small, less developed nations:
 - Five new countries medalling in the PR2 1x and PR3 2-

- Advanced Classification Workshop (Gavirate) – most productive Advanced workshop to date.
 - 6 participants finished the course with “Trainee status”, indicating they have the basic skills to perform classifications, but need more practice and mentorship to graduate to Level One. Our exposure to the participants ahead of time with a mixture of Virtual Classifications, online training, and mentorship were all evident with the high caliber of work.
- Productive collaboration on Coaching Cross Commission
 - Two members of the Para Commission (Simon Goodey and Rebecca Orr) are members of the Coaching Cross Commission. We would like to thank the Chair of the Cross Commission, Rosie Mayglothling, for her continued efforts to ensure para rowing is involved in all discussions.
- Representation on Water Safety Working Group (WSWG)
- Collaboration on Revising definition on Fixed Seat
 - The WSWG that was established to work on the updated wording was a great indicator of the expertise and knowledge of the various commissions working together to improve communications.
- Establishment of Nordic countries
 - Commission member, Marco Galeone moving to Sweden, has established new relations with fellow Nordic countries to work to increase the awareness of para rowing, while still supporting South Africa and Italy.
- Para Rowing Commission virtual meetings were held monthly

Focus for 2023

- Add a coastal para inclusion 2x to the World Rowing Coastal Championships
 - Working with World Rowing and the Coastal Commission to introduce a Para Inclusion 2x (potentially as an exhibition event) to the race calendar.
- Fixed Seat Equipment check roll out.
 - Working group comprised of members of the Equipment & Technology Commission, Umpirings Commission, Para Rowing Commission and the Classification Advisory Panel).
 - 2023 and 2024 will be used as an opportunity for athletes/nations to check their equipment to ensure the equipment is in compliance with the existing regulations.
 - At same time, there will be increased communications between all stakeholders to ensure all parties are clear on their specific roles at each event.

- Increase the number of PR3Mix2x boats in 2023 to have representation from 7 (hopefully 8) countries, and 3 continents at the first Paralympic qualification event
- In order to show the IPC that para rowing has sufficient representation, be able to validate 30 MFs at 2023 events
 - 6-8 countries at the Asian Para Games
 - 8-9 countries at Rio/South American International Regatta
- Formulate joint SMC/PRC working group to vet all research that is initiated outside of World Rowing, and to work together on any research that is initiated within the two commissions.
- Increased communication / education resources
 - Work with World Rowing Communications team to create vignettes to share at events to increase awareness of para classification, equipment checks, and any other items that are identified as confusing to the rowing community.
- Para athletes commission member to join the Para Rowing Commission meeting quarterly.
- Representation of one (possibly two) Para Commission members at the 2023 VIRTUS Global Games in Paris

Summary

I would like to thank the Executive Committee and fellow Council members at World Rowing for the continued support to ensure para rowing is included in all relevant conversations. I would also like to thank all of the wonderful staff members at World Rowing who are a joy to work with. It is exciting to witness the further integration of para rowing year over year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Para Rowing Commission members for their incredible input and time they volunteer to help advocate for para rowing at every available opportunity. I feel privileged to be in their company.

We are all looking forward to 2023, where we hope to find ways to include para rowing in more events and disciplines.

2022 Commission Members

Rebecca Thomas Orr (CAN), Chair
Gaurav Dutta (IND)
Marco Galeone (RSA)
Simon Goodey (GBR)
Han Seung Hon (KOR)
Monika Kuczma (POL)
Fred Maltrich (BRA)
Gordon Marcks (AUS)

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 aide 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 multisport, 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 2022

Discipline Oversight

Coastal Futures – the commission continues to provide expert advice to Council and Congress on the strategic future of the discipline.

- The commission supported the creation of the technical information pack for potential inclusion into the Olympic Games.
- The commission supported the successful inclusion of coastal rowing into two multi-sport championships, the 2023 ANOC World Beach games and the 2026 Commonwealth Games in AUS.
- In partnership with the Para Rowing Commission and Rowing Australia, a successful pilot of a Para event for the beach sprint format was undertaken.
- Meetings were held with the Coastal Equipment Manufacturers exploring ways to improve the growth of the sport.

Competition

2022 World Rowing Coastal Championships was successfully held in Saundersfoot, Wales GBR.

- The Regatta was held on the wide sandy beaches of Pembrokeshire. The entry saw 224 crews, 522 seats and 24 nations. While the entry was not as large as the record from 2021, it was the second highest percentage of women's participants (44%) in the 15 years history of the Championships. The men's solo was the event with the highest entrants at 41 scullers, while the women's solo had 34 scullers.
- The Championship course had a mass beach start and a water finish, with 2 chicanes in the closing 1km of the race. It was the first time the on water static penalty box was used.
- The conditions provided the rowers with some complex race conditions with equinox tides (range 7.6m) and 30-40 km/h wind speeds. On the Sunday the race distances were reduced as the sea conditions increased.
- The medals in the seven events were spread across nine different nations, with Spain and Ireland winning 4 medals each. Spain won the Nations Trophy for the third time.

2022 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals was also successfully held in Saundersfoot, Wales GBR.

- It was also held on the wide sandy beaches of Pembrokeshire. The 3-day regatta had 147 crews, from 27 member federations competing in nine events. Women made up 49% of the seats.
- It was only the third edition of this emerging format; entries had grown by 40% from the 2021 edition. The regatta is part of a strategic pathway for teams as they prepare their U19 crews for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games. It also acted as a qualifier for the 2023 ANOC World Beach Games.
- The jury trialled a new processional time trial format, which provided greater fairness on dynamic tidal beaches

Focus for 2023

Future World Rowing events

- The 2023 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and World Rowing Coastal Championships will be held in Barletta (ITA).
- The 2024 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and World Rowing Coastal Championships will be held in Genoa (ITA).
- **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 provide support to Member Federations, through the World Rowing Level 1 Coastal Coach Development Course and the Coastal Race Module. In 2022 25 coastal coach educators were trained to deliver World Rowing coastal coaching courses, on all five continents in a range of languages.
- **2023 Coaching Conference** - Coastal specific speakers shared their experience at the World Rowing Virtual Coaches Conference, topics included detailed insights into preparation of teams from coaches and athletes, and a report from the first ever anthropometric study of beach sprint rowers.
- **Coastal Event Development** - the World Rowing development team provided organising committees and Technical Delegate training at continental and members federation level.
- **On water safety** - the Commission continue to monitor accidents and incidents and feed their recommendations onto manufactures, coach education and event organising committees.

Attributed Events & Upcoming Events

- 2023 World Rowing Coastal Championships - Barletta, ITA
- 2023 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals - Barletta, ITA
- 2023 European Rowing Coastal & Beach Sprints Championships - La-Seyne-sur-Mer, FRA
- 2023 Mediterranean Beach Games, Crete, GRE
- 2023 Copa Americas Coastal - Costa Rica

- 2023 Asian Rowing Federation Coastal Championships, Thailand
- 2023 ANOC World Beach Games - Bali, IND
- 2024 World Rowing Coastal Championships - Genoa, ITA
- 2024 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals - Genoa, ITA
- 2024 European Rowing Coastal & Beach Sprints Championships - tbc

Meetings of the Commission

- World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals, Saundersfoot, October 2022
- World Rowing Coastal Championships, Saundersfoot, October 2022
- Joint Commission Meeting October 2022
- Coastal Futures Workshop February 2023
- Commissions Meeting, virtual x10 throughout 2022

Summary

The current members of the Coastal Rowing Commission were appointed in January 2022, their terms will be up for reappointment in Dec 2023.

2022 Commission Members

Guin Batten (GBR), Chair
Sarah Cook (AUS) (GED representative)
Chen Chunxin (CHN)
Katharina von Kodolitsch (GER)
Libor Kubrycht (CZE)
Richard Mouchel (FRA)
Manuel Pita (POR)
Marcelo Santos (BRA) (Coaching representative)
Pasquale Triggiani (ITA)

INDOOR ROWING COMMISSION

Filip Ljubicic (SRB), Chair

The purpose of the Indoor Rowing Commission is to promote indoor rowing and support the delivery of the Indoor Rowing Strategy in an expert and advisory capacity on a national and international basis.

The main activities of the Indoor Commission are:

- To develop indoor rowing through collaboration and knowledge transfer between member federations and other indoor rowing communities, and the creation of relevant frameworks to support local and national indoor rowing growth.
- To periodically review the World Rowing indoor rowing strategy to ensure alignment with the World Rowing strategic plan.
- To engage key technology and manufacturer stakeholders of indoor rowing to strengthen the discipline's ecosystem.
- To advise on the long-term strategy of international competition opportunities and the corresponding rules for indoor rowing and explore the potential of alternative competition formats and methods.
- To support World Rowing staff in the organisation of the World Rowing Indoor Championships and other indoor rowing events owned and/or delivered by World Rowing.
- To guide the Coaching Cross Commission in the development of coaching materials, publications and workshops for indoor rowing.
- To provide guidance and support to federations and athletes that are new to the sport of indoor rowing and create resources for them where they do not already exist.

Key Achievements and Activities in 2022:

- Launch of the Versa Challenge at the 2023 World Championships
- Completed a review of age categories for the 2023 World Championships
- Began review of the Indoor Rowing Calendar
- Updated rules to incorporate Hybrid, In-Person and Virtual Competition formats
- Eric Murray and Filip Ljubicic hosted discussions at the World Rowing Coaching Conference

Focus for 2023:

- Continue review and finalise the Indoor Rowing Calendar for 2025 onwards
- Review age categories for World Championships
- Review formats virtual, in-person and hybrid and how they can best work for future competitions
- Develop a machine certification program

- Create a working group with the master's commission
- Review the coaching content that is created by Federation and the marketplace
- Continue working with manufacturers to identify opportunities within the discipline
- Identify areas where technology can play a part in developing the sport further

Summary

In 2022, the Indoor Rowing Commission made significant strides towards advancing the sport of indoor rowing. We launched the Versa Challenge at the 2023 World Rowing Indoor Championships, which promises to be an exciting addition to the competition. Additionally, we completed a review of age categories for the same event.

The commission also began reviewing the Indoor Rowing Calendar to ensure that the most critical events are appropriately scheduled and that athletes have ample opportunity to compete at a high level. We also updated the rules to incorporate Hybrid, In-Person and Virtual Competition formats, allowing more athletes to participate and compete at their convenience.

Furthermore, Eric Murray and Filip Ljubicic hosted discussions at the World Rowing Virtual Coaching Conference.

Looking forward to 2023, the Indoor Rowing Commission has identified several areas of focus. We plan to continue reviewing the Indoor Rowing Calendar for 2025 onwards, ensuring that it is optimally designed to foster growth and development within the sport. We will also continue to review age categories for the World Championships, with the aim to ensure meaningful and competitive competition categories.

Another area of focus for the commission will be to review the virtual, in-person, and hybrid formats and determine how they can best work for future competitions. This will help ensure that athletes are able to compete in the formats that work best for them. We will create a working group with the master's commission to ensure that the needs of all athletes are being met.

The commission will also work with the Commercial and Marketing team of World Rowing to develop a machine certification program, which will help ensure that indoor rowers are using machines that meet certain standards.

Furthermore, the commission will review coaching content created by the Federation and other individuals, ensuring that all have access to the most up-to-date and effective training techniques. We will also continue working with manufacturers to identify opportunities within the discipline, such as developing new equipment and training tools.

The commission will identify areas where technology can play a part in further developing the sport. By focusing on these areas, the Indoor Rowing Commission is committed to ensuring that the sport of indoor rowing continues to grow and thrive.

Finally, I would also like to thank Liz Soutter for her work with the commission over the last few years as the Sport Manager for indoor rowing. She was instrumental in helping to get the commission started in 2021, and in launching the Versa Challenge at the 2023 World Rowing Indoor Championships.

2022 Commission Members

Filip Ljubicic (SRB) (Chair)

Juliette Duchemin (FRA)

Erik Murray (NZL)

Linda Muri (USA)

Kenny Baille (GBR)

SPORTS MEDICINE COMMISSION

Juergen Steinacker (GER), Chair

The purpose of the Sports Medicine Commission (SMC) is to oversee and advise on all medical, health and safety aspects related to rowing. In 2022, as in the years 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic dominated the work of the Commission with the goal to enable safe and fair training and competition.

Support from World Rowing office: Christine Jacobsen and Nathalie Phillips

The activities of the Commission include:

- Supervise and monitor medical, health and safety services at World Rowing Events utilizing Commission members or certified volunteer medical physicians;
- Formulate and publish best practice guidelines for medical, health and safety services and environmental issues;
- Promote research activity on rowing-related health and medical issues, exercise physiology, biomechanics, health, safety, environmental and other sports medicine related subjects;
- Provide basic medical and health education;
- Provide advice and recommendations upon request to the Council and member federations;
- Advise World Rowing on guidelines and policies for anti-doping activities.

Key activities and achievements in 2022

- **World Rowing Event Doctors** - Our commission members continued their service at regattas as the World Rowing Doctor in accordance with the by-law to rule 37. The events in 2022 are attached.
- **Representation** - The Chair represented World Rowing at the following events:
 - IOC expert group on heat provisions
 - IOC expert group on respiratory diseases
 - IF meeting on Transgender and DSD
 - IF Medical Commission Chairpersons meeting (online meetings)
- **Development** - No development activities due to COVID-19
- The **heat guidelines** were updated. Repeated meeting with IOC. Heat measures at Sea Forest waterway were at the very end rated as excellent. Publication with an IOC work group.
- **Water safety review** is a key issue of the next years. The existing guidelines are in continuous revision. SMC members in the World Rowing water safety panel are SMC Chair and Dr Wilkinson.
- **Injury study on coastal rowing** (Dr. Fiona Wilson, Dr. Kate Ackerman)

- **SMC Report on Lightweight rowing** (Dr. Hiura, Dr. Nielsen)
- **Liability Insurance for World Rowing doctor** at World Rowing events was now cleared by World Rowing

Management

SMC meetings in 2021: four online meetings and 5 joint meetings at the 2022 JCM

COVID-19 pandemic

Early in the pandemic, the SMC worked with the appropriate bodies of IOC, WHO and other IFs and released fact sheets, statements and guidelines for world rowing bodies, working in close coordination with the World Rowing event team. We assisted in 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 to provide evidence about safe rowing and training.

In 2023, the measures will be focusing on **prevention, hygiene, and monitoring** possible infection outbreaks and promoting individual measures.

In 2023, No COVID-19 positive person (athlete, team member, staff or support) is allowed at the venue even with masking. COVID-19 positive athletes would impose also a health risk for themselves, teammates and others.

Local Organizing Committees should provide precautions for hygiene, cleaning, catering and sanitation

Published guidelines:

2022 World Rowing COVID Event Testing and Vaccination Policy

World Rowing COVID-19 Recommendation for 2023

Anti-Doping-Committee (ADC)

Members of the ADC in 2022: Sports Medicine Commission Chair Dr Jürgen Steinacker, 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** was revised 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. Dania 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. These supplements the safety provisions in Rule 48 describing the duties of each member federation to their rowers:
 - The rule also requires that **Member Federations nominate to World Rowing a Chief Medical Officer** and provide contact data
 - From 2023 on, there will be special accreditation for the team doctors and medical personnel.
- 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.

Working groups

- Water Safety** for Regattas and role of World Rowing-doctor the SMC-water safety group is Prof. Henning Bay Nielsen, Dr. Dania Koubaa, Dr. Michael Wilkinson, Dr. Petra Zupet, Prof. Konstantinos Ditsios, Prof. Juergen Steinacker
- Coastal rowing** (Dr. Michael Wilkinson, Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, Dr. Dania Koubaa, Prof. Juergen Steinacker)
- Light weight:** Prof. Fiona Wilson, Prof. Mikio Hiura, Prof. Henning Bay-Nielsen, Dr. Kathryn Ackerman (and two nominees of athletes' commission).
- 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-Worsum from Yale, USA.
- 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 Meritz and Professor Engleder from Ulm University of Applied Sciences).

Publications

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

Focus for 2023

- The health and safety for participants at World Rowing events will further a main topic for 2023.
- 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 had led to a booster in rowing-related publications and research. In collaboration with Rowing Australia, the Australian Institute of Sports and the Coaching and Events Commission, **we are planning a conference in 7-9 November 2024 in Brisbane, Australia.**

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.

2022 Events

Date	Event	Location	WORLD ROWING - Doctor
21-22 May	ERU19CH	Sabaudia, ITA	Dr. Petra Zupet
27-29 May	WORLD ROWING WorldCup I	Belgrade, SRB	Dr. Doria Zupet
17-19 June	WORLD ROWING WorldCup II	Poznan, POL	Prof Jo Hannafin
8-10 July	WORLD ROWING WorldCup III	Varese, ITA	Konstantinos Ditsios
27-31 July	WORLD ROWING U23-U19-CH	Lucerne, SUI	Prof. Kathryn Ackerman
11-14 August	European Rowing Championships	Munich, GER	Prof. Juergen Steinacker
3-4 September	ER U23-CH	Hazewinkel, BEL	Dr. Doria Zupet
18-25 September	World Rowing Championships	Racice, CZE	Prof. Juergen Steinacker, Mikio Hiura
7-9 October	WORLD ROWINGOC	Wales, GBR	Prof. Peter Kokas
14-16 October	WORLD ROWINGBSF	Wales, GBR	Dr. Mike Wilkinson

Publications

COVID-19:

1. Vollrath S, Bijak DA, Zorn J, Matits L, Jerg A, Munk M, ... Steinacker JM (2022) Recovery of performance and persistent symptoms in athletes after COVID-19. *PLoS ONE* 17(12): e0277984. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0277984>
2. Steinacker JM, Schellenberg J, Bloch W, Deibert P, Friedmann-Betto B, Grimm C, Halle M, Hirschmüller A, Hollander K, Karling A, Kopp C, Meyer F, Meyer T, Niebauer J, Predel HG, Reinsberger C, Röcker K, Scharhag J, Scherr J, Schmidt-Trucksäss A, Schneider C, Schobersberger W, Weisser B, Wollrath B, Nisß AM. Recommendations for return-to-sport after COVID-19: Expert consensus. *Dtsch Z Sportmed.* 2022; 73. doi:10.5980/dzsm.2022.532
3. Peter RS, Nieters A, Kräusslich HG, Brockmann SO, Göpel S, Kindle G, Merle U, Steinacker JM, Rothenbacher D, Kern W. Post-acute sequelae of covid-19 six to 12 months after infection: population based study. *EPILOC Phase 1 Study Group. BMJ.* 2022 Oct 13;379:e071060. doi: 10.1136/bmj-2022-071060.

Statement

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5. Racinais S, Hosokawa Y, Akama T, Barmon S, Bigard X, Casa DJ, Grundstein A, Jay C, Massay A, Migliorini S, Mountjoy M, Nikolic N, Pitsiladis YP, Schobersberger W, Steinacker JM, Yamasawa F, Zidman DA, Engelbrechtsen L, Budgett R. IOC consensus statement on recommendations and regulations for sport events in the heat. *Br J Sports Med.* 2023 Jan;57(1):8-25. doi: 10.1136/bjsports-2022-105942. Epub 2022 Sep 23.

Rowing research

6. B Lundy, V Suri, M Draw, L Trease, LM Burke, Nutrition factors associated with rib stress injury history in elite rowers. *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport* 2022; 25 (12), 979-985
7. L Trease, A Mosler, A Donaldson, M Makdissi, MJ Hancock, K Wilkie, What factors are associated with recovery from low back pain (LBP) in elite athletes? A Concept Mapping study of clinicians, coaches and elite athletes. *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport* 2020; 25, S68
8. L Trease, E Albar, G Singleman, E Bryner, What Is an Extreme Sports Healthcare Provider: An Auto-Ethnographic Study of the Development of an Extreme Sports Medicine Training Program. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 2022; 19 (14), 8296
9. L Trease, G Singleman, J Windsor, S Allen, E Albar, Hydration Strategies for Physical Activity and Endurance Events at High (> 2500 m) Altitude: A Practical Management Article. *Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine* 2022; 32 (4), 407-413
10. Lennart Mentz, Kay Winkert, Gunnar Treff, Juergen M. Steinacker, Determination Of Mechanical Work And Power During The Recovery Phase Of Ergometer Rowing. *Med Sci Sports Exerc.* 2022 54(8):540-540

Frontiers in Physiology rowing supplement

11. Treff G, Mentz L, Meyer B, Winkert K, Engleder T, Steinacker JM. Initial Evaluation of the Concept-2 Rowing Ergometer's Accuracy Using a Motorized Test Rig. *Front Sports Act Living.* 2022 Jan 25;3:801617. doi: 10.3389/fspor.2021.801617
12. K Winkert, JM Steinacker, Karsten Koshler, Gunnar Treff (2022) High Energetic Demand of Elite Rowing – Implications for Training and Nutrition. *Front Physiol.* 2022 13:829757. doi: 10.3389/fphys.2022.829757
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14. Nielsen BN, Volantini S, Sachar NH (2022). Dose of Bicarbonate to Maintain Plasma pH During Maximal Ergometer Rowing and Consequences for Plasma Volume. *Frontiers in Physiology* 13: DOI=10.3389/fphys.2022.828708 T

2022 Commission members

Dr. Juergen Steinacker, Germany (Chair)
 Dr. Jo Hannafin, (USA)
 Dr. Henning Bay Nielsen, (DEN)
 Dr. Doria Zupet, (TUN)
 Dr. Mikio Hiura, (JPN)
 Dr. Michael Wilkinson, (CAN)
 Dr. Petra Zupet, (SLO)
 Dr. Larissa Trease, (AUS)
 Dr. Konstantinos Ditsios

Co-opted Specialist members:

Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, (USA)
 Dr. Fiona Wilson, (FL)
 Joanne Harper (GB, USA)
 Dr. Piero Poli, (ITA)

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 (WR) 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 2022

- Attendance at World Rowing Events:
 - World Rowing Cup I, II and III in Belgrade (SRB), Poznan (POL) and Luzern (SUI);
 - World Rowing U19/U23 Championships, Varese (ITA);
 - World Rowing Championships, Racice (CZE);
 - World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals & Coastal Championships, Saundersfoot (GBR);
- Attendance Continental Rowing Events:
 - European Rowing U19 Championships, Varese (ITA);
 - European Rowing Championships, Munich (GER);
 - European Rowing U23 Championships, Hazewinkel (BEL);
 - European Beach Sprint Finals & Coastal Championships, San Sebastian (ESP);
 - Asian U19 and Asian Rowing Championships, Pattaya (THA);
 - African Beach Sprint Championships, Hammamet (TUN);

- African Rowing Championships, El Alamein (EGY);
- Commonwealth Beach Sprint Championships, Walvis Bay (NAM).
- Attendance International Rowing Events:
 - Memorial D'Aloja, Piediluco (ITA); Para-Rowing Regatta, Gavirate (ITA); Croatia Open, Zagreb (CRO); Bled (Slovenia); Euro Masters on Tour, Bled (SLO); Six Regions Cup, Maribor (SLO); Coupe de la Jeunesse, Castrelo de Mino (ESP); Gent Spring regatta, Gent (BEL); Gent May regatta, Gent (BEL).
- New World Rowing umpires
 - 4 exam sessions were organised – Varese (ITA), Steti (CZE), San Sebastian (ESP) and Nagoya (JPN) – with a total of 8 successful candidates, representing 5 member federations.
- Retired World Rowing umpires
 - 18 WR umpires have reached in 2022 the 70 year age limit.
 - 1 WR umpire did not renew the license.
- Seminars & clinics - 13 seminars – 11 physical in Varese, Steti, Hammamet, Haiphong, Nagoya, Poznan, Frankfurt, Toronto, Henley-on-Thames, Libourne, Pattaya, Arnoia, & 2 virtual) with a total of 214 participants; a number of online 'educative' clinics (6 x 2hrs), attended by a huge number of potential candidates for future WR and regional exams.
- Other achievements of the Commission - participated actively in the Rules Working Group, the GED, Safeguarding and Water Safety working groups;
- Membership COPARE, ARF, ORCON, FASA and ER Board and/or commissions;
- Umpiring Commission meetings in 2022 - World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting, London - 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 or meetings (2023 Panam Games, 2023 Central American & Caribbean Games, 2024 OG/PG).

Focus for 2023

- The 2023 season starts with:
 - 480 WR umpires from 67 national federations;
 - 54 national federations having a total of 141 female WR-umpires (+5 vs.2022 or 29,4% of the total number);
 - 248 WR Umpires selected for the different 2023 World and European juries (incl. ANOC & FISU).

- To monitor permanently the availability of the selected 2023 jury members, due to sanitary or travel restrictions.
- To continue the organisation of a number of (live or virtual) umpiring seminars and clinics to assure the renewal of the WR umpire licenses.
- Geographical representation - continue to expand the number of federations with WR and regional qualified umpires (via education, clinics and exams).
- Gender representation - further increase the number of female umpires in co-operation with the member federations and the continental rowing confederations.
- First steps towards gender equal juries by imposing nomination conditions to the member federations (step by step towards 2026).
- 'Relaunch' of the Umpiring newsletter via www.worldrowing.com.
- Learning resources - continue to develop new resources for umpiring development.
- Continued 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, crews public introduction at the start, indoor, beach sprints and coastal rowing.

Summary

The Commission thanks – once again – their outgoing colleague Fabio Bolcio, having reached the age limit, for his fantastic contribution over the last 20 years in our team. We will miss his wisdom, collegiality and friendship, but we are sure he will still be available to accompany our activities and to support young colleagues preparing for international duties.

We welcome Morten Juel Hansen (DEN), an experienced WR-umpire, as our new member, wishing him all the best.

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

2022 Commission Members

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

GENDER EQUALITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CROSS COMMISSION (GEDI CRC) Jacomine Ravensbergen, Chair

The purpose of the GEDI is to oversee and drive delivery of the GEDI Policy and Strategy as it applies to the Commissions.

The main activities are Champion GEDI within the Commissions, raising awareness and understanding across rowing communities to drive cultural change, Support centrally driven GEDI initiatives, and disseminate at a Commission level as applicable, act as an advisor where relevant for certain central projects, suggest initiatives to the GEDI Management Group with respect to GEDI challenges and opportunities.

Key activities and achievements in 2022

The year 2022 was the first year of the Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion Cross Commission (GEDI CRC). With members of all other Commissions and in strong cooperation with the Development team we discussed, planned and took action to get a greater understanding of diversity, and the issues and barriers to participating in rowing.

Gender Equality

We continued the work of the former Women's Cross Commission to sustain women's development projects with a specific focus in the areas of coaching and leadership while keeping the gender mainstream approach, promoting equal athlete/coach/coach educator representation at development training and education opportunities and world, continental and regional events.

On the leadership side two rowing candidates have completed the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) Women Lead Sports (WLS) programme, which supports the development and active participation of women in decision-making positions within Olympic sport organisations.

Female high performance coaches

In 2022 we focused efforts on supporting female high performance coaches. World Rowing developed the Women in Coaching Toolkit which came out in 2022. This toolkit aims to support member federations, coach educators and others responsible for female coaching pathways. This guide has been designed to give you the facts about the numbers of women coaching, the main barriers stopping them from coming into coaching and most importantly to give ideas to help you recruit, develop and retain more women coaches.

In 2022 World Rowing also started the high performance female coaches network (HPFCN) and support the network with an online platform and a meeting at the World Championships. The aim of the network is to create an opportunity for top female coaches to get to know each other across federations and create a space for shared learnings and support. The HPFCN, builds on the World Rowing Women

in Coaching Toolkit, recognising the importance of supportive networks in the development and retention of female coaches at a high performance level.

Earlier a first pilot programme to support talented women to step up and develop their coaching and leadership skills at an international level had proven success. Despite the global pandemic 26 women from six sports and 23 nations completed the pilot women's high performance coach programme WSLA HPC. Five rowing coaches completed this pilot and have since taken on high performance positions leading crews at World Championships, Olympic Qualification regattas and Continental Championships. Four of them are progressing to become World Rowing Coach Educators and part of the World Rowing Continental Development teams. One of the coaches has prepared and led the 2021 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals Junior Champion.

A subsequent programme, the Women in Sport High Performance Pathway (WISH), has been developed and started in 2022. WISH aims to equip women coaches, who have the potential and ambition, to succeed in gaining roles at elite coaching levels within their sports. WISH focuses on developing sport-specific skills, enhancing career opportunities, as well as enhancing leadership competencies or behaviours. The programme is a joint venture between the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Sports Federations, including World Rowing, and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and is delivered over a period of 21-months. WISH supports Recommendation 6 from the IOC Gender Equality Review Report to encourage 'balanced gender representation for coaches selected to participate at the Games.' World Rowing is also working to support sport-specific learning opportunities for the coaches with high-performance coaches as mentors, coach educators and site visits. In 2022 World Rowing participated in two starting cohorts with eight coaches.

Cross Commission and Management Group

As per Congress approval the following was foreseen

1. 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
2. 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.

In 2022 GEDI had a monthly rhythm of three meetings. Subsequently we had a chair-manager meeting, a management group meeting and the meeting of the GEDI Cross Commission.

Meetings were meant 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 on the GEDI areas: - Race and ethnicity; - Gender equality; - Gender identity; - Physical and intellectual abilities; - Sexual orientation; - Economic status; - Religion or beliefs; and Refugees.

Two main topics have been presented by Cross Commission members Jerome Mouly (Gender identity and Sexual orientation) and Mehdi Garidi (Religion or Beliefs). The GEDI Cross Commission has been updated on transgender issues by our Cross Commission member from the Sports Medicine Commission, Donia Koubaa. At the Joint Commissions Meeting (JCM) in November we discussed the outcomes of the 2022 meetings with all other commissions.

Unconscious Bias Workshop

The GEDI CrC organised an Unconscious Bias Workshop as a part of the World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting, with over 100 participants from all World Rowing commissions and staff, delivered with the support of facilitators Kate O'Sullivan and Lynda Fussell. The purpose of this session is to run an interactive session that provides a safe place for the World Rowing staff and council/commission members, to openly discuss their views and differences on topics relating to the Gender, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion agenda, with the opportunity to: receive some information drawn from recent research, discuss with colleagues key questions relating to what World Rowing could do next to truly broaden out the sport and explore how the joint commissions could work more closely together to strengthen the intentional incorporation of the key GEDI principles into their daily practice.

The following 2022 Primary Objectives were achieved

- Learnings from tacit and explicit knowledge
- Learnings from the unconscious bias workshop at the JCM and creating awareness amongst all commission members
- In collaboration with the Para, Masters and Coastal Rowing Commissions: improving inclusion of para rowing in masters and coastal rowing, by introducing 'mixed inclusion 2x'
- Discuss with the Events Commission, a list of possible improvements for athletes, in particular for LGBTQ and athletes with a specific religious background
- Discuss with the Rules Working Group, possible improvements for athletes with a specific religious background, in particular head and arms/legs coverings
- Discuss with the Equipment and Technology Commission on equipment innovations for female rowers in general and for para rowers for indoor and coastal rowing
- Data (World Rowing Membership Survey to support and monitor GEDI objectives)

Summary

Special thanks to the World Rowing GEDI Cross Commission members: Connie Draper, Donia Koubaa, Inga Daukantiene, Gaurav Dutta, Jerome Mouly, Linda Muri, Marcello Varriale, Mehdi Garidi, Sarah Cook, Sizwe Ndlovu, Victoria

Aguirregomezcorrea; and World Rowing staff support: Ludovica Caprino, Lucy Trochet, Liz Soutter, Brian Orsini, Vincent Gaillard and in particular Daniela Gomes.

A final acknowledgement to all World Rowing council members, continental representatives, commissions and member federations for their sustained support throughout 2022.

2022 Commission members

Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED), Chair
 Connie Draper (GER)
 Donia Koubaa (TUN)
 Inga Daukantiene (LTU)
 Gaurav Dutta (IND)
 Jerome Mouly (FRA)
 Linda Muri (USA)
 Marcello Varriale (BRA)
 Mehdi Garidi (ALG)
 Sarah Cook (AUS)
 Sizwe Ndlovu (RSA)
 Victoria Aguirregomezcorrea (ARG)

YOUTH ROWING COMMISSION

Algirdas Raslanas (LTU), Chair

The purpose of the Youth Rowing Commission is to advocate for the interests of the youth rowing community to ensure that activities and events are relevant to this category. This is accomplished by overseeing and promoting all areas of youth and student rowing and increasing participation across all disciplines, 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 Under 19 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 Under 19 and Under 23 Championships;
- Analyse the organisation, entries and results of the World Rowing Under 19 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 2022

- Event support and Management - the Commission fulfilled its functions at the Under 23 and Under 19 World Championships in Varese, ITA. 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 combined U23 and Under 19 Championships.
 - Collaborated to provide speakers for WR Coaches Conference (USA U19 Coaches).
 - Development - Axel Müller assisted the Development and Masters Fund coaches and athletes during the Under 19 World Championships in Varese, (ITA).
 - Safeguarding - Barb Grudt was the FISA Event Safeguarding Officer at the combined Under 23 and Under 19 Championships in Varese (ITA).

- Governance Working Group participation
- Masters Fund for Youth Rowing - thanks to the money provided by the Masters Commission many coaches have now passed through the scholarship coach programme to become full-time professional coaches in their own national programs. Participants include:
 - Chokri Ben-Miled (TUN, 2002) o Raihan Omar (SIN, 2004)
 - Juvenalis Gitau Kariaga (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 Thailand project is now complete. The Commission is seeking the next Youth Coach Candidate(s) and Crew(s), with the possibility of considering Coastal development (Beach Sprints).

- Youth Rowing Commission meetings in 2022 - Virtual meeting with Indoor Rowing Commission, Varese (ITA), Joint Commission Meetings in November (London).

Focus 2023

- World Rowing U19 Paris (FRA) & U23 Championships, Plovdiv (BUL),
- FISU University Championship, London, Ontario (CAN) OR University Games: Chengdu (CHN)
- World Coastal Rowing Championships & Beach Sprint Finals: TBA
- Youth Coaches Conference: TBA
- Masters Fund for Youth Rowing Project
- Youth Coastal Rowing Development, Promotion & Safety
- Fairness and Safeguarding at events
- Monitor statistics and trends in Youth events including Coastal
- Analyze Rigging Survey from Varese

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.

2022 Commission Members

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

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 2022

National Development Activities

- Namibia - Development of National Sport System, June 2022 ongoing
- Nigeria - Development of National Sport System, working on boat shipment
- Togo - Development of National Sport System – working on boat collection
- Lesotho - Development of National Sport System - boat donation has been made last year

Continental and regional activities

- L1 Para Rowing Coaching Course & Tunis Lake International Regatta 15 - 20 March, Tunisia 5 NF participated KEN, LBA, NGR, SUD, TUN, 4 athletes (3 M, 1 F) 17 Coaches 13 M, 4 F
- Development Training camp and African Rowing Championships held in EGY from 14-18th December 2022. 7 African countries took part, ALG, TUN, MAR, LBA, EGY, SUD, SOM, CIV, TOG with a total of 32 athletes, 21 Male and 11 Female.
- Successful delivery of Africa and Arab Beach Sprint Championships, Tunisia 27-30 October
- Coach Educator, L1 Coastal Course, Training Camp, 6 NFs participated MAR, TUN, RSA, CIV, UGA, LBA, 15 athletes (8 M, 7 F) 13 coaches (7 M, 6 F)

- Coach Educator, L1 Coastal Course, Training Camp and Commonwealth RA Beach Sprint Championships 27 November 4 December Namibia - 12 NFs took part

World activities

- **Memorial Paolo d'Aloja, Piediluco** - a training camp for African nations was organised: 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)
- Development Training Camp and World U23 and U19 Championships - Varese, ITA 21-31 July 2022. 5 NFs participated ALG, MAR, EGY, TUN, ZIM, 12 athletes (3 M, 9 F) 6 Coaches (4 M, 2 F)
- Development Training Camp - World Rowing Championships - Racice, CZE 14-25 September 2022 6 NFs participated CIV, RSA, ZIM, TUN, EGY, ALG, 20 athletes (13+2 M, 5 F) 8 Coaches (6+1 M, 1 F)
- World BS Championships - Wales, GBR 14-18 October 3 NFs participated EGY, MAR, TUN, 10 athletes (5 M, 5 F), 4 Coaches (2 M, 2 F)
- WISH Program, Great Britain, Caitlyn Dace from RSA started on 30 November

Focus for 2023

- Organise successfully the different Continental events:
 - The Continental Olympic Games Qualification Regatta – October 2023 TBC
 - The African Championships Egypt October 2023
 - The African Indoor Rowing Virtual championships, TBC
 - The 15th Tunis Lake International regatta, March 2023
- 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, date, and location tbc
 - The African Beach Games, Tunisia, 2023
 - The African Games, Ghana, 2023, Postponed to March 2024
- Assist the African NFs, Athletes, and coaches to participate in the international and continental championships (via SO)
- Development, training, and education (coaches, umpires – face to face / virtually)

- Support important initiatives for continental education and information dissemination, ensuring members have access to best practice on safeguarding, anti-doping, prevention of manipulation of competition
- Promote coaching support to new nations through the continental coach educators
- Work with the World Rowing and FASA Umpiring commission to deliver umpiring education
- Assist on the Review process of the FASA Statutes
- Assist on the Organisation of the FASA Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assembly 2023, date, and location TBC
- Encourage FASA and the African Member Federations (MF) s to act towards equality in their governance structures
- Encourage and assist the MFs to sustainably develop classic, indoor, coastal and para rowing where possible. Organise successful continental and regional championships, in Classic, Coastal, Para, and Indoor rowing.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE AMERICAS

Victoria Aguirregomezcorra (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 2022

- **World Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships.**
Highlights:
LM U23 final standing: URU gold (as last year) and silver, CAN bronze and ARG 4th place.
As in 2021, strong participation from Member Federations from the Americas across all categories.
- **Coastal Rowing Americas Cup** – Lima, (PER). First edition of this discipline held with the combined support of COPARE, Peruvian Rowing Federation and Club de Regatas Lima.
- **South American Championships (U19&23)**, Porto Alegre, (BRA). The event offered para rowing racing opportunities to Latin American federations. It was an opportunity for Safeguarding presentations to athletes and officials.
- **Masters South American Regatta** – Sao Paulo, (BRA). Very attractive event with over 400 entries and attendance of World Rowing Masters Regatta 2023 Organising Committee which established connection with regional masters group.
- **Central American and Caribbean Cup** – San Salvador, (ESA). Another first edition delivered with the support of the National Federation saw 35 participants from 5 member federations.

- **Bolivarian Games** – Valledupar, (COL). This regional edition offers limited boat classes but remains relevant to the NOCs. It served as test event of potential 2027 PanAm Games venue.
- **World Cups and U19 & U23 World Championships** – A total of 10 Member Federations entered crews, 8 of which did so in female events.
- **World Rowing U23 Championships** – Varese, (ITA). Congratulations to ARG, BRA, CAN, PER, URU and USA for their various results in Finals A.
- **World Rowing Senior Championships** – Racice, (CZE). Congratulations on participation and results to crews of ARG, BRA, CAN, CUB MEX, URU and USA and for entering crews in 4 of the 6 para rowing events offered.
- **Organizacion Deportiva Suramericana (ODESUR) Games** – Asunción, PAR. Staging this event provided the national federation of PAR an important equipment and material legacy together with organization knowledge that may see them as potential future organizers of regional competitions.
- **World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals** – Saundersfoot, (GBR). Participation of the following MFs: BAH, BAR, BRA, CAN, PER and USA. Big enthusiasm and development of discipline in new member federations.
- **Para Rowing training camp and Coaches Learning Module 1** – Rio de Janeiro, BRA. During the camp, networking and sharing were key. We now have 2 new regional coaches.
- **Coastal Rowing Education Programme** – Rio de Janeiro, (BRA). The programme involved education for both coaches and potential regional event TDs in an extensive, compact week of work.
- **Commonwealth Rowing Association Beach Sprint Championships** – Walvis Bay, (NAM). Great competition opportunity for BAH, BAR and CAN.

Events and meetings attended in 2022

- Virtual Council meetings: January, March, May, June, August, October and December
- South American U19 & U23 Championships
- Masters South American Regatta
- World Rowing Championships
- 2022 World Rowing Ordinary Congress
- Odesur Games
- Meeting with the Executive Committee November 2022, as part of the JCM

Focus for 2023

- In cooperation with Americas Rowing Confederation (COPARE) and South American Rowing Confederation (CSAR), contribute to the delivery of continental events (water safety, technical requirements and following up on race issues)
- Continue to roll out the new World Rowing Coach Education Programme
- Strengthen support to regional and continental events for coastal and para rowing disciplines by reinforcing education, guided coaching sessions and training camps prior to events.
- Provide support to ANOC Beach Games classification regatta.
- Support/encourage the application of water safety and rescue protocols at training camps, courses, regional and continental events.
- Propose models for TD education, training and mentoring.
- Safeguarding: encourage inclusion of policies in Member Federations' statutes and continue to raise awareness

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

Introduction

- The first half of the year continued to be very difficult for Asian rowing as the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic led to almost all events being cancelled or delayed. This included the postponement of the Asian Games and Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China until 2023.
- As on of the ARF Vice Presidents and World Rowing Continental Representative for Asia, I have continued to coordinate with both the ARF Executive Committee and World Rowing to explore all possible regatta or training opportunities for teams in Asia despite the greater travel limitations that still exist.

Key activities and achievements in 2022

- The Asian Rowing Virtual Indoor Championship and the World Rowing-sanctioned qualification regatta were hosted by Hong Kong.
- The Asian Rowing Cup was held from 9-11 June in Tehran, IRI with participation from 4 MFs (INA, IRQ, PAK, IRI).
- The Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Championships and a Coach Education Coastal Race Module (CRM) was scheduled to run on 8-13 November in Sharjah, UAE with interest shown by 11 MFs, but was cancelled at short notice.

- The Asian Rowing Junior and Senior Championship was held on 30 November to 4 December in Thailand. World Rowing Development support was provided to 4 and 5 Asian Member Federations (MF) s at the World U19/U23 and Senior Championships respectively.
- Several notable performances were recorded amongst the 11 MFs attending World Rowing Championships - China 1 gold and 1 silver medal, JPN and IRI also had crews reaching B Finals. Participation of 2 Asian MFs (JPN, UZB) with Para Teams.
- The ARF Congress agreed to submit a formal application to become a Recognised Continental Confederation of World Rowing. (Awaiting approval at the World Rowing Congress in 2023).

Meeting and Events Attended in 2022

- World Rowing Bimonthly Council Meetings.
- ARF Executive virtual meetings throughout the year.
- Coordination meetings with ARF and World Rowing to hold the first Safeguarding Webinar.
- Coordination meetings with ARF and World Rowing to plan an Event Organizer workshop and continue to review bidding procedures and document for MFs' interested to host ARF events for 2023 and 2024.
- Individual meetings and communications with 8 Asian MFs (BAN, IRI, KSA, LAB, SGP, SRI, UZB and VIE) on World Rowing development support including discussion on possibilities to host future events.
- World Rowing Virtual Coaches Conference 29 Jan to 2 Feb 2022
- First Safeguarding Webinar in Asia on 25 Jun 2022.
- World Rowing Championships and Congress on 26 September in Racice (CZE)
- World Rowing Beach Sprints Final in Sautersfoot (GBR) in October
- OCA Gender Equity Seminar in Manama (BHR) in October
- Joint Commission Meeting on 19-20 November in London (GBR)
- Asian Rowing Championships and Congress in December in Pattaya (THA)

ARF Congress 2022

- Elections were held during the ARF Congress to appoint the President and members of the Executive Committee for the coming term. New ARF officers are as follows: -
Mr. Chen Chunxin (CHN) **President**
Ms. Fay Ho Kim Fai (HKG) **Senior Vice President**

Mr. Vahim Moradi (IRI) **Vice President**

R. Adm. Prapampongs Pochanasomburana (THA)

Vice President

Mr. Semun Oh (KOR) **Vice President**

Mr. Masakuni Hosobuchi (JPN) **Vice President**

- Mr. Chen subsequently appointed Mr. Liu Dehai (CHN) as Secretary General.
- The Executive Committee are currently reviewing nominations for the 8 ARF Committees and will make appointments for the new term. The Executive also appointed a working group consisting of Mr. Vahim Moradi (IRI), Mr. Chris Perry (HKG) and Mr. M. V. Sriram (IND) to review the ARF Statutes and Rules.

Thank you also to World Rowing and in particular the World Rowing Development team for coordinating all possible support for our region.

Finally, I would like to thank all our Asian MFs for their long-term contribution and active participation in promoting the development of Rowing in Asia. Welcome to those MFs with new leaders to join this Asian Family of Rowing.

Focus for 2023

- To prepare a fair and safe Asian Qualification Regatta for World Beach Games and for the Olympic/Paralympic Qualification Regatta.
- To continue regular communication through emails, face-to-face, virtual meetings, and website.
- To roll out the World Rowing Level 1 Coach Education modules in Classic, Coastal and Para Rowing during the coming term.
- To continue to review event bidding procedures and arrange Event Organiser training in Asia.
- To coordinate the calendar between Asia and Oceania, explore possibilities to open National Championships or Asia Cups as international regattas, and welcome more competition opportunities for rowers at different levels within Asia and Oceania.
- To improve the coordination of the annual calendar between ARF and World Rowing.
- To reinforce the use of Olympic Solidarity resources by working closely with NOCs in the development programme to support committed MFs in all forms of rowing.
- Find ways to encourage Para Rowing development in Asia by identifying a hub for an annual para rowing event and training camps. Organise coaches and/or classification workshops in line with competitions.

Summary

First, many thanks to the MFs of Hong Kong, Iran and Thailand for hosting the Asian Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships, Asian Rowing Cup and Asian Rowing Junior and Senior Championships respectively. They overcame so many challenges to offer these valuable racing opportunities for our rowers in Asia.

I also would like to express my deepest gratitude to outgoing ARF President - Admiral Chainarong Charoenruk, the Executive Committee, and Chairs of Committees of ARF for all their support and hard work over the past term.

Thank you to Thailand and everyone in RCAT once again for hosting and financial support to the ARF Executive and Chairs of Committees to attend the 2022 ARF Congress. Their great efforts to keep the ARF office running under the difficult situation worldwide is very much appreciated.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EUROPE

Dušan Macháček (CZE)

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 Co
- 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 2022

- 2022 European Rowing Indoor Championships in Jönköping, (SWE) - Due to COVID-19 restrictions this event was cancelled, no virtual indoor event was held
- European Rowing U19 Championships, Varese (ITA), 21-22 May 2022. The organizers in Varese organized 2022 ERU19Ch in record time after the original organizers from Sabaudia withdrew from hosting it. Participation of 29 Member Federations (MFs).
- European Rowing Championships, Munich (GER) 11-14 August 2022. The European Rowing Championships 2022 took place in Munich as part of the multisport European Championships 2022 at the Olympic venue in Oberschleissheim. In terms of media coverage and spectator interest, it was one of the most successful European Championships in history. 234 crews representing 33 MFs.
- General Assembly of the European Rowing Confederation (ERC) - It took place in person on 13 August 2022, Munich, (GER). Delegates elected a new ERB member, Neville Tanzer (SUI), who replaced Nebojsa Jevremovic (SRB). GA approved European Rowing Rules and Event Regulation changes - to include the PR3 Mix2x at future European Rowing Championships.
- European Rowing U23 Championships, Hazewinkel (BEL), 3-4 September 2022. 400 athletes from 30 countries competed for beautiful weather on the traditional rowing course in Hazewinkel.

- Extraordinary General Assembly of the European Rowing Confederation (ERC) - It took place in person on 25 September 2022 in Račice, (CZE). Delegates appointed future championships organizers and approved ERC Statute changes.
- European Coastal and Beach sprint Championships was held in San Sebastian / Donostia, (ESP) 27 - 30 October 2022. Spanish rowing federation together with local Ur Kirolak rowing club hosted fantastic first edition of this joint event - beach sprints and coastal championships together. Whole program was compressed into three racing days. Full time media broadcasting coverage helped to show attractiveness new rowing disciplines. 17 MFs in BS, 22 MFs in Coastal Ch.
- World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting (JCM)- London, (GBR), 18-20 November 2022. After a Covid break all Council members, Executive Committee members and chairs the commissions had an opportunity to meet in person at JCM. It was created informal continental representatives' consultation group, where all involved share their experience on different fields, like their cooperation with continental rowing umbrella bodies, needs, ideas and challenges of their MFs, development program activities, etc.
- European Rowing Indoor Championships, Paris, (FRA), 27-28 January 2023. After the Covid brake French rowing federation delivered very successful European indoor championships. ERIC 2023 was organized together with French national champs at the same venue like in 2020 WRIC.

Accomplishments:

- Delivery of five successful European Rowing Championship events after COVID-19 pandemic break
- Substitution host for 2023 ERU19CH following Sabaudia withdrawal
- First edition of European Coastal & BS Championships
- Successful senior European Rowing Championships as a part of multisport event
- Attribution of the new organizers of 2024-26 European championships
- Organize in person General Assembly and elections and Extraordinary General Assembly in 2022
- Inclusion of para rowing events and L2- in the program of the ERCH Munich 2022
- Successful delivery of all European Rowing events in 2022, the first ERCBSC

Events and meetings attended in 2022

- Virtual Council meetings - Feb, May, July, August, November 2022
- In person Council meetings Sep, Nov 2022, Jan 2023.
- Site visit San Sebastian, ESP, April 2022
- Cologne, GER - site visit ERU23CH/U19 bid, April 2022
- European Rowing U19 Championships, Varese (ITA), 21-22 May 2022.
- European Rowing Championships, Munich (GER) 11-14 August 2022.
- General Assembly of the European Rowing Confederation (ERC) - It took place in person on 13 August 2022, Munich, GER.
- European Rowing U23 Championships, Hazewinkel (BEL), 3-4 September 2022.
- Extraordinary General Assembly of the European Rowing Confederation (ERC) - It took place in person on 25 September 2022 in Radice, (CZE).
- European Coastal and Beach sprint Championships was held in San Sebastian / Donostia, (ESP) 27 - 30 October 2022.
- World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting - London, (GBR), 18-20 November 2022
- European Rowing Indoor Championships, Paris, (FRA), 27-28 January 2023.

Focus for 2023

- Preparation on the organization of the Presidents Meeting in Copenhagen in March 2023 as part of regular consultation with MFs
- Continuation to improvement of safeguarding and environmental policies aligned with, and in support of World Rowing.
- Together with ERB and WR Development commission to start exploring the Erasmus + funding programs. Building a two-way information platform between the MFs and rowing clubs to support their involvement in EU funding programs.
- Assistance in finalizing the contract between ERB and WR
- Cooperation with other continental representatives on common themes and development programs.
- To follow modern trends in indoor rowing and to develop these trends across national rowing federations
- Continuing discussion with WR marketing staff in improving the European Rowing 'brand' identity to add value to European and World Rowing.

Summary

Year 2022 was affected by a Russian invasion of Ukraine. WR together with ERB followed the position of IOC and other international sport federation and excluded athletes from RUS and BLR from their top events in 2022. A big thank you to all national rowing federations, international regatta organisation, rowing clubs and individuals from the rowing community for their moral and material support to Ukrainian rowers and coaches during the Russian occupation.

The war in Ukraine brought with it an extreme increase in prices and thus the costs of organizing rowing competitions

and negatively affected the participation of some rowers in the European Championships. Despite this, we managed to organize all the European Championships with dignity and success. In 2022, after two years of preparation and with the great personal support of my colleagues from ERB, we organized the first ERCBSC in Spain.

Last year was my first year as a Continental representative, building on the work of my successful predecessor Ryszard Stadniuk. I am grateful for the excellent cooperation with my ERB colleagues led by Annamaria Phelps, as well as for the enriching communication with other Continental Representatives.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OCEANIA

Sarah Cook (AUS)

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 2022

Oceania is comprised of eight World Rowing Member Federations (MFs) – Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, and Kiribati. However, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, and Kiribati are currently inactive. 2022 has once again been significantly COVID-19 affected, with most of Oceania still under strict lockdowns and unable to travel early in the year. Throughout the year the region started to open up, but due to limited flights and soaring travel costs regular activities have still not resumed. It is anticipated that this will be a slow and ongoing process throughout 2023.

In January 2022, Sarah Cook (AUS) was appointed to replace Lee Spear (NZL) who finished his role as Continental Representative for Oceania. We wish to acknowledge and thank Lee for his extraordinary and dedicated contribution to World Rowing and the Oceania Region over many years. Lee's understanding of the sport and knowledge of the region has enabled Rowing to grow in Oceania under his tenure, and we hope to continue to leverage his significant expertise for many years to come. We look forward to continuing to work with Lee who has moved into the Chair of the Oceania Rowing Confederation (ORCON).

In March, we were delighted to welcome the new Executive Director of World Rowing, Vincent Gaillard and Sport Manager, Liz Soutter to our region. Vincent and Liz attended the Australian Rowing Championships in Nagambie, Victoria and also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Queensland State Government including the Brisbane

2032 Taskforce and visit the proposed 2032 Olympic Classic Rowing venue at Wyaralong. We are grateful to Vincent for demonstrating his commitment to the global development of the sport, and for engaging with our stakeholders and region so positively and collaboratively.

The ten-year runway into the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games will provide an unprecedented opportunity for Oceania, as this is a Games not just for Australia but the region. Sport development throughout the Pacific region is a key focus, and we will look to leverage the major events across the decade to ensure that Oceania Rowing continues to grow and thrive. There is no doubt that Coastal Rowing is a gamechanger for the sport, particularly in the Pacific Islands. The lower barriers to entry and greater accessibility will provide a discipline of the sport that will deliver on genuine universality outcomes and engage a whole new and diverse demographic of participants. We have already received interest from a number of current and prospective MFs wishing to engage in the discipline, including American Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Vanuatu. Vanuatu and American Samoa have both had strong engagement and success with Coastal Rowing in recent years, with athletes and crews participating at international events prior to the pandemic.

In collaboration with ORCON and key stakeholders in the region, we have recently completed our strategic planning process and published the 5-year ORCON Strategic Plan. This process has been both positive and beneficial, and we have a clear plan for the growth and development of the sport in the region. Additionally, we hope to attract a number of international Rowing events to the region in the coming years and we look forward to working with our strategic partners, funding bodies, and MFs to build an exciting event runway that showcases all disciplines of our sport in Oceania.

In late 2022, World Rowing received the incredible news that Rowing would make its return to the Commonwealth Games after a 40-year hiatus, but for the first time in the Coastal Rowing - Beach Sprints discipline. This was a significant piece of work and we wish to thank World Rowing, Rowing Australia, Rowing New Zealand, Vanuatu Rowing Association, and the Commonwealth Rowing Association (CRA) for their efforts and lobbying to achieve this outcome. Through the EOI process, World Rowing committed to growing the discipline throughout the Commonwealth, but specifically in Oceania. We look forward to working with the World Rowing Development Team, CRA, ORCON, and the MFs to fast track the development of Coastal Rowing and are delighted to be holding the inaugural Oceania Coastal Rowing & Beach Sprint Championships in Queensland, Australia in conjunction with the Australian Coastal Rowing & Beach Sprint Championships in July 2023. These championships will be a lead-in event for the 2023 ANOC World Beach Games which are being held in Bali, Indonesia in August.

It was wonderful to see crews from NZL competing at the World Rowing Coastal Championships and World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals for the first time. The team had great success at both events, but the highlight was seeing the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Champion in the Women's Single Scull, Emma Twigg, be crowned World Champion in the Women's Solo at the Beach Sprint Finals. In December, the CRA hosted the Commonwealth Beach Sprints in Namibia, which were well attended by the Commonwealth nations including Australia.

In October 2022, Rowing Australia and Indoor Rowing New Zealand co-hosted the Oceania Indoor Rowing Championships fully virtually. The event also doubled up as the respective national championships and was the officially sanctioned qualification event for the 2023 World Rowing Indoor Championships. The fully virtual format was well received, and a livestream broadcast of the event was produced with commentary provided by World Rowing commentator Sarah Cook and Olympic Gold medalist Eric Murray.

Although the sport has seen a return to some normalcy in Australia and New Zealand, with both nations once again holding their various National Championship regattas and sending teams to Europe for international competition, this has largely not been the case across the Pacific Islands. However, we were excited to work with the Vanuatu Rowing Association, World Rowing Development Program, and Rowing Australia to support Antonio Bonke to compete at the World Rowing Junior Championships in Varese, Italy. Antonio had a fantastic experience and is now studying and playing Basketball at College in the USA.

We look forward to working with our MFs in the Pacific to regain the momentum in our sport development throughout 2023, especially through Indoor and Coastal Rowing. World Rowing and ORCON has been fortunate to have the support of Andrew Mackenzie over several years, most recently in a volunteer capacity with Vanuatu and American Samoa. Andrew relocated permanently back to Australia at the end of 2022, and we thank him for his contribution and efforts in assisting development in these MFs. We also wish to thank outgoing Rowing NZ CEO, Geoff Barry, who finished up in December. Geoff provided great support throughout the Commonwealth Games EOI process, and we have enjoyed a strong and collaborative relationship with him throughout his time in the role.

Focus for 2023

- Conduct site visits through Pacific Island nations - June 2023.
- Run a development Pilot Program for Coastal Rowing for two targeted MFs, targeting competing at the Oceania Championships - July 2023.
- Run the inaugural Oceania Coastal Rowing & Beach Sprints Championships - July 2023.
- Commence sport development programs in-country for targeted MFs in the Pacific Islands, which are focused on sustainability and capability building - July 2023.
- At least four MFs competing at the WRCC and WRBSF - September/October 2023.
- At least three MFs competing at the WRCH - September 2023.

- Re-engage two inactive MFs of World Rowing.
- Determine and target one new prospective MF for World Rowing.
- Establish relationships with potential funding partners in the region, including governments, NOCs, and NGOs.
- Review the statutes and Constitution for ORCON.
- Implement the newly developed Strategic Plan for ORCON.

Summary

The 2026 Commonwealth Games and 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games will provide an unprecedented opportunity for this region, as we leverage the event and funding runway over the next decade. The growth of Coastal and Indoor Rowing are gamechangers for the sport in this region, and we look forward to working with our partners in the region to reengage inactive MFs and continue development and growth in the active MFs across all disciplines of the sport.

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 2020

As a Co-Opted Council Member, my duties are to be involved in all World Rowing projects through the activities of the Council and to take an active role in the future of rowing and the sport. In 2022, the Olympic and Paralympic Games were successfully held, and we were able to see that COVID-19 was gradually coming to an end. Our priority was to make this the best year possible for our athletes, and we worked with many World Rowing members, MFs, NOCs, and community members. It has been a year of great experiences as we strive to promote the value of sports that can have an impact on society.

On 24 February 2022, after almost three years from the start of the COVID-19 crisis, a horrible attack was made in Ukraine.

As the Council of World Rowing, I believe that the most important thing is to prepare an environment in which athletes can perform best. Athletes act as ambassadors of their countries through sport. I wanted to provide a place where these ambassadors could be fully active, and we wanted to take care that they could demonstrate their best abilities.

In addition to World Rowing activities including the organisation of events, I actively collaborated and exchanged information with a variety of fields to contribute to sports activities and World Rowing and participated in meetings of various organisations.

At the same time, I was concerned about the contribution of sports to world peace. To increase Rowing's presence in society by making social contributions and to leverage the influence of sport on society to achieve a peaceful world. I thought it would also be a meaningful activity in terms of enhancing Rowing's social value.

• Cooperation with various parties (institutions)

Actively collaborating and exchanging information with World Rowing, IOC, NOC, MFs, and regional members, I worked to improve World Rowing's presence in the sports world and shared the challenges and future of Rowing. I also actively contacted service organisations with world peace in mind and participated in their activities myself.

• Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 Legacy

- Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 Summary and Review
- Start of Sea Forest Waterway
- Continued collaboration with World Rowing - IOC - NOC - MF

- Continued collaboration with relevant organisations in Japan (Government of Japan and Tokyo Metropolitan Government), other countries (NOC), and other sports (NF)
- Collection of information on World Masters Games (in cooperation with OC and IMGA)
- Collection of information on 2026 Asian Games
- Organisation and examination of each issue to achieve World Rowing's stated goals
 - World Rowing Marketing Program
 - Governance and Sport Integrity
 - Support of the Continental Director
 - Examining the Importance of DEI in Rowing

Focus for 2023

The social environment surrounding sports and the Olympic and Paralympic Games is changing dramatically. COVID-19 has significantly changed our mindset and our online activities have taken root. Then, a tragic conflict with violence broke out.

We need to urgently aim for world peace through sports and the creation of a society in which all people of the world can live safely and securely. The sight of athletes giving their best performance in competition and deepening mutual respect and friendship has the power to transmit the unchanging appeal and excellence of sports. In this sense, we believe that sports have great value.

Diversity, continuity, and environmental issues related to sports will become even more present in the future. These are important for the future of Rowing as well.

The year 2023 will be a year in which the sport and Rowing stakeholders will move forward in unison toward 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris.. At the same time, I believe that this will be a year of promoting contributions to world peace through Rowing and sports in general.

The relationship with the IOC needs to be further strengthened as 2020Tokyo is only a passing point and a start toward 2024 and 2028. Furthermore, the legacy, facilities, and content of 2020Tokyo will all be valuable assets for both the host city Tokyo and World Rowing. We must examine the issues and challenges before 2020Tokyo and apply them to the future operation of World Rowing, while further revitalizing Rowing.

- Aiming for world peace through rowing
- Legacy of Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020
- Preparation for Paris2024
- Cooperation with World Rowing, IOC, NOC, MF, and OCA
- Implementation and utilization of Sea Forest Water way
- Developing and fostering Rowing in the Asian region

With world peace as our top priority, we will continue to work towards increasing the presence of sports and rowing, environmental initiatives, and the creation of an attractive development of rowing.

Summary

The key issue for 2023 is to move forward as a united sports community toward 2024 Paris. I believe that it is necessary to create an environment where athletes from all over the world can perform at their best, "faster, higher, and stronger" in their respective sports with all their might and courage, aiming for 2024 Paris.

I also believe that the unity of people involved in sports who pursue the same goal has the power to contribute to the goal of world peace. For this purpose, it is important to first strive to improve the value of the sport including Rowing. We hope that the courage, dream, and hope that the athletes bring to people around the world will be a light that illuminates the path to peace.

In rowing, we need to raise awareness of Athletes First and enhance the value of the sport through collaboration with World Rowing members and MF.

Through rowing, I hope to educate society about Olympism and contribute to the creation of a society where people can embrace the joy of living in peace and abundance through sports.

I believe that 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics will bring a new ray of hope to humanity. For the sake of world peace and the future of Rowing, I strongly wish that the Rowing family around the world will work together to become an even more Perfect Accord.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the World Rowing Staff, Council, Executive Committee, all Commission members, stakeholders, and MFs for supporting World Rowing.

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.

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

Key activities and achievements in 2022

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

In 2022, after intensive preparation and planning we held the first ever Athletes Commission Election at the World Rowing Championships in Racice, Czech Republic and at the Coastal Rowing Championships in Saundersfoot, Great Britain. With a very good participation, the athletes elected their representatives.

Following the elections, the Council confirmed the appointed members after the recommendation of the election and appointment working group. On the safeguarding advisory group, we initiated ASOIF research cooperation on the prevalence of harassment and abuse in high performance sport. Rowing will be one of the five sports who will pilot the project.

In 2022 I was reappointed to the IOC Medical Commission. In this role, I was involved in the evolution of the guidelines for inclusion and Coauthor of a paper submitted to the British Journal of Sports Medicine. "Position Statement: IOC Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sex Variations".

I attended the annual in person meeting with the WADA HMR committee. Here we discussed the new prohibited list, research grant was appointed and we initiated a strategy forward to use the research grants as efficient as possible.

Focus for 2023

One goal for 2023 is to revisit the procedures on the election and appointment process of the AC and make amendments drawing from the experience in 2022. I look forward to continuing to advise World Rowing on safeguarding with the safeguarding group and reinstate our training and education programs. One of the major challenges will be the research

project and the interpretation of the data, which will help us to install robust measures against harassment and abuse and assist with education.

Together with the Athletes Commission, we also would like to organise initiatives around mental health.

I am pleased to continue to be a part of the World Rowing Council and I am 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.

AFRICAN ROWING FEDERATION – FASA

Khaled Zein Eldin, President

Key activities and achievements in 2022

With the fantastic and valuable support of World Rowing Development team, considerable number of activities were realised in 2022, at all levels, across all Africa regions.

National Development Activities

There are 4 ongoing DNSS, in Namibia, Nigeria, Togo, and Lesotho.

- Namibia - Development of National Sport System, June 2022 ongoing
- Nigeria - Development of National Sport System, working on boat shipment
- Togo - Development of National Sport System – working on boat collection
- Lesotho - Development of National Sport System - boat donation has been made last year

Continental and regional activities

Many regional activities were realised

- L1 Para Rowing Coaching Course & Tunis lake International Regatta, which was held from 15 - 20 March in Tunisia, 5 NF participated KEN, LBA, NGR, SUD, TUN, 4 athletes (3 M, 1 F) 17 Coaches (13 M, 4 F) took part.
- African Rowing Championships and Development Training camp was held in EGY from 14-18th December 2022, 9 African countries took part in this event, ALG, TUN, MAR, LBA, EGY, SUD, SOM, CIV, TOG with a total of 32 athletes, 21 Male and 11 Female.
- A Successful and very well-organised Africa Beach Sprint Championships took in place in Tunisia, 27-30 October 10 NF Participated in this event, ALG, MAR, TUN, EGY, RSA, CIV, UGA, LBA, TOG, SUD.
- Prior to the above-mentioned event, a Coach Educator, L1 Coastal Course, Training Camp, 6 NFs participated MAR, TUN, RSA, CIV, UGA, LBA, 15 athletes (8 M, 7 F) 13 coaches (7 M, 6 F)
- In December 2022 Namibia hosted the Commonwealth Beach Games, a Coach Educator, L1 Coastal Course, Training Camp and Commonwealth RA Beach Sprint Championships was organised, 27 November 4 December Namibia - 12 NFs Took part

World activities

At world level, the African teams took part at all World Rowing events, some of them did very well.

- **Memorial Paolo d'Aloja, Piediluco** - a training camp for African nations was organised: 6 countries participated BEN, CIV, NAM, MAR, TUN, ZIM (4 athletes Male and 4 Female, 4 male coaches)

- **Gavirate Para Rowing Regatta** - 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)
- Development Training Camp and World U23 and U19 Championships - Varese, ITA 21-31 July 2022. 5 NFs participated ALG, MAR, EGY, TUN, ZIM, with a total of 12 athletes (3 M, 9 F) and 6 Coaches (4 M, 2 F)
- Development Training Camp - World Rowing Championships - Racice, CZE 14-25 September 2022 6 NFs participated CIV, RSA, ZIM, TUN, EGY, ALG, with a total of 20 athletes (13+2 M, 5 F) and 8 Coaches (6+1 M, 1 F)
- World Beach Sprint Championships - Wales, GBR 14-18 October 3 NFs participated EGY, MAR, TUN, 10 athletes (5 M, 5 F), 4 Coaches (2 M, 2 F)

FASA Ordinary and Elective General Assembly:

The 2022 FASA Ordinary and Elective General Assembly took place in Egypt and virtually, on the 17th of December. 24 NFs attended in Person and Virtually.

This General Assembly was my last one as president of FASA, after 30 year of serving FASA I decided to handover the African rowing Confederation to the new generation.

I believe that we accomplished good things during this time, we started with 5 MFs, they are 35 now.

Thank you for all who contributed to the development of rowing in Africa, especially World Rowing development team.

Focus for 2023

We trust the new team to carry on the same direction to develop our sport in the African continent, with the usual key objective, they are as follow:

- Organise successfully the different Continental events
 - The Continental Olympic Games Qualification Regatta – October 2023 TBC
 - The African Championships Egypt October 2023
 - The African Indoor rowing Virtual championships, TBC
 - The 15th Tunis lake International regatta, March 2023
- 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, date and location tbc
 - The African Beach Games, Tunisia, 2023
 - The African Games, Ghana, 2023, Postponed to March 2024

- Assist the African NFs, Athletes and coaches to participate in the international and continental championships (via OS)
- Development, training and education (coaches, umpires – face to face / virtually)
- Support important initiatives for continental education and information dissemination, ensuring members have access to best practice on safeguarding, anti-doping, prevention of manipulation of competition
- Promote coaching support to new nations through the continental coach educators
- Work with the World Rowing and FASA Umpiring commission to deliver umpiring education
- Assist on the Review process of the FASA Statutes
- Assist on the Organisation of the FASA Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assembly 2023, date and location TBC
- 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
- Organise a successful continental and regional championships, in Classic, Coastal, Para, and Indoor rowing

AMERICAS ROWING CONFEDERATION (COPARE)

Fernando Ucha Martinez (URU), President

As in much of 2021, 2022 was a year of intense preparation work for Important Events that would be held in 2023. The Pre-Pan American in Concepción, Chile, the Qualifier for the World Beach Games in Bali, to be held in the Coastal modality in Lima, together with the Coastal America Cup, the El Salvador 2023 Central American and Caribbean Games, and finally the Santiago 2023 Pan American Games.

The Qualification Regattas for the Central American and Caribbean Games were held in Mexico City in August 2022, under the auspices of the Mexican Rowing Federation and CONADE. The event was a success and 14 countries took part of it.

In the month of October, the Odesur Games were held in Asunción, Paraguay, with the presence of all the countries of South America.

2022 was a year of intense organization and coordination work, for 2023 that will be historic for rowing in America.

We hope to continue working together with World Rowing as always, for the improvement and growth of our sport.

EUROPEAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (ERC)

Annamarie Phelps (GBR), President

European Rowing is the confederation of national rowing federations of Europe affiliated to World Rowing. It comprises 46 member federations, including Israel and Gibraltar and also has the capacity to add Member Groupings. European Rowing is managed by the European Rowing Board (ERB) comprising seven elected members, three of whom are nominated by World Rowing.

European Rowing's stated mission is 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 member federations to work together for the sustainable future of our sport.

Key activities and achievements in 2022

At the annual General Assembly in Munich (GER) a proposal to include the PR3 Mix2x into future European Rowing Championships (ERCH) was adopted unanimously. Neville Tanzer (SUI) was elected to the ERB to replace Nebojsa Jevremovic in 2023. Jevremovic had served on the European Rowing Management Board, later the ERB, since the reinstatement of the European Rowing Championships in 2007 and has been a key contributor to the evolution of the European Rowing events and to the foundation of the ERC in 2018. His long-term commitment to European rowing over the last 16 years was praised and recognised.

An Extraordinary General Assembly was convened in September at the World Rowing Championships in Radice (CZE), to attribute future European Rowing Events after the World Rowing SEAP process was completed and to update the ERC Constitution and Rules to better align with changes to the World Rowing Statutes and Rules and reflect current work of the ERB.

Alongside the impact of the war in Ukraine on its team, the suspension of athletes from Russia and Belarus and the withdrawal of events from these countries in line with IOC guidance, necessitated a re-attribution process be put in place for ERU23CH 2023 and ERU19CH 2024. In addition, 2022 continued to be affected by the pandemic, in particular uncertainty related to travel restrictions. As a result, both the European Rowing Indoor Championships and the annual President's Meeting were cancelled. However, European Rowing and its members successfully delivered four well-attended on-water Championship events, including the first European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships and the second edition of the multi-sport European Championships. Sincere thanks go to the local organising committees, World Rowing staff, the European Championships Management and all the volunteers who helped deliver our events and, in particular, our Member Federations for their support and engagement throughout a challenging period.

- **The European Rowing Championships (ERCH)** were again included into the quadrennial European Championships, this time hosted by the City of Munich (GER) to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the 1972 Olympic Games. Alongside rowing the 11-day event comprised 8 other sports: athletics, cycling, sport-climbing, gymnastics, triathlon, canoeing, table tennis and beach volleyball and included an extensive cultural and music festival. The ERCH took place at the iconic Oberschleissheim Regatta Course, 6 kilometres from the city centre, whilst the Nations Dinner after the General Assembly was held in the 1972 athletics stadium in Olympic Park.

23 medal events were included in the ERCH programme including, for the third time, four para-rowing disciplines, represented by 11 member federations. Overall, 33 member federations participated with 193 crews and a total of 508 athletes. As with the 2018 edition in Glasgow the bundling of multiple sport rights, whilst not without its logistical challenges, provides an extremely positive and attractive event to be involved in. The Munich edition attracted a high level of media interest and over 30 international media outlets were present at the regatta venue on semi-finals and finals days. Ticket sales were disappointing early in the week for the heats but the grandstand seating sold out at the weekend, with over 10,000 tickets sold in total.

- **The European U23 Championships** were hosted in **Hazewinkel (BEL)** in September. Water conditions were excellent for racing. Thirty member federations competed in 22 medal events and, with 153 crews and 395 athletes, participation was almost back to pre-pandemic levels. A food festival alongside the course added interest for participants and helped boost casual spectator numbers.
- **The European U19 Championships** were hosted in **Varese (ITA)** and our many thanks go to the Organising Committee who were able to step in, following the withdrawal of Sabaudia, only 60 days before the event opened. The 13 medal events attracted entries from 27 member federations. With 118 crews (386 athletes) participating this was the lowest entry, since the event started in 2011 and no entries were received for the women's coxed four. As the first event to take place in early May entries were impacted by ongoing restrictions on travel, competition and training in some parts of Europe.
- The inaugural **European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships, San Sebastián (ESP)**.

San Sebastián provided a superb city centre venue on the Donostia coast and attracted good entries from across 24 nations. The event was livestreamed across three competition days. Ten medal events were held in Endurance disciplines,

with 54 crews representing 17 member federations. 137 European club crews raced from 18 nations. In the six Beach Sprint medal events 72 crews represented 19 member federations at senior and U19 level. The ERB were delighted to facilitate a site visit by an ANOC representative considering the inclusion Beach Sprints at the Beach Games in Bali in 2023. The host nation Spain topped the medal table in both Endurance and Beach Sprint events.

The ERCBSCH built on the two earlier editions of the European Rowing Coastal Challenge in 2020 and 2021 which had been excellent test events, hosted by Donoratico (ITA) with extensive support from Filippi. The ERB are considering the continental calendar and the timing of any future ERCC events.

In terms of gender representation in classic rowing ERCH 2022 saw the most balanced athlete numbers and crews to date. 44.5% crews entered were female as were a record 47% of athletes, bringing the ERCH closer to parity than ever before. In the age categories the ERU19CH has seen the ratio of female to male athletes worsen during the pandemic to hover around 37:63 at the last three editions. In contrast the 2022 ERU23CH event saw the best ever balance of entries with female crews making up a record 42% of entries, albeit in smaller boats, with female athlete representation at 38.5%. The inaugural European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships events delivered the most gender equal events yet, with 48% of Beach sprint athletes being female and 52% male; in the member federation endurance events the ratio was exactly 50/50 and in the club endurance events 55% were male and 46% female.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank all my colleagues on the European Rowing Board for their time, commitment, and boundless enthusiasm for managing the challenges and embracing opportunities throughout the year.

2022 Board members

Annamarie Phelps (GBR) President
Patrick Rombaut (BEL) Vice President
Eva Szanto (HUN) Secretary
Asuncion Lorient Perez (ESP)
Algirdas Raslanas (LTU)
Nebojsa Jevremovic (SRB)
Dušan Macháček (CZE)

OCEANIA ROWING CONFEDERATION (ORCON)

Lee Spear (NZL), Chair

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

Membership of ORCON is open to all national rowing federations in Oceania that are members of World Rowing, that are members of their respective national Olympic association and who 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 possible to travel between the Pacific Islands.

ORCON has recently undertaken a review of its strategic goals to ensure that it is relevant to the needs of the member federations in Oceania and that the structure is also supportive of the objectives of ORCON. The implementation of that strategic plan is still at an early stage but will be advanced in 2023

ARAB ROWING FEDERATION (FAA)

Khaled Zein Eldin, President

FAA currently has 17 member federations as members and held the 12th 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 Arab athletes, working in collaboration with World Rowing and the continental/regional association, and encouraging the establishment of the Arab Championships.

Key activities and achievements in 2022

The Extraordinary Assembly was held in Egypt on 25 March 2022 to modify some articles of the FAA statutes. 10 countries attended the Assembly (SUD, BAH, KWI, TUN, LIB, MAR, ALG, UAE, QAT, JOR).

The Ordinary Assembly was held in Egypt on 27 May 2022 to elect the new board directors for the 2022 – 2026 period. 10 countries attended the Assembly (SUD, BAH, KWI, TUN, LIB, MAR, ALG, UAE, QAT, JOR).

Focus for 2023

FAA greatest challenge in the coming years will be to further promote and develop Arabian rowing.

Main goals:

- Working hard to implement the 2023 Agenda and the realisation of World Rowing strategy.
- Trying to help the Arab National Federations to participate in the international championships as we must help with lodging and boats and attending the World Rowing Congress to have an influential role in the decisions that are taken.
- Encourage indoor rowing and beach sprint rowing in the Arab Countries who don't have a regatta course.

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

Dorin Alupe, Secretary General

The Balkan Rowing Association (BRA) is a European regional association for rowing in the Balkan Peninsula founded in 1973 in Athens, Greece. Member federations: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Croatia (admitted in 2022). The Balkan Rowing Association aims to develop and promote all forms of rowing sport, to improve relations between Member Federations and Balkan countries, and to organize the Balkan Rowing Championships each year. Each member federation hosts the Balkan Rowing Championships by rotation and holds the presidency of the association for the following year. The Balkan Rowing Association is a non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers. Balkan Rowing Championships are generally held on the second weekend of September each year. An Ordinary Congress of the Association is held every year during the Balkan Championships. BRA Statutes and rules of racing are based on World Rowing rules and all Member Federations shall be Member of World Rowing.

Key activities & achievements in 2022

For the second time after 14 years, the 2022 Balkan Rowing Championships were held in Visegrad-Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a short period of time, the Bosnia and Herzegovina rowing federation had to set up all facilities, venues, and accommodations to host over 350 guests. Local authorities played an important role in the success of the 2022 Balkan Rowing Championships. Medals have been shared among the participants of all teams.

The 2022 Ordinary Congress of Balkan Rowing Association decided:

- The 2023 Balkan Rowing Championships will be held in Panteleimon, Romania on the brand-new regatta venue.
- For a period of one year until the 2023 Balkan Rowing Championships, Mrs. Elisabeta Lipa, the President of the Romanian Rowing Federation, has been elected as the new President of the Balkan Rowing Association.

COMMONWEALTH ROWING ASSOCIATION (CRA)

Peter Cookson (CAN), President

Grouping of Member Federations

The Commonwealth Rowing Association (CRA) 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 2022

The year 2022 was an exciting year for the Commonwealth Rowing Association.

In October, it was announced that Coastal Beach Sprints Rowing will be on the program for the 2026 Commonwealth Games to be held in the State of Victoria, Australia. This is the first time the sport of rowing has been included in the Commonwealth Games since 1986 and the first time ever for the Beach Sprints format.

In December, the Commonwealth Rowing Association Beach Sprints Championship was held in Walvis Bay, Namibia. The event was well attended with 12 Commonwealth Nations competing from across the Commonwealth Games regions of the Caribbean, the Americas, Africa, Oceania and Europe. New relationships were forged between competing nations and the first steps taken towards a collaborative approach to developing the Beach Sprints format.

Thanks to the support of the World Rowing Development team, and Olympic Solidarity, a Level I Coastal Coach Development Course and National Technical Officials training were held in Namibia prior to the start of the event. The Development team's guidance was also invaluable in setting up the Championship. Congratulations and thanks should go to our excellent hosts – the Namibia Canoe and Rowing Federation, the Namibia Olympic and Commonwealth Committee, the Namibian Navy and the Municipality of Walvis Bay – who worked tirelessly to deliver an excellent event.

In 2022, the CRA welcomed Mauritius to the membership of the Association. This brings the total membership of the CRA to 36 members: Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, England, Fiji, Ghana, Gibraltar, India, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Kiribati, Malta, Mauritius, 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.

With sadness we must report that the Commonwealth Rowing Association lost our Secretary-General, Christa Diekmann of Namibia, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Christa was a wonderful leader for the CRA and was the

driving force behind Namibia's hosting of the successful 2022 Commonwealth Rowing Association's Beach Sprints Championship.

The CRA held a successful Annual General Meeting in December, 2022, in Swakopmund, Namibia with members who were present for the Championship attending in person other members joining virtually. An election was held for two Executive Member positions.

COUPE DE LA JEUNESSE – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT TO WORLD ROWING Gary Harris, President

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

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.

Key activities and achievements in 2022

At the Ordinary General Assembly held in February 2022 in Castelo de Mino, the President, Gary Harris, was re-elected to serve a further four year term in this office.

- **Coupe de la Jeunesse 2022** - The Coupe de la Jeunesse 2022 was held at Castelo de Mino near Ourense in Galicia, Spain over the weekend of 5th to 7th August. The Coupe in Castelo de Mino took place during a period of very high temperatures which was a matter of concern for the Organising Committee. In the event, this caused some problems for a few athletes on Sunday only. Throughout the weekend the water conditions were benign, and the Match ran smoothly, providing some close and exciting racing. The youth rowers performed very well and enjoyed their experience of international rowing. Great Britain won the overall team prize of the Coupe de la Jeunesse Trophy. The Federacion Espanola de Remo and the local Organising Committee together have provided an excellent example of how the Coupe de la Jeunesse can aid the development of international rowing. They used the event to secure the investment for an impressive new start pontoon and tower and the new Organising Committee gained invaluable experience which can be applied to future events. On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Members of the Coupe de la Jeunesse I congratulate the Federacion Espanola de Remo and the Organising Committee on their success as host of the 2023 Coupe.
- **2022 General Assembly** - The members of the Coupe agreed in principle to institute an annual Coupe Beach Sprint Match. The Executive Committee was asked to prepare the Constitutional changes necessary for agreement at the February 2023 meeting in Amsterdam. The Italian Federation indicated a desire to host the inaugural Coupe Beach Sprint Match in September, 2023

at Donoratico, Tuscany. Attribution of the Beach Sprint Match in 2023 to be decided at the February 2023 meeting in Amsterdam. Bas Labordas (NED), Technical Advisor (logistics and services) stepped down from the role at the end of his final term in the post. Bas has been a member of the Executive Committee since 2007 and worked as a volunteer before he joined the Executive Committee. He has given valuable service to the Coupe for nearly twenty years. Like so many supporters and volunteers helping the Coupe he rowed at the Coupe before generously committing his time and expertise to the event as a volunteer. Michael Zwahlen (SUI) was elected to the post of Technical Advisor vacated by Bas Labordas. The 2024 Coupe de la Jeunesse was attributed to Racice (CZE).

Future Events

A. Coupe de la Jeunesse

1. 28 – 30.7.2023 Amsterdam (NED)
2. 2024 Racice (CZE)

B. Coupe Beach Sprint Match

1. 23.9.2023 Donoratico (ITA)

SOUTH AMERICAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (CSAR)

Raul Poletti, President

Grouping of Member Federations

CSAR was founded 28 July 1945 and was recognised by FISA on 11 January 2013. On 2 October 2017, CSAR was recognised as a Member Grouping of FISA (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.

Events

The sporting activity in 2022 began in March with the South American Junior, Sub 23 and Para Rowing Championship in the city of Porto Alegre - Brazil - carrying out 27 tests. The Championship was awarded to Argentina for being the country with most first places obtained. The Ordinary Congress of the Confederation approved the inclusion of more women's competitions. Moreover, a strategic alliance was established with the Club Gremio Náutico Urúao -headquarters of the competitions- to carry out future development and training events. Also, the Rotary Club of the City supported the Para Rowing events as it happened in Asunción 2021.

The XIX Bolivarian Games of Valledupar, Colombia, in July 2022 had rowing as the protagonist in the City of Chimichagua, holding short rowing competitions and, for the first time, official mixed events with the invaluable collaboration of the Federations of Colombia and Peru in the provision of the boats. The competition was won by Chile.

In Asunción, Republic of Paraguay, the XII Absolute South American Games took place in October with an excellent regatta field in front of the City. 14 tests were carried out, being Uruguay the winner.

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Introduction

World Rowing has been fortunate to operate mostly free of COVID-19 constraints and as a result, most 2022 events were delivered under normal circumstances. The only notable exception was the 2022 World Rowing Indoor Championships (WRICH) early in the year, which had to be staged as a fully virtual competition despite initial plans to host the event in Munich. Overall, no significant negative financial impact is to be reported.

Financial Result

The financial result for 2022 – i.e. the operational result +/- financial income/expenses – was a loss of - CHF 858'817 due to the negative valuation of the securities portfolio at 31 December 2022 (- CHF 1'244'709).

With the stock and bond markets facing strong corrections throughout 2022 following economic uncertainty, high inflation and increasing interest rates, our investment portfolio was hit negatively with -6.6%, resulting in loss on the portfolio of CHF 1'244'709. Although disappointing, the -6.6% loss is relatively low compared to the general market correction as a result of a relative conservative portfolio.

The positive operational result of + 385'893 (operational income minus expenditures) was the result of strict cost control following uncertainty around the Tokyo Olympic Revenue and lower travel expenses for the first part of the year.

Income

The overall income for the year 2022 of CHF 7'448'233 is +12.5% higher than budgeted, essentially due to increased revenues from Events and the Strategic Event Attribution Process.

Expenses

Total expenditures for the year 2022 of CHF 7'062'340 are 6.6% higher than budgeted, as result of returning to a normal operational situation post COVID-19, particularly with regards to event management, logistics, communications, marketing and governance meetings.

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.

Conclusion

At the end of this accounting period, the reserves amounted to CHF 13,120,477. The coming years will require careful management of financial resources given increased requirements on governance and events, inflation which is driving up costs, and the uncertain economic environment which might further negatively affect the investment portfolio, whilst choosing the right investments to grow the sport and generate additional revenue.

FOUR YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN 2021-2024

(amounts in Swiss Francs)

	2021	2022		2023		2024
INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	4-YR BUDGET	FORECAST	4-YR BUDGET
Events Management	910,048	924,820	1,493,774	700,000	868,000	350,000
Events Marketing and TV	896,561	1,108,275	1,299,686	850,000	1,255,160	200,000
Development Programme	162,311	82,000	329,691	86,000	174,953	86,000
Marketing	130,935	130,000	180,339	200,000	15,000	80,000
Governance	510,114	126,750	144,743	100,000	122,000	100,000
Contribution from reserves	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
Finance	294,398	250,000		175,000		100,000
Total Income	6,904,367	6,621,845	7,448,233	6,111,000	6,435,113	4,916,000

	2021	2022		2023		2024
EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	4-YR BUDGET	FORECAST	4-YR BUDGET
Events Management	1,066,494	493,710	979,442	500,000	647,701	600,000
Events Logistics	484,762	487,098	592,611	800,000	686,300	600,000
Events Marketing and TV	814,527	1,247,598	859,850	500,000	1,103,500	350,000
Events Communications	45,150	61,000	60,976	50,000	77,350	45,000
Development Programme	347,679	398,150	509,413	400,000	560,642	400,000
Communications	176,268	165,561	154,225	150,000	161,646	150,000
Marketing	42,641	110,000	117,477	85,000	38,000	65,000
Governance	674,749	499,500	875,539	725,000	839,565	695,000
Administration & Finance	2,934,835	3,159,228	3,087,866	2,500,000	2,777,216	2,500,000
Total Expenditures	6,587,105	6,621,845	7,062,340	5,710,000	6,891,920	5,405,000

1st Result	317,261	0	385,894	401,000	-456,807	-489,000
Exchange rate loss	-4,202		-18,675			
Financial expenses			-156,384			
Portfolio CS gain/loss	335,011		-1,069,650			
Rounding			-1			
Result for the year	648,070	0	-858,817	401,000	-456,807	-489,000
2020 OG revenue, final payment from IOC			1,600,982			
TOTAL RESERVES	16,378,311		13,120,476		8,663,669	4,174,669