



# 2024 Ordinary Congress

Virtual

16 November 2024

**21. Specific proposals to an existing agenda item from the member federations, the Council or the Executive Committee**

# STRATEGIC EVENT & CALENDAR REASSESSMENT

## UPDATE



# A top strategic priority for World Rowing

## One overarching objective

Adapting to a fast-changing global environment:  
ensuring classic rowing events stay relevant,  
attractive, sustainable and commercially viable.

# Three main deliverables:

A revised programme  
for all World  
Championships;

1

An attractive sporting  
incentive scheme  
for the World Cups in  
this Olympic cycle and  
beyond;

2

A reshaped World  
Rowing Event Calendar,  
including a new World  
Cup Series.

3



# Global consultation & stakeholder engagement:



## Consultations and workshops in 2023-2024

- Core Project Group – online calls
- Key Stakeholder Group workshops
  - Online calls + in person meetings
    - Belgrade 2023 September, Lucerne and Poznan 2024
- Workshop with Organising Committees – Varese 2024
- Meeting with boat builders and service providers – Lucerne 2024
- Confederations and Continental Representatives - ongoing
- World Rowing Executive Committee & Council
- Inputs from World Rowing Commissions



## A revised programme for all World Championships – Rule 25 changes

- Ongoing consultation process – 2023-2024
- Presentation at the World Rowing 2024 Ordinary Congress
- MF feedback
- Council to finalise Rule 25 change proposal at beginning of January
- Approval at the 2025 Quadrennial Congress in March 2025
- Effective immediately in 2025

## A revised programme for all World Championships – Rule 25 changes

# How to change?

- To create a more attractive, more compact programme
- Stop having the poorly attended events at WRCH
- Strategic approach, answer the needs of the global rowing community and in line with the Olympic strategy
- Change for full Olympic cycle, inform MFs
- In anticipation of potential programme changes for LA2028
- Pathway

# Rule 25 - WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT PROGRAMME 2025-2028

## Proposal



Senior: 16 events + 1 mixed event (currently 20)  
U23: 16 events + 1 mixed event (currently 22)  
U19: 12 events + 1 mixed event (currently 14)  
Para: 5 events (currently 9)  
U23 Para: 2 events

Events proposed to be deleted:

Lightweight 2- (Senior M/W, U23 M/W)  
Lightweight 4x (Senior M/W, U23 M/W)  
JM/JW 4+

Doubling up opportunities





	1x	2x	2-	4x	4-	4+	8+
Senior Men (M)	M1x	M2x	M2-	M4x	M4-		M8+
Senior Women (W)	W1x	W2x	W2-	W4x	W4-		W8+
Senior Lightweight Men (LM)	LM1x	LM2x	<del>LM2-</del>	<del>LM4x</del>			
Senior Lightweight Women (LW)	LW1x	LW2x	<del>LW2-</del>	<del>LW4x</del>			
Senior Mixed (Mix)		Mix2x?		Mix4x?	Mix4-?		Mix8+?
Under 23 Men (BM)	BM1x	BM2x	BM2-	BM4x	BM4-	BM4+	BM8+
Under 23 Women (BW)	BW1x	BW2x	BW2-	BW4x	BW4-	BW4+	BW8+
Under 23 Lightweight Men (BLM)	BLM1x	BLM2x	<del>BLM2-</del>	<del>BLM4x</del>			
Under 23 Lightweight Women (BLW)	BLW1x	BLW2x	<del>BLW2-</del>	<del>BLW4x</del>			
Under 23 Mixed (BMix)		BMix2x?		BMix4x?	BMix4-?		BMix8+?
Under 19 Men (JM)	JM1x	JM2x	JM2-	JM4x	JM4-	JM4+	JM8+
Under 19 Women (JW)	JW1x	JW2x	JW2-	JW4x	JW4-	JW4+	JW8+
Under 19 Mixed (JMix)		JMix2x?		JMix4x?	JMix4-?		JMix8+?

Senior Para	PR1 M1x	PR1 W1x	PR2 M1x	PR2 W1x	PR2 Mi2x	PR3 M2-	PR3 W2-	PR3 Mix2	PR3 Mix4+
U23 Para	PR3 BM1x	PR3 BW1x							

# Progression system – Proposed changes



## Principles

- a. Ensure fairness to all: while currently the fastest rowers have the fewest races, the proposition would enable the least experienced or less well-trained rowers to focus on fewer 2k races.
- b. Reward performance and give maximum exposure to the fastest rowers.
- c. Propose an attractive programme where every round counts for more exciting racing.
- d. Design a shorter programme which
  - gives the potential for each event to have fewer rounds,
  - runs all rounds on consecutive days where everyone has raced the same number of races,
  - reduces the number of days for a World Championships,
  - enables doubling up (in line with the proposition for the new rule 25),
  - is cheaper for organisers, teams and makes it easier to find volunteers.

Give a finish order for all crews.

# Process



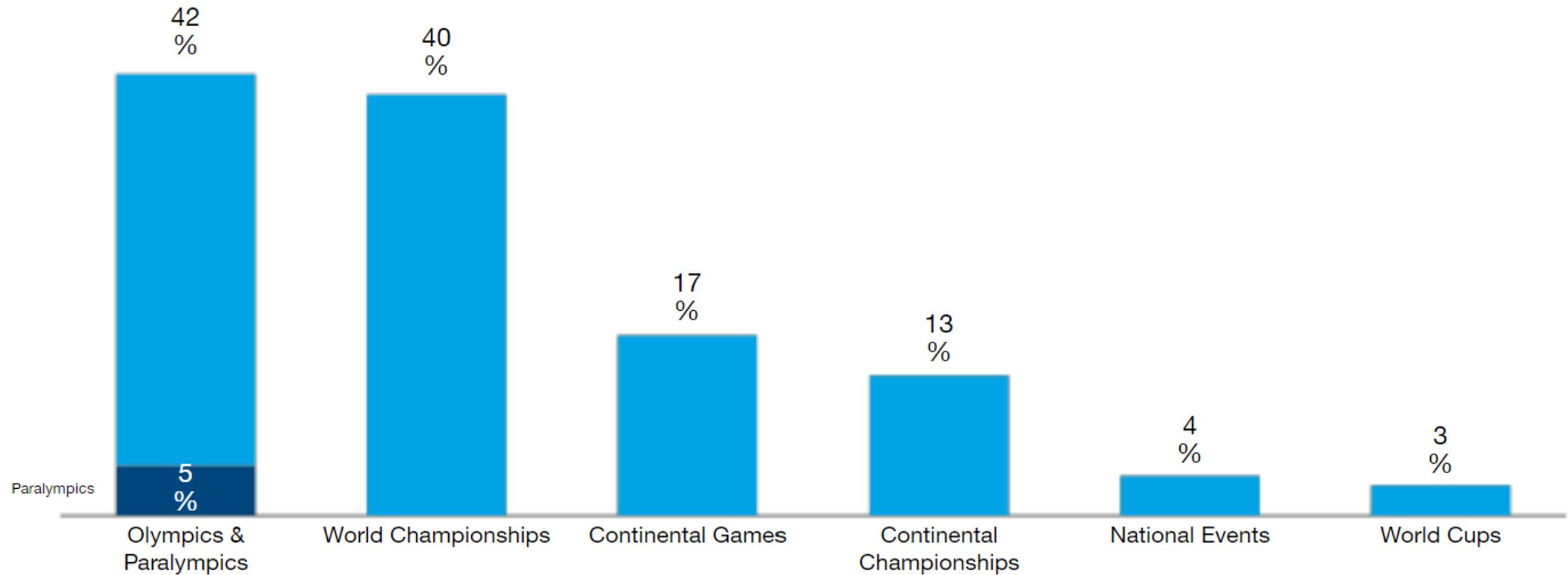


## **An attractive sporting incentive scheme for the World Cups**

- a) Pathway to the World Championships through the World Cups and Continental events**
- b) World Ranking System**

# EVENTS IMPORTANCE

What is the most important rowing event for your national team?



Q2. What is the most important rowing event for your national team?  
Type: Open-ended  
Sample: N=104

## a) World Rowing Cup Incentive Scheme



# Goal

- To create a pathway towards the WRCH participation
- To enhance participation in the World Cup regattas
- Include the continental events in the system
- Review approach to continental / regional participation

## a) World Rowing Ranking System



# Objective

- Maximise the interest throughout the Olympic Cycle by creating a connection between World Rowing Cups, World Rowing Championships and Olympic Games.

# World Rowing Ranking System



## Elements being considered

- how to develop the best algorithm with all aspects considered (crew boats vs single sculls; differentiation of various regattas; selecting the regattas (sanctioned events), where ranking points can be collected, etc.)
- whether it might be used as a qualification system for WRCH and Olympic Games,
- how it could create content and raise the public interest, whether it might be used for seeding

**RFP is being developed**

**MoU with potential technology partner**



## A reshaped World Rowing Event Calendar, including a new World Cup Series

- Draft plans for the event calendar based on inputs from the consultation process
- Explore the creation of new events
- Continue Core group, KSG and MF consultation
- Approval at the 2025 Ordinary Congress (September 2025)
- Effective for 2029-2032 cycle

# SECR Timeline & Next Steps

	2024								2025									
	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	
1- WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENT PROGRAMME / RULE 25	workshops		Working Group development									approval						
2- WRC INCENTIVE SCHEME & WORLD RANKING	workshops		Tender, commercial partnership, software development starts													presentation		
3- NEW CALENDAR & EVENTS 2029 ONWARDS	workshops		Continued KSG and stakeholder engagement, consultancy support, scenario development													approval		