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World Rowing Statutes and Related Bye-Laws

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PART I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 – Foundation, Name, Legal Status and Emblem

1. With the objective of encouraging the development of the sport of rowing and of strengthening the bonds of friendship that unite those who practise it, the Adriatic, Belgian, French, Italian and Swiss Federations founded the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron (FISA) on 25 June 1892, in Turin. FISA was the first international sport federation to be established, and rowing has been on the Olympic Programme since 1896, the first Olympic Games of the modern era. Para Rowing was integrated into the World Championships in 2002 and has been on the programme of the Paralympic Games since 2008.
2. FISA is a non-governmental, not-for-profit, international organisation constituted pursuant to Article 60 and following the Swiss Civil Code. It is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and it respects the Olympic Charter.
3. World Rowing is the designation used operationally by FISA. Any reference to or use of the designation “World Rowing” in this Rulebook shall apply equally to FISA, Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron.
4. The emblem of FISA is the five oars, side by side, which are, from left to right coloured blue, yellow, black, green and red with or without the letters F-I-S-A. The World Rowing Executive Committee (“Executive Committee”) may create additional emblems for specific goals, events or activities. Only the Executive Committee may authorise the use of the FISA emblems.

Article 2 – Governing Principles

World Rowing is the international governing body for rowing and is the world association of member rowing federations (“Member Federations”). World Rowing governs rowing and upholds the following principles, based on the traditions, values, vision and characteristics as one of the world’s longest practiced sports:

1. Integral Part of World Sport - World Rowing is committed to the goals and values of the Olympic and Paralympic Movements and is an active contributor to the world of sport in cooperation with the other international federations and world sports organisations. World Rowing supports and promotes international competition, the inclusion of rowing in multi-sport international competitions and representation on international sports bodies.
2. Independence & Autonomy - World Rowing endeavours to keep rowing free from political and commercial restraints and is committed to preserving the independence and autonomy of sport.
3. Priority to Rowers and Rowing - World Rowing will ensure that the safety, well-being, health and interests of rowers and rowing, present and future, is central in all decisions of World Rowing. World Rowing is committed to the development of the individual through rowing, and to respect, teamwork, integrity and fair play.
4. Integrity - World Rowing is committed to the highest ethical standards in all its activities. And to ensuring a safe, positive, respectful and inclusive environment, free from harassment and abuse. World Rowing is a recognised leader in the fight against doping and is committed to preventing the manipulation of competitions.

5. Fairness and Equality of Opportunity - World Rowing is committed to the principles of fairness and equality of opportunity, both in competition and at all levels of the organisation.
6. Non-Discrimination and inclusion - World Rowing is committed to diversity, inclusion, accessibility and non-discrimination; its activities are organised to promote positive interaction between participants and to contribute to a better understanding between people and nations.
7. The rights and freedoms embedded in these Statutes shall be secured without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. World Rowing seeks gender equality in all aspects of the sport. Sustainable Practices - World Rowing is committed to practising and promoting actions and interventions that respect and safeguard the communities and ecosystems where rowing is conducted for present and future generations. World Rowing integrates responsible and sustainable practices into its own operations and in the planning and staging of all its activities. It strives to educate the global rowing community on sustainability principles and to advocate for sound sustainability practices.
8. In fulfilling its missions, World Rowing works closely with government authorities and external partners with mutual respect of each other's jurisdiction and of autonomy of World Rowing.
9. World Rowing's governing principles are outlined in its strategic framework stating the missions and goals.

Article 3 - Objects

The objects of World Rowing are:

1. To establish and enforce World Rowing's Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;
2. To be the final authority for all international rowing competitions and, within the limits of its authority, at multi-sport competitions;
3. To preserve the integrity of rowing by ensuring fair sporting competitions, a safe environment and the protection of clean athletes;
4. To promote rowing in all its forms and encourage its universal development; establish development programmes, organise training courses, stage events and develop public relations and media opportunities;
5. To conduct World Rowing Championships, and other world-level rowing competitions, including those staged at Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic, regional, and continental Games and multi-sport competitions. World Rowing may support rowing events at all levels for its recognised organisations.

Article 4 – No Demonstrations or Propaganda Article 4 – No Demonstrations or Propaganda

No demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any rowing venue or in connection with any rowing activity by those persons and parties as described in Article 56 point 1 to 5, in any capacity at a World Rowing event except as permitted by the Article 4 Guidelines. The Executive Committee shall adopt Article 4 Guidelines to provide details on the implementation of this principle, such guidelines to be regularly reviewed.

Article 5 – Headquarters

The location of the World Rowing headquarters is decided by the World Rowing Council ("Council")

Bye-Laws to Article 5 – Headquarters

The headquarters are currently in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article 6 – Languages

The official languages of World Rowing are French and English. In case of divergence, the English text prevails. The use of other languages may be authorised by the Executive Committee in Congress or by the chair of the meeting on other occasions.

Article 7 – Official communication

Any communications required under these Statutes or Rules shall be made by post, email or other electronic means. All communications to World Rowing shall be addressed to the headquarters in one of the official languages.

Article 8 – Interpretation

The Executive Committee shall decide all questions of interpretation of the World Rowing Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations. All references to the masculine in the Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations and in all World Rowing documents, shall include the feminine and all references to “rowers” shall include scullers and coxswains unless the context otherwise requires.

Article 9 – Binding Authority

World Rowing is bound by the signatures of two members of the Executive Committee, one of whom shall be the President. If the President is not able to sign, the President’s right shall pass first to the Vice President and, second, to the Treasurer. World Rowing’s chart of authority and delegated authority policy outlines the legal responsibility of the decision-making powers within World Rowing.

PART II - MEMBERSHIP

Article 10 – Members

A Member Federation shall be the rowing federation that is recognised by its National Olympic Committee and covers the territory of a country that is recognised as such and as an independent state by the international community. It will, in principle, include the majority of a nation’s active rowing clubs of any discipline. Where local laws or governance requires International Federation (IF) recognition before National Olympic Committee (NOC) recognition, World Rowing may recommend a new Member Federation to the Congress subject to subsequent recognition by the NOC within an agreed timeframe. Member Federations that were affiliated before 25 January 1993 are exempted from this Article.

Bye-Laws to Article 10 - Challenges to a Member Federation’s Eligibility (Appendix S1)

Article 11 – Autonomy of Member Federations

A Member Federation shall be autonomous. It shall be organised and governed in accordance with its Statutes following the IOC Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance (BUPGG)- Appendix S11c. If World Rowing determines these principles are being compromised, it may take any appropriate measures. World Rowing shall otherwise respect the autonomy of Member Federations.

Article 12 – Rights of Member Federations

Member Federations have the following rights:

1. To appoint delegates to take part and vote in Congress and other general meetings open to Member Federations;
2. To submit proposals for inclusion in the agenda of Congress;
3. To nominate candidates for election or appointment within World Rowing;
4. To enter athletes for participation in competitions organised under the authority of World Rowing; and
5. To exercise all other rights arising from these Statutes and other World Rowing Regulations.

Member Federations have no responsibility for any financial liabilities of World Rowing.

Article 13 – Obligations of Member Federations

Member Federations have the following obligations:

1. To abide by and comply fully at all times with:

1.1 All duties and provisions of the World Rowing Statutes, Rules, Bye-Laws and Regulations, including but not limited to:

- a) The World Anti-Doping Code;
- b) The World Rowing Safeguarding Policy and any supplementary guidance issued by World Rowing;
- c) The responsible organisation and management of activities with due regard to safety and safety guidance, policies or similar advice issued by World Rowing or other relevant safety advisory or regulatory bodies.

1.2 All decisions taken by World Rowing.

2. To accept as binding and final the decisions of the competent authorities within World Rowing and to recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne as the only possible external judicial authority;

3. To impose the obligations in paragraphs 1 and 2 upon its affiliated clubs and their members in all those areas in which World Rowing has authority;

4. To be governed by statutes that are consistent with Article 14.2.2.a, to be recognised as a member by their NOC, and to have the Member Federation president and executive board elections validated and recognised by their NOC;

5. To notify the Executive Committee immediately of any material change made to its statutes, change of president and/or secretary general, its address and contact details, or of any other elements which affect its ability to fulfil its membership obligations, and to confirm that any such change does not negatively affect the Member Federation's compliance with the requirements of World Rowing membership;

6. In the event that a change in the registered design or the colours of its racing uniform or blades is desired, to make a request to the Executive Committee at least three months prior to the first proposed use in competition;

7. To manage their affairs in accordance with Article 11 – Autonomy of Member Federations; and

8. To pay an annual subscription no later than 31 March of each year. The amount of the subscription shall be determined each year in advance by the Congress.

9. The most recent version of the Member Federation's statutes shall be available to its legal constituents and World Rowing at all times, and a copy shall be provided to World Rowing on request.

Bye-Laws to Article 13 – Subscriptions

1. Member Federations in their first two years of membership shall pay no subscription. Member Federations who are exempt from paying a subscription are not in arrears of payment and they have their full voting rights.
2. The amount of the subscription payable by each Member Federation shall be determined by reference to its level of participation in major events during the previous four-year Olympic period in a formula proposed by Council for approval at the Congress.
3. The Executive Committee may waive past due subscriptions of inactive Member Federations.

Article 14 – Admission to Membership

1. To become a member of World Rowing, a rowing federation shall submit a written application to the Executive Committee at least three months before the date of the next Congress and pay a registration fee of an amount set by the Executive Committee. A new member is admitted by a vote of Congress, based on a recommendation from Council.
2. The application must include the following:
 - 2.1 A written undertaking in respect of all elements listed in Article 13.1 – 13.4;
 - 2.2 Provision of:
 - a. A copy of its statutes with a certified translation in one of World Rowing's official languages. A Member Federation's statutes shall not be inconsistent with those of World Rowing and the BUPGG.
 - b. Details of the governance structure of the federation and names of the office bearers;
 - c. A list of the clubs it represents, including addresses, and a detailed report on the activities of those clubs;
 - d. A request for approval of the design and colours of its racing uniform and blades;
 - e. The registration fee, per Article 14.1.
 - f. Any other information required by World Rowing.

Article 15 – Sanctions, Suspensions and Expulsions

- a. If a Member Federation does not fully comply with its obligations, the Executive Committee may, after having given the Member Federation a warning including a deadline to adjust its status and correct its deficiency, take any of the following measures:
 - 1.1 Impose a financial penalty upon the Member Federation;
 - 1.2 Suspend the Member Federation from membership (totally or partially) for a fixed period or until a specified set of circumstances has changed or ceased to exist;
 - 1.3 Remove or deny accreditation to, or exclude a member's athlete, official or representative, from any activities of World Rowing;
 - 1.4 Impose any other sanction it may deem to be appropriate.
- b. The Executive Committee may also take appropriate measures against a Member Federation associated with a national organisation that has been sanctioned by the IOC, International Paralympic Committee (IPC), World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA), Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU), the relevant Continental Rowing Confederation or similar organisations.
- c. If a Member Federation does not fulfil the current conditions of membership of World Rowing and does not rectify the situation by a date fixed by the Executive Committee, or if there are other justifiable reasons, the Congress may expel that federation.

Bye-Laws to Article 15 – Debts

Member Federations that have subscriptions in arrears or that have unresolved debts to World Rowing or to an organising committee of a World Rowing event may be suspended by the Executive Committee or expelled by Congress. In any event, no member of that federation may stand for elections, their delegates shall forfeit their voting rights, and the Executive Committee may ban or suspend the federation's teams, officials, umpires and Commission members from competitive and other World Rowing events.

Article 16 – Resignation

A Member Federation wishing to resign from membership of World Rowing shall give notice of resignation by registered post, electronic registered post, or any other legally binding means to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall immediately inform the remaining Member Federations.

Article 17 – Obligations of Member Federations after Expulsion or Resignation

A Member Federation having resigned from membership or having been suspended or expelled remains bound by any obligation or liability related to the time it was a member of World Rowing.

Article 18 – Continental Rowing Confederations

1. A Continental Rowing Confederation is an association which, in principle, includes all the Member Federations of that continent. The continents shall be the five continents recognised by the IOC.
2. Continental Rowing Confederations are the unique partners of World Rowing for continental rowing competitions and cooperation on common projects.
3. To be recognised as a Continental Rowing Confederation, an application shall be submitted in accordance with Bye-Laws to Article 18 (Appendix S3). A Continental Rowing Confederation is recognised as such by a vote of Congress, upon recommendation by Council.
4. Continental Rowing Confederations shall have the following rights:
 - 4.1 To appoint up to three delegates to attend the World Rowing Congress, in accordance with Article 22, as appropriate. The delegates can take part in the discussions but have no voting rights;
 - 4.2 To submit proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress in accordance with Article 26, as appropriate;
 - 4.3 To attend other World Rowing events, including Member Federation conferences, on invitation by the World Rowing President.
5. Continental Rowing Confederations shall have the following obligations:
 - 5.1 To submit an annual report of its activities for inclusion in the Congress agenda papers;
 - 5.2 To comply fully with all duties and provisions of the Statutes, Rules, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations established by World Rowing and decisions taken by World Rowing;
 - 5.3 To provide for the World Rowing Continental Representative to be an ex-officio member of the Confederation's executive committee, or equivalent.
6. Recognised Continental Rowing Confederations have no responsibility for any financial liabilities of World Rowing.
7. The Executive Committee may also take appropriate measures against a Continental Rowing Confederation that has been sanctioned by the IOC, IPC, relevant continental association, WADA, FISU, or similar organisations.

Bye-Laws to Article 18 – Recognition of Continental Rowing Confederations (Appendix S3)

Article 19 – Other Groupings of Member Federations

A Grouping of Member Federations ("Member Grouping") shall, in principle, include Member Federations that share a common objective, for example, to promote rowing in any of its forms or to stage an event.

2. To be recognised as a Member Grouping, an application shall be submitted in accordance with Bye-Laws to Article 19 (Appendix S4). The Member Groupings are recognised as such by a vote of Council.
3. Member Groupings shall have the following rights:

- 3.1 To appoint one delegate to attend the World Rowing Congress, in accordance with Article 22 as appropriate. The delegate may take part in discussions at the discretion of the President but has no voting rights;
- 3.2 To submit proposals to Council to be considered for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress, in accordance with Article 26, as appropriate;
- 3.3. To attend other World Rowing events, including Member Federation conferences, on invitation by the World Rowing President.

4. Member Groupings shall have the following obligations:

- 4.1 To submit an annual report of its activities for inclusion in the Congress agenda papers;
- 4.2 To comply fully with all duties and provisions of the Statutes, Rules, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations established by World Rowing and decisions taken by World Rowing.

5. Member Groupings have no responsibility for any financial liabilities of World Rowing.

6. The Executive Committee may take appropriate measures against a Member Grouping that has been sanctioned by the IOC, IPC, WADA, FISU, or similar organisations.

Bye-Laws to Article 19 – Recognition of Continental Rowing Confederations (Appendix S4)

PART III – GOVERNANCE

Article 20 – Governance

World Rowing shall be governed by:

1. Congress (Articles 21 to 33);
2. Council (Articles 34 to 45);
3. the Executive Committee (Articles 46 to 51).

PART III A. CONGRESS

Article 21 – Congress

1. Congress is the supreme authority of World Rowing and is made up of the Member Federations. Its authority is set out by these Statutes. A meeting of the Member Federations, for the purpose of governing World Rowing according to these Statutes, is also called Congress.
2. Ordinary Congress: Delegates shall meet annually as an Ordinary Congress to discuss items listed under Article 24, preferably at a time and place at which a World Rowing Championship regatta is held.
 - a. Convening Notice – The Executive Committee shall send a convening notice to Member Federations, Continental Rowing Confederations and Member Groupings at least four months before the date of an Ordinary Congress. The convening notice shall include a draft agenda.
 - b. Final Agenda – The Executive Committee shall send out the final agenda for the Congress at least two months before the date of the Congress.
 - c. Where possible, the various reports, any observations on the agenda items, the accounts, the financial report, and the proposed budget shall be sent out with the agenda. Subsequent written material may be circulated by the Executive Committee.
3. Extraordinary Congress: Delegates shall meet as an Extraordinary Congress, to address one or more specific matters, when the annual Ordinary Congress or the Executive Committee shall so decide.

- a. Member Federations may request an Extraordinary Congress when at least one-fifth of the eligible members submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee giving reasons therefor. The meeting shall take place within two months of receipt of the request. A convening notice shall be sent to all those entitled to attend no less than 14 days before the anticipated date of the meeting.
 - b. Where an Extraordinary Congress is convened by the Executive Committee or the Ordinary Congress, the convening notice shall be sent to all those entitled to attend no less than 14 days before the date of the anticipated meeting.
4. Quadrennial Congress: The Statutes and Rules of Racing may only be altered by a Congress convened for that purpose, every four years in the year following the staging of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.
 - a. Article 21.2.a & b shall apply regarding the convening notice and agenda.
 5. In the case of Force Majeure, a Congress may make an alteration to the Statutes and Rules at any time, and, if circumstances require it, Council may make any such alteration to take effect until the next Congress.
 6. Member Federations in good standing may be represented at the Congress by up to three delegates, in accordance with Article 22.
 7. Council members shall participate in the Congress but have no voting rights.
 8. The President is chair of the Congress or, if unable, the Vice President or another specific nominee of the President is chair.
 9. The rights of other delegates, attendees and observers at Congress are set out in Articles 18.4, 19.3 and 23.

Article 22 – Eligibility of Congress Delegates

1. Each Member Federation has the right to accredit a maximum of three delegates, subject to the following:
 - 1.1 For a Member Federation to accredit more than one delegate to the Congress, both genders must be represented in the Member Federation's delegation;
 - 1.2 Any Member Federation delegate must be a citizen or bona fide resident of the country or territory of the applicable Member Federation. Member Federations may not be represented by a delegate who is the representative of another Member Federation nor by a member of Council;
 - 1.3 The president or secretary general of the Member Federation shall communicate the names of its federation's delegates by the registration deadline;
 - 1.4 A Member Federation's delegate may only be changed at the request of the Member Federation's president or secretary general, and with the authorisation of the World Rowing President;
 - 1.5 The Executive Committee has the authority to determine the legitimacy of the proposed delegates and its decision shall be final.

Article 23 – Observers at the Congress

Observers may attend in person part, or all of, the Congress with authorisation of the President.

Article 24– Agenda for Ordinary Congress

The Agenda for an Ordinary Congress shall include:

1. Mandatory items
 - 1.1 Opening of the session;
 - 1.2 Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority;
 - 1.3 Appointment of scrutineers for the period of Congress;
 - 1.4 Approval of the minutes of last Congress;

- 1.5 President's report and reports from the Vice President, Treasurer, and Executive Director;
- 1.6 Reports of the Chair of the specialist Commissions;
- 1.7 Reports of the Continental Representatives and Co-opted Members;
- 1.8 Presentation of the financial statement;
- 1.9 Auditors report;
- 1.10 Approval of the financial statements;
- 1.11 Determination of entrance fee and annual subscription;
- 1.12 Budget for the following year;
- 1.13 Appointment of the external auditors;
- 1.14 Reports on future World Rowing events and Olympic and Paralympic Regattas;
- 1.15 Place and date of the next Congress;
- 1.16 Attribution of future World Rowing Championships in accordance with Rule 5;
- 1.17 Reports of Continental Rowing Confederations and other Member Groupings;
- 1.18 Any other business.

2. Additional items, as appropriate

- 2.1 Reports on applications for affiliation and voting consequent thereon;
- 2.2 Reconsideration or confirmation of decisions (ref. Article 28) taken by Council in accordance with the provisions of 21.4, 41.3.2 and 41.3.3 or by the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of Article 49.3.4;
- 2.3 Council and Executive Committee elections in accordance with Article 35 and Article 47;
- 2.4 Specific proposals to an existing agenda item from the Member Federations, Council or the Executive Committee;
- 2.5 Other additional agenda items proposed by the Member Federations, Council or the Executive Committee.

3. A matter which is not listed on the agenda of Congress may be discussed (but not voted on) if one third of the Member Federations represented at the Congress so request or if the President authorises it.

Article 25– Reports

The Executive Committee or Congress may appoint individuals to report on matters brought before Congress. Congress may also require the Executive Committee to submit to it its views on questions to which it may wish to give further consideration.

Article 26 – Specific Proposals and Additional Agenda Items from Member Federations

- 1. Member Federations may submit a specific proposal to an existing agenda item as well as an additional agenda item, together with the reasoning behind the proposal or additional agenda item.
- 2. Such submissions shall be made in writing in one of World Rowing's official languages and shall be received by the Executive Committee at least three months before the date of the relevant Congress.
- 3. If these are received at the World Rowing headquarters by the due date they will be included in the agenda for that Congress. The Executive Committee will decide whether late proposals may be included in the agenda.

Article 27 – Proposals from Council or Executive Committee

Council or the Executive Committee may include on the agenda any proposal which they consider to be appropriate. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, such proposal shall be included in the agenda sent to

the Member Federations in accordance with Article 25. They may submit a proposal to Congress at any time provided it relates to an item on the agenda.

Article 28 – Reconsideration and Confirmation of Decisions of Council or Executive Committee

1. Requests to reconsider decisions of Council in accordance with Article 21.4 or the provisions of 41.3.2 and 41.3.3, or decisions of the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 49.3.4 shall be submitted to World Rowing and, unless there are exceptional circumstances, received at least three months before the date of Congress. Each decision may be submitted only once to the Congress for reconsideration and shall be submitted within one year of the date of taking effect. Any alteration of a decision by Council/Executive Committee following a vote for reconsideration by Congress, will not have retroactive effect unless Council/Executive Committee so decides.
2. Council and/or the Executive Committee may, on its own initiative, seek confirmation by the next Congress of any of their decisions made within their own competence. If confirmed, this decision may not be submitted again to Congress for reconsideration

Article 29 – Auditing of Accounts

1. World Rowing's annual financial statements shall be audited each year by a professional external auditor. The auditors' report shall be presented at the Ordinary Congress.
2. The auditors are appointed each year by Congress, based on a recommendation from the Executive Committee

Article 30 – Quorum at Congress

Subject to the provisions of Article 67, no quorum is required and the decisions of Congress shall be valid, irrespective of the number of Member Federations represented.

Article 31 – Voting at Congress

1. In principle, voting at Congress shall take place by electronic means or by a method decided by the Executive Committee.
2. If a technical problem occurs the Member Federation delegates will maintain their rights. This may require a manual ballot, Congress to be adjourned until a later time, or closed and re-convened.
3. Each Member Federation, in good standing with World Rowing, irrespective of the number of delegates representing it, is entitled to cast either 1 (one), 2 (two) or 3 (three) votes on any item requiring a vote. The allocation of votes will be determined as follows for a four-year cycle, commencing on 1 January following the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

3.1 Entitled 1 (one) vote: those Member Federations that meet all the obligations of membership of World Rowing in accordance with Article 13.

3.2 Entitled 2 (two) votes: those Member Federations that meet the above criteria, in Articles 31.3.1, and that have competed at any of the following regattas with a minimum of 12 crews during the previous four-year period:

- a. World Rowing Championships
- b. World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals
- c. World Rowing U19 & U23 Championships
- d. Olympic or Paralympic Qualification regattas

3.3 Entitled 3 (three) votes: those Member Federations that meet the above criteria in Articles 31.3.1 and 31.3.2, and where such crews, excluding mixed crews, are at least 25% women's crews and at least 25% men's crews.

4. Council will determine voting entitlements based on Article 31.3 and Member Federations will be notified of such by 31 December in the year of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. **Article 32 – Majorities**

1. Decisions of Congress shall be taken on the basis of an absolute majority (more than 50%) of valid votes cast. For alterations to the Statutes and Rules of Racing (Article 21.4), a majority of two-thirds of valid votes is required. The majority required for Dissolution is explained in Article 63.
2. Abstentions and blank, incomplete or spoiled voting forms will not be considered "valid" votes.
3. In the case of votes with more than two options, such as elections with multiple candidates or the attribution of a World Rowing Championship regatta, as long as the absolute majority is not reached, additional rounds of voting will be required. In this case, the candidate or option obtaining the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated from each round.
4. In the case of a tie, a second round of voting shall be taken. If the vote is still tied after two rounds of voting, Council shall immediately carry out an internal vote to determine the decision.
5. In the case of an election with one single candidate, the absolute majority must nevertheless be reached.

Article 33 – Date of Taking Effect

Elections and decisions of a Congress shall take effect from 1 January following that Congress except where:

- a) Congress determines otherwise,
- b) it is a Quadrennial Congress where decisions made take immediate effect.

PART III B. COUNCIL

Article 34 - Council

1. Council is responsible for all sport matters of World Rowing in accordance with the Statutes and the Rules, and under the managerial direction of the Executive Committee.

2. Council consists of:

- 2.1 the President;
- 2.2 the Vice President;
- 2.3 the Treasurer;
- 2.4 the non-voting Executive Director;
- 2.5 the Chairs of the specialist Commissions;
- 2.6 the Continental Representatives; and
- 2.7 up to three Co-opted Member(s).

3. The President is chair of Council or, if unable, the Vice President or another specific nominee of the President is chair.

4. Except for the President and the Executive Director, Council members are not remunerated by World Rowing but may receive reimbursement of expenses.

Article 35 – Election of Council Members

1. Council members, with the exception of the Executive Director, the Athletes' Commission Chair, the Continental Representatives and the Co-opted Member(s), are elected for four-year terms by the Congress.
2. The elections for President, Vice President and Treasurer take place in the year following the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.
3. The elections for the Chairs of the specialist Commissions take place in the second and third years after the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.
4. The Athletes' Commission Chair is appointed for a four-year term in accordance with the Athletes' Commission Regulations & Election Procedures as set out in Appendix S5 and in the Bye-Laws to Article 35.

Bye-Laws to Article 35 – Election of Council Members

1. The President, Vice President and Treasurer are elected at the Ordinary Congress in the year following each Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.
2. The Chairs of the following Commissions are elected in the second year after each Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games:
 - 2.1 Competitive Rowing;
 - 2.2 Events;
 - 2.3 Masters Rowing;
 - 2.4 Para Rowing;
 - 2.5 Umpiring.
3. The Chairs of the following Commissions are elected in the third year after each Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games:
 - 3.1 Coastal Rowing;
 - 3.2 Equipment and Technology;
 - 3.3 Gender Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (GEDI);
 - 3.4 Indoor Rowing;
 - 3.5 Sports Medicine;
 - 3.6 Youth Rowing.
4. Except for the Chair of the Athletes' Commission, the Executive Committee shall give notice of those Council positions which are due for election at the time it sends the Convening Notice for the Congress.
 - 4.1 The notice will call for nominations for the positions to be elected by Congress.
 - 4.2 The nomination must be made by the Member Federation of the candidate and shall include a completed World Rowing Nomination Form.
 - 4.3 The nomination must be received at World Rowing headquarters no later than three months before the date of the Congress.
 - 4.4. No later than one month after the closing date for nominations, World Rowing shall send to all Member Federations a list of all valid nominations received by the closing date.
5. Council may approve campaign guidelines for any elected World Rowing position.

6. The appointment of the Chair of the Athletes' Commission shall be held in accordance with the Athletes' Commission Regulations & Election Procedures as set out in Appendix S5.

Article 36 – Appointment of the Executive Director

The Executive Director is appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Director, who will also act as Secretary General, shall be supported by administrative staff.

Article 37 – Appointment of the Continental Representatives and Co-opted Members

1. Continental Representatives shall be appointed by Council, for each of the following continents: Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and The Americas upon proposal by the Executive Committee. Before making these appointments, Council may consult the Member Federations concerned. The Continental Representatives shall represent World Rowing in their continent.

2. Up to three Co-opted members shall be appointed by Council upon proposal by the Executive Committee, in principle, to complement the skill set of Council.

3. These Council members shall be appointed in the year of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games and in the second year after the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, for a two-year term, and may be reappointed.

Article 38 – Eligibility of Council Members

1. Candidates for the position of President, Vice President and Treasurer must have represented their Member Federation, in person, a minimum of four times in total in any of the following events:

1.1 a World Rowing Congress (as a delegate or Council Member);

1.2 as a rower in the following events:

- a. World Rowing Championships, World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals or World Rowing Indoor Championships,
- b. Olympic Games rowing regatta,
- c. Paralympic Games rowing regatta.

2. Candidates for all Council positions must present expertise and experience that are relevant to Council position and the related duties as described in the Statutes and Bye-Laws. Candidates must complete an integrity check and conflict of interest form which shall be reviewed by a panel appointed by the Executive Committee.

3. Council members, other than the Executive Director, are eligible for re-election or re-appointment, up to a maximum of 12 years in the same position. The 12-year period will commence from the Council member's next election date after the 2017 Extraordinary Congress in Tokyo, Japan.

4. Council members may hold office until 31 December of the year in which they reach the age of 70.

Article 39 – Honorary Members

1. Upon the proposal of Council, Congress may confer the title "Honorary Council Member" or another appropriate Honorary title on a retired Council member who has rendered distinguished service to international rowing.

2. Honorary Council Members shall not, however, be entitled to participate in the work of Council or have voting rights.

Article 40 - Decisions of Council

Decisions of Council are taken by a majority of the votes cast. In the case of a tie, the President, or in the absence of the President, the chair of the meeting, shall have a casting vote. Voting shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested or may take place by correspondence. Determination of a majority shall be in accordance with Article 32.

Article 41– Duties of Council

The authority and responsibilities of Council are:

1. Strategic Direction

- 1.1 To establish a strategic plan and take such steps as may be necessary to achieve the Objects laid down in Article 3 of the Statutes;
- 1.2 To ensure the execution of decisions taken by Congress;
- 1.3 To assign duties to the Commissions.

2. Events

- 2.1 To ensure the maintenance of proper standards in the organisation of all World Rowing events, all events conducted under the authority of World Rowing in general, and in particular, Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic regattas;
- 2.2 In accordance with Rule 5, to select the most suitable bids from candidate Member Federations for the organisation of World Championships and propose it (them) to Congress for approval and attribution;
- 2.3 To attribute events based on the most suitable bids for World Rowing Cups, Coastal and Indoor Championships, and Masters Regattas.

3. Governance

- 3.1 To ensure the observance of the Statutes, related Bye-Laws, Rules of Racing, and Event Regulations;
- 3.2 To adopt and amend Bye-Laws made under the Statutes and Rules of Racing;
- 3.3 To adopt and amend Event Regulations.

4. Membership

- 4.1 In accordance with Article 47, to propose three Council members to Congress to be elected to the Executive Committee;
- 4.2 In accordance with Article 37, to appoint Continental Representatives and Co-opted Members;
- 4.3 In accordance with Article 44, to appoint Commission members.

5. Internal Audit Committee - Council may appoint an Internal Audit Committee to provide an independent review of governance, processes and risk management. Membership and duties of the Internal Audit Committee shall be set out as Bye-Laws.

Bye-Laws to Articles 41 – Internal Audit Committee (Appendix S6)

Article 42 – Duties of Council Members

The duties of Council members shall be set out as Bye-Laws.

Bye-Laws to Article 42 – Duties of Council Members (Appendix S7)

Article 43 – Council Meetings

1. Council shall normally meet at least three times per year as decided by the Executive Committee or when at least seven Council members submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee giving the reasons therefor. It may also meet when so required by the President. Council may make decisions by correspondence.
2. The agendas for all meetings are established by the Executive Committee.
3. Reports on Council meetings shall be circulated to all Member Federations and Council and Commission members within one month of the meeting.

Article 44 – Commissions and Working Groups

1. Council may establish specialist Commissions to advise on and undertake sport related activities as required and on terms defined by Council.
2. Subject to Article 44.6 below and except for the Athletes' Commission, the Commissions shall consist, in principle, of four to eight members in addition to the Chair. The Chair shall be a member of Council. Council shall determine from time to time the size of each Commission.
3. Except for the elected members of the Athletes' Commission, the Commission members are appointed by Council for a term of four years which may be renewed.
4. Council shall seek to appoint the most qualified people to each Commission having regard also to the desirability of achieving gender and geographical representation. Candidates must complete an integrity check and conflict of interest form which shall be reviewed by a panel appointed by the Executive Committee.
5. Commission members may serve on the Commission until 31 December of the year in which they reach the age of 70.
6. Cross Commission members are drawn from Council and/or other relevant Commissions. Cross Commissions are chaired by an elected Chair who shall be a member of Council and shall not necessarily be a member of another Commission.
7. Consistent with their mandate, Council may also create Working Groups for specific tasks which may include non-members Council. Such Working Groups will report to Council.

Bye-Laws to Article 44 – Commissions

1. World Rowing Commissions

Council has established the following specialist Commissions:

1.1 Discipline Commissions – with expertise on the competition and training aspects of the disciplines of the sport:

- a. Competitive Rowing
- b. Coastal Rowing
- c. Indoor Rowing

1.2. Technical Commissions – with expertise and or experience relevant to the duties of the Commission set out in Bye-Law to Article 45:

- a. Athletes'
- b. Coaching Development Cross Commission (the chair shall be the Chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission)

- c. Equipment and Technology
- d. Events
- e. Masters Rowing
- f. Para Rowing
- g. Sports Medicine
- h. Umpiring
- i. Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion Cross Commission
- j. Youth Rowing

2. Appointments to Commissions

2.1 For all Commissions, except Cross Commissions and the Athletes' Commission, the Executive Committee will call for nominations for Commission membership in the year of election of the Commission Chair. Candidates, including current Commission members seeking reappointment, must be nominated in writing by their Member Federations no later than the end of the Congress of that year.

2.2 Appointments of Commission members are made by Council on the recommendation of the newly elected Commission Chair.

3. Athletes' Commission – Appointments & Elections

The Athletes' Commission shall consist of elected and appointed members. Elections and appointments of the members of the Athletes' Commission and the election and appointment of the Athletes' Commission Chair shall take place in the same year, in accordance with the Athletes' Commission Regulations & Election Procedures (see Appendix S5).

4. Member Federations nominating candidates are required to commit to provide financial support for the travel and work of the Commission members, if they are appointed.

5. Exceptionally, a current Commission member may be nominated for reappointment by the Executive Committee.

6. In case of a casual vacancy in a Commission, the Executive Committee may replace the member concerned. Any member thus appointed shall serve out the term of office of the replaced member.

Article 45 – Duties of the Commissions and Working Groups

The duties, authority and field of activity of each Commission and Working Group shall be set out in the Bye-Laws.

Bye-Laws to Article 45 – Duties of the Commissions and Working Groups (Appendix S8)

PART III C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 46 – Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee has oversight responsibility for the management, administration, finances and governance of World Rowing, and, when necessary, has the authority to make urgent decisions, including regarding sport related matters in accordance with the Statutes and Rules. It guides the activities of Council, Commissions and Working Groups.

2. The Executive Committee consists of:

2.1 the President;

2.2 the Vice President;

2.3 the Treasurer;

2.4 the non-voting Executive Director;

2.5 the three Council members (elected according to Article 47); and

2.6 the Athletes' Commission Chair.

3. The President is chair of the Executive Committee or, if unable, the Vice President or another specific nominee of the President is chair.

Article 47 – Election of the three Council members to the Executive Committee

1. At the Ordinary Congress in the year following each Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, three Council members shall be elected individually to the Executive Committee based on a proposal from Council.

2. The following Council Members are eligible for this election:

2.1 Chairs of the specialist Commissions

2.2 Continental Representatives

2.3 Co-opted Members

3. Candidates for these three positions on the Executive Committee shall have been in a Council role since 1 January of the year of this election.

4. If one or more of the proposed candidates does not receive a majority according to Article 34, there will be additional rounds of voting where all interested and eligible Council members shall be eligible to stand for election to the unfilled position(s).

Article 48 – Decisions of the Executive Committee

Decisions of the Executive Committee are taken by a majority of the valid votes cast. In the case of a tie, the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote. Voting shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested or may take place by correspondence. Determination of a majority shall be in accordance with Article 32.

Article 49 – Duties of the Executive Committee

The authorities and responsibilities of the Executive Committee are (inter alia):

1. Management

1.1 To oversee the strategic direction of World Rowing activities with the relevant external and internal bodies;

1.2 To manage World Rowing administratively and financially. To this end, the Executive Committee may establish administrative offices with remunerated personnel;

2. Governance

2.1 To decide all questions of interpretation of the Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;

2.2 In the case of a breach of the Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws or Event Regulations, or in the case of negligent or inappropriate behaviour, to decide sanctions, at any time, as provided for in Article 60 on Member Federations, entities, clubs or individuals;

3. General

- 3.1 To convene Congress and Council meetings, prepare the agendas and supporting documentation;
- 3.2 To keep Member Federations informed of World Rowing's activities;
- 3.3 To perform all other duties of the Executive Committee as established in World Rowing's Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;
- 3.4 To make any decisions appropriate to the circumstances in the interests of the sport of rowing;
- 3.5 To assume all responsibilities which are not expressly attributed to another entity within World Rowing.

4. Finance Committee - The Executive Committee may establish a Finance Committee to oversee the financial management of World Rowing on behalf of the Executive Committee. Membership and duties of the Finance Committee shall be set out as Bye-Laws.

5. Consistent with their mandate the Executive Committee may delegate assignments, or projects to appropriately qualified non-members of Council, who will report to the Executive Committee.

Bye-Laws to Article 49 – Finance Committee (Appendix S9)

Article 50– Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet at least three times per year as decided by the President or when at least three Executive Committee members submit a request in writing, with reasons, to the President. The Executive Committee may make decisions by correspondence. The agendas for all meetings shall be established in advance by the chair of the meeting. Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be recorded and circulated to all Council members in a timely manner.

Article 51– Casual Vacancies

In case of a casual vacancy in the Executive Committee or Council, the Executive Committee may replace the member concerned until the next Congress.

PART IV – INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATIONS

Article 52 – Commitment

Any party that deals with World Rowing, is a member of World Rowing, or shares in its activities, including a party which:

1. Participates in an event under the authority of World Rowing;
2. Acts as an official (trainer, coach, team manager, delegate, representative or other related party) of a team, a club, a Member Federation, Continental Rowing Confederation or other Member Grouping;
3. Officiates as an international umpire or in a similar role;
4. Organises or participates in a competition which is placed under World Rowing's authority, according to the Statutes and Rules of Racing;
5. Assumes any role within World Rowing;

recognises and accepts the following, subject to 5.2.v

- i. The World Rowing Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;
- ii. World Rowing's authority on all matters concerning international rowing;

- iii. The mandatory nature of the Statutes, the Bye-Laws and other Rules regulating World Rowing, in their current version and as amended from time to time;
- iv. World Rowing's jurisdiction to make any decision or impose any sanction within its field of competence;
- v. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as the only competent judicial authority external to World Rowing, to the exclusion of any ordinary court of law, any civil judicial authority of any country and any other arbitration body:
 - a. Subject to Article 56, to settle any dispute which directly involves World Rowing, one of its bodies, one of its Executive Committee members, any person acting on its behalf (Council and Commission members, umpires, and any others), one of its members or an organising committee of a World Rowing event run under World Rowing's authority (see Article 61);
 - b. To review any decision alleged to violate any relevant law, any fundamental legal principles or World Rowing statutory clause (see Article 61)
 - c. To rule on any appeals from disciplinary sanctions or penalties of any kind, made by World Rowing or one of its bodies (see Article 62).
- vi. The final and without appeal status of the decisions made by the CAS;
- vii. The requirement to abide by the decisions of World Rowing and CAS without attempting to hinder their application;
- viii. The application of Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure supplemental to World Rowing and CAS rules and regulations with Lausanne as the only place and seat of the arbitration.

Article 53 – Individual and Written Confirmation of Commitments

1. Although the commitment set out in Article 52 is mandatory and automatic, World Rowing may, in addition, request individual and written confirmation of any commitment from the following individuals or entities, in accordance with the appropriate forms appended to these Statutes:

- 1.1 Any Member Federation or any rowing federation which wishes to become a member;
- 1.2 Any rower, club, official or international umpire likely to participate in an event or activity under World Rowing's authority;
- 1.3 An organising committee or its members of any event under World Rowing's authority.

2. These confirmations are valid unless and until they have been formally revoked in writing and this written revocation has reached the World Rowing headquarters. Such revocation shall not be retroactive and therefore does not affect acts committed or liabilities incurred before the written revocation is communicated. Such revocation shall only be valid if the individual or entity has ceased all activities or relationships to which the commitment refers.

Bye-Laws to Article 53 – Commitment Forms (Appendix S10)

If a rower is not able to provide consent for the commitment form(s) by reason of age, physical impairment or mental impairment then a parent or guardian must provide consent by signing the commitment form on behalf of the rower.

PART V – INTEGRITY OF THE SPORT

Article 54 – Ethical Principles and Integrity

1. Any party which deals with World Rowing and/or shares in its activities, notably those referred to in Article 52, commits to act in a manner prescribed in the relevant Bye-Laws (Bye-Laws to Article 54 – World Rowing Code of Ethics, Appendix S11) and according to all generally recognised ethical principles including the principles of the IOC Code of Ethics.

2. Taking into consideration the overall interests of World Rowing and its members, only individuals of high moral character and integrity may be nominated by Member Federations for elected or appointed positions. The Executive Committee has the sole discretion to make the final determination.

Bye-Laws to Article 54 – World Rowing Code of Ethics (Appendix S11)

Article 55 – Integrity in Competition

Any party which deals with World Rowing and/or shares in its activities, notably those referred to in Article 52, shall be bound by, and be required to comply with the Bye-Laws relating to Manipulation of Competition and Betting by virtue of such participation or assistance (Appendix S12).

Bye-Laws to Article 55 – Manipulation of Competition and Betting (Appendix S12)

Article 56 – Right of Complaint

1. Any party claiming to have a valid complaint in relation to Articles 54 and/or Article 55 concerning a party mentioned in Article 52 may submit it to World Rowing in line with the procedure set out in the World Rowing Complaints and Whistleblowing Policy.

2. The Executive Committee has the authority to make decisions on all cases except cases involving members of the Executive Committee, in which case the IOC Ethics Commission has the authority to decide.

3. The relevant authority may make any decision it deems appropriate, and the decision may be published.

Article 57– Applicable Procedural Rules

The Executive Committee and the IOC Ethics Commission shall respect the principles stipulated in Article 59.

PART VI – JUDICIAL PROVISIONS

Article 58 – Judicial Bodies of World Rowing

1. The following bodies of World Rowing have judicial powers in accordance with the Statutes and related Bye-Laws:

1.1 Congress;

1.2 Council;

1.3 the Executive Committee; and

1.4 the Ethics Panel (Bye-Laws to Article 54).

2. With the exception of the Ethics Panel, the body concerned may delegate its power to a smaller number of its members to undertake any investigation, hearing or imposition of penalty. In all cases, the provisions of Article 59 and Article 60 shall be followed.

Article 59 – Procedural Rules Applicable to the Judicial Bodies of World Rowing

1. The judicial bodies of World Rowing shall provide due process to all parties involved and shall respect their fundamental rights. They recognise in particular:

1.1 That a person who may have a conflict of interest shall not be a member of the decision-making body;

1.2 The right of the person charged to know the charge and to examine their file;

1.3 The right to know the penalties which might be imposed;

1.4 The right to be heard, to present a defence, to produce evidence and to be assisted by counsel;

1.5 The right to receive a written decision from World Rowing with reasons for that decision.

2. The procedural rules applicable to objections, protests and appeals relating to rowing competitions are covered in the Rules of Racing and related Bye-Laws.

3. For all situations not covered by the Statutes, Rules, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations, the judicial bodies of World Rowing shall apply Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure.

Article 60 – Sanctions and Financial Compensation

1. The judicial bodies of World Rowing have the power to make decisions and impose sanctions in their areas of responsibility set out in the Statutes and Bye-Laws. They can impose sanctions including but not limited to the following:

1.1 Reprimand, which may be a public reprimand;

1.2 Ban from competition;

1.3 Fine;

1.4 Expulsion (according to Article 15);

1.5 Any other appropriate measure.

2. If appropriate, the judicial body concerned may take the following actions:

2.1 Suspend for a definite period, in part or in whole, either the ban from competition or the payment of the fine on such conditions as it considers appropriate; and/or,

2.2 Order payment of money as financial compensation or fine against those (in particular Member Federations, clubs, rowers, or officials) who have been found to have acted in a negligent or inappropriate manner including where such conduct has caused financial loss or damage to another party or breached these Statutes and Bye-Laws; and/or,

2.3 Direct that all or part of a fine imposed by the judicial body be paid to the aggrieved or injured party not as compensation for loss but to reflect the judicial body's disapproval of the offending party's conduct.

Article 61 – Ordinary Arbitration Proceedings

Any party who alleges that a decision made by a World Rowing judicial body violates fundamental legal principles or World Rowing statutory clause(s), or who has a dispute with World Rowing, may submit a claim to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne only, to the exclusion of any court of law of any country or any other arbitration body. The claim shall set out the facts and reasons upon which it is based. It shall be sent to CAS within one month from the day of delivery of the decision or, in the case of dispute, from the day World Rowing formally refused to accept its views or request. The CAS conducts the arbitration and rules over the dispute in accordance with its own regulations. In addition, the CAS applies Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure. The seat and place of the arbitration is in Lausanne. The decisions made by the CAS Ordinary Arbitration Division are final and may not be appealed.

Article 62 – Appeal Arbitration Proceedings

Any party penalised by a judicial body of World Rowing may appeal the decision to CAS in Lausanne only, to the exclusion of any court of law of any country or any other arbitration body. The appeal shall be sent to CAS within 21 days following receipt by the party of the decision in question. The CAS conducts the appeal and rules on it in accordance with its own regulations. In addition, the CAS applies Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure. The seat and place of the arbitration is in Lausanne. The decisions made by the CAS Appeals Arbitration Division are final and may not be appealed.

PART VII – DISSOLUTION

Article 63 – Dissolution

The dissolution of World Rowing shall be valid only if carried by four-fifths of the valid votes cast at an Extraordinary Congress specially convened for the purpose. Furthermore, a quorum of two-thirds of the member federations is necessary.

Article 64 – Assets

If the motion for dissolution is carried, the Executive Committee shall be entitled to realise the assets of World Rowing which shall be divided equally between the Member Federations constituting World Rowing at the time the vote is taken.

Article 65 – Exceptions

In no other circumstances shall any Member Federation have any claim to any share whatsoever in the assets and any federation ceasing to be a member shall forfeit its claim to any assets of World Rowing.

PART VIII – CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 66 – Concluding Provisions

The Statutes were approved effective immediately by the Quadrennial Congress, 14-15 March 2025, held in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Jean-Christophe Rolland

Vincent Gaillard

President

Executive Director