



**TO THE UMPIRES**

## **WORLD ROWING UMPIRES NEWSLETTER**

Dear Umpiring Friends, welcome to the latest World Rowing Umpires Newsletter.

After a short "winter break" (depending where you are living) we are at the eve of the first major 2024 World Rowing event: the World Rowing Indoor Championships, presented by Concept 2, in Prague, again following the "hybrid" concept, mixing the in-person participants with those participating virtually from their country.

2023 ended with a WR Umpires exam and seminar in Gent (Belgium), resulting in a total of 25 new WR Umpiring colleagues (11 women, 14 men), representing 12 member federations and the five continents. Our in-person and virtual WR Umpires Seminars also organised in the 5 continents, 15 in total, were well attended by more than 200 persons. Besides that, and thanks to Kris and Nick in particular, dozens of umpiring colleagues attended the online clinics in a 6-session format.

Unfortunately, 10 colleagues have retired at the end of 2023 (from them 8 reaching the age limit). Our renewed "Thank You" to them for their collegiality and support. Our special thoughts go to Gerhard Meyboden, who passed away in 2023.

Undoubtedly 2024 will be highlighted by our Olympic and Paralympic Rowing activities. However, we should stay concentrated on the education and the training of the umpires already in place and the future generations. Our commission will stay focused on this, looking at a number of ways and opportunities to do so. We cannot neglect the fact that there are new "formats" of rowing which are rising will need more detailed rules and specialised juries.

Beside that we must reflect about the required knowledge we expect from our umpires, depending on the 'level' of the international competition, the format and the regional development of our sport.

2025 will bring the Quadrennial Congress which provides the opportunity for the international rowing family to revise and update our Rules of Racing. As you could read in an earlier newsletter, a number of umpires have been selected to be part of the World Rowing Rules Working Group. The upcoming months will be very busy for them as in a proactive way all ideas, proposals and comments regarding our Rules need to be collected, evaluated, discussed and if appropriate included in the documents to be proposed to the 2025 winter/spring Congress. Consequently, I want to reiterate, also to the individual umpires, their national umpires panel and their national member federation, our request for proposals. The deadline for any proposals is July 31, 2024, which allows us to prepare for the agenda papers which must be sent out 4 months before the Congress.

Finally, I want to thank all involved – umpires, organising committees, WR Council and Commission colleagues and staff members and last but not least my WR Umpiring Commission colleagues – for their continuous contribution towards our fantastic international rowing community.

I wish you, once more, an excellent (inter)national 2024 rowing season.

On behalf of the WR Umpiring Commission,  
Patrick ROMBAUT



## OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC QUALIFICATION

As an update at the beginning of this Olympic and Paralympic year we thought that we would spend a few words updating our previous article about the Olympic and Paralympic Qualification systems for the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. [Click here](#) to read the full article.



## PRACTICAL RULES

In this section, we will provide you with some practical rules with regards to objection and interference, with a practical case. Please watch the related video (click on the thumbnail to start the video) and then think about the questions that are highlighted in the document. How would you make your decision in this specific case?

[Click here](#) to access the Practical Rules.

## UMPIRE UPDATES



**Remembering NG See Hung.** Aged 65, lic.n° 1399, NG See Hung made his exam in 1999 in Naganuma (JPN) and was active as ITO at 2 WRU19CH (2006 Amsterdam - 2009 Brive-la Gaillarde), 2 WRCH (2010 Lake Karapiro–2016 Rotterdam), 1 OG (2012 London), 1 WRMR (2015 Hazewinkel) and 1 WRCCH (2018 Sydney (VIC), beside many international and continental events in Asia. He is remembered as a quiet, but very efficient colleague, always being a real team player and umpiring friend.

**Retirements.** As we go into 2024, we want to take a moment to recognize and say Thank You to the Umpires who retired in 2023 :

Mladen Marinovic, CRO ; Ivo Klemes, CZE ; jari Rantamaki, FIN ; Gary Painter, GBR ; Marios Zalamitsos, GRE; Tadashi GRUEDA, JPN ; Hubertine Hingstman-Dooren, NED ; Marta Dwolny-Marszalek, POL; Robert Appley, USA; Lyn Wylder, USA. Thank you for all of your service.



**New Umpires.** We welcome the following new World Rowing Umpires:

Yingzi SUN; CHN 1861 - Shanghai  
Guangwei GAO; CHN 1860 - Shanghai  
Yi ZHANG; CHN 1862 - Shanghai  
Hyunsoo CHOI; KOR 1863 - Shanghai  
Damjoo RYU; KOR 1864 - Shanghai  
Wonil YOON; KOR 1865 - Shanghai  
Kjelle FRANS; BEL 1866 - Gent  
Guillaume NOISET; BEL 1868 - Gent

Andre STRÖTTCHEN; GER 1869 - Gent

**Umpire Statistics.**

Number of WR Umpires on the Jan 1, 2024 : 492

Number of MF with Umpires : 67/159

Number of Female Umpires : 149 of 492 (30.3% up from 29.2%)

**Future Seminars and Exams.** Click [here](#) to find the dates of the future seminars and exams for umpires.



[Email World Rowing](#)

Tel: +41 21 6178373

