



# 2025 Quadrennial Congress

Lausanne, Musée Olympique

14-15 March 2025

# Part I

## Statutory agenda

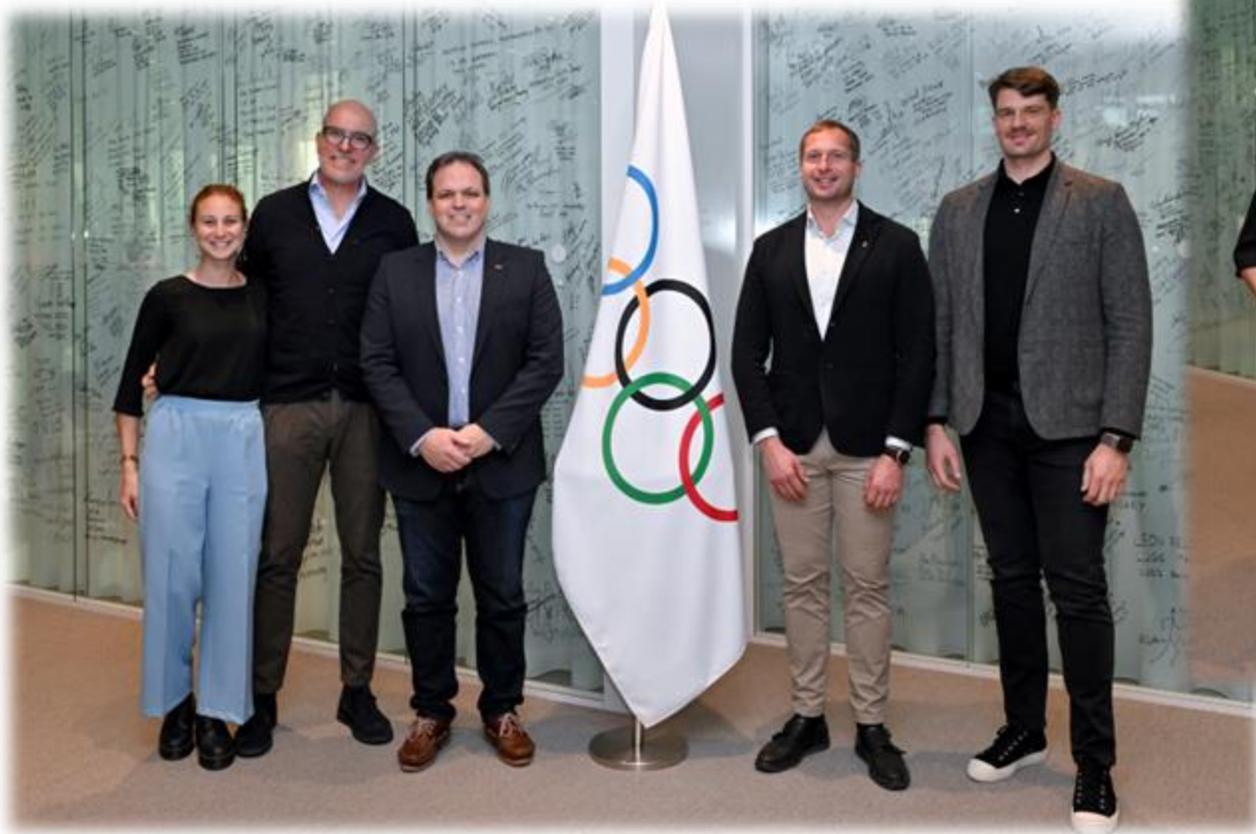
# I.1. Opening of the session

# Welcome

- Denis Oswald, Honorary President
- Delegates of World Rowing Member Federations
- Delegates from the Continental Rowing Confederations
- Delegates from recognised Groupings of Member Federations
- Guests and Observers

# Olympians' Wall Signing

Olympic House / IOC Headquarters  
Thursday 13th March

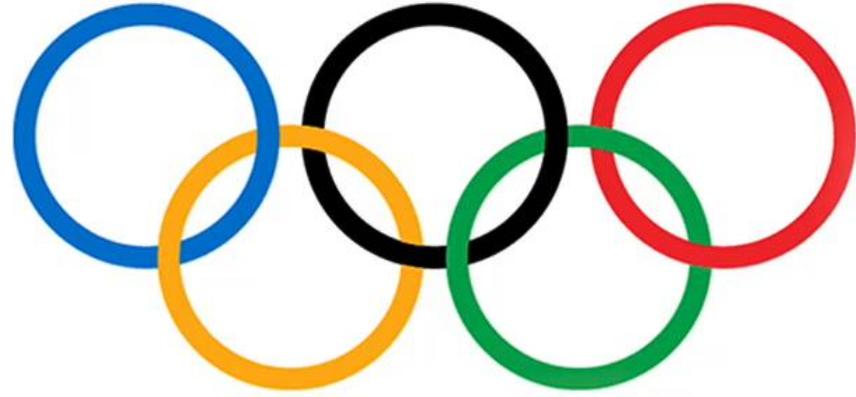


# French Embassy, Bern – Switzerland

## Tuesday 11 March 2025

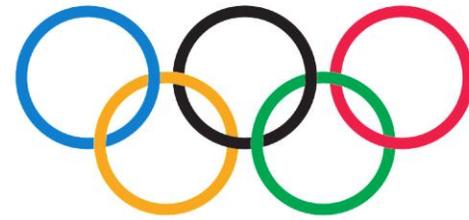


# I.1. Opening of the session



Message from IOC President  
Thomas Bach

# IOC Sports Director – Kit McConnell



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

# I.1. Opening of the session

# Council



## Agenda

### Part I

Statutory agenda Quadrennial Congress

Statutes review

Rules of racing review

Proposal changes  
Voting

### Part II

1. Council election  
Chair of the Umpiring Commission
2. Determination of entrance fee and annual  
subscription 2025 – 2028
3. Membership update
4. Strategic projects & updates
5. AOB

Agenda part II - item 4  
Strategic projects

- a. IOC Athletes Safeguarding & Mental Health
- b. World Rowing 2025-2028 Strategic Development
  - 15 years to Transform Rowing
  - Strategic Event and Calendar Review (SECR)
  - Finances: 2025-2028 Quadrennial Budget
  - Confederation Collaboration Project
- c. Events update







# Social events

- Formal dinner Friday evening at 7:00 pm at the Olympic Museum
- Informal Saturday evening at MSI, WR offices
- Visit Olympic Museum

# Housekeeping



# Tribute to Kurt Gelbert

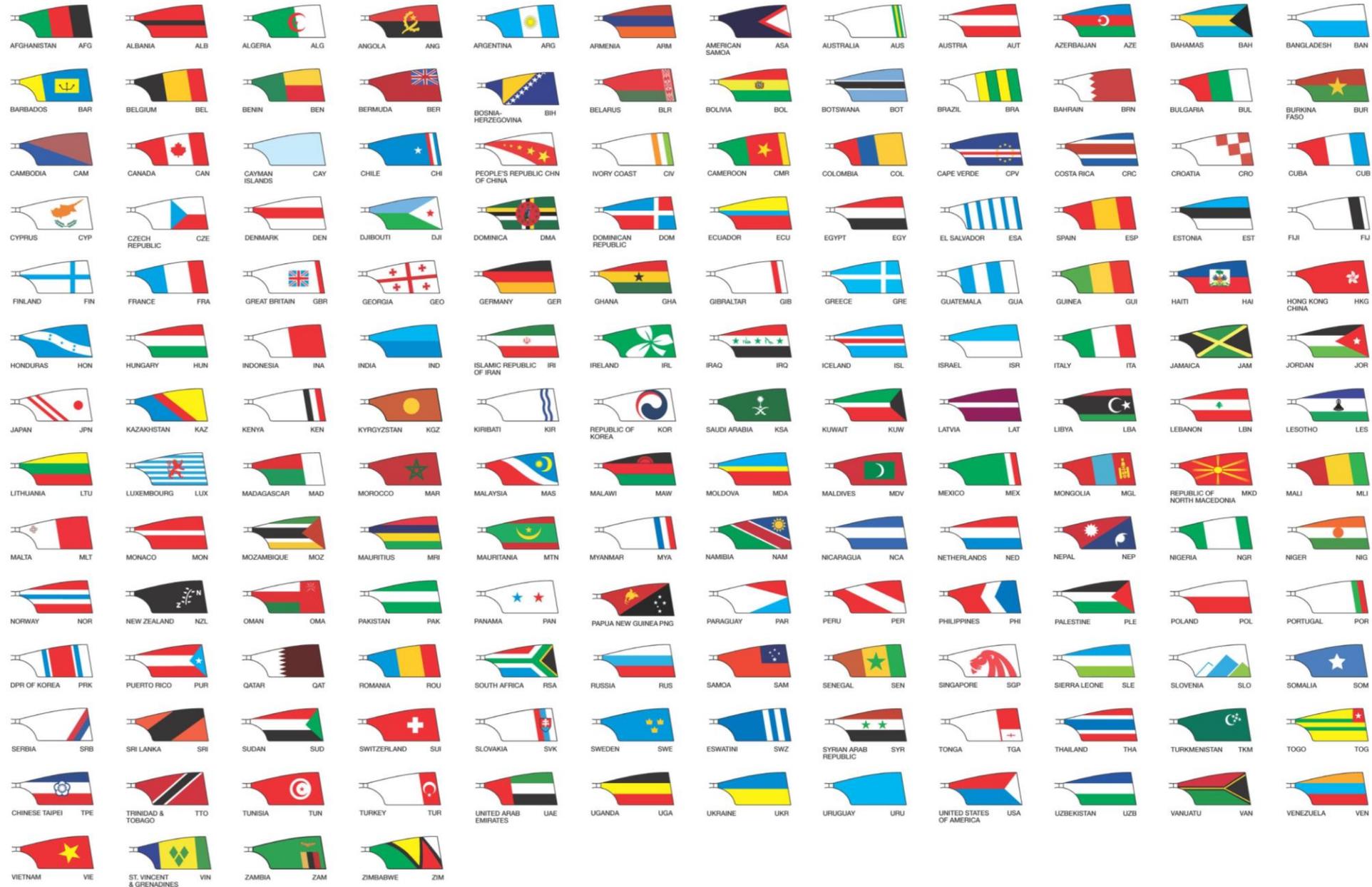


# In memory

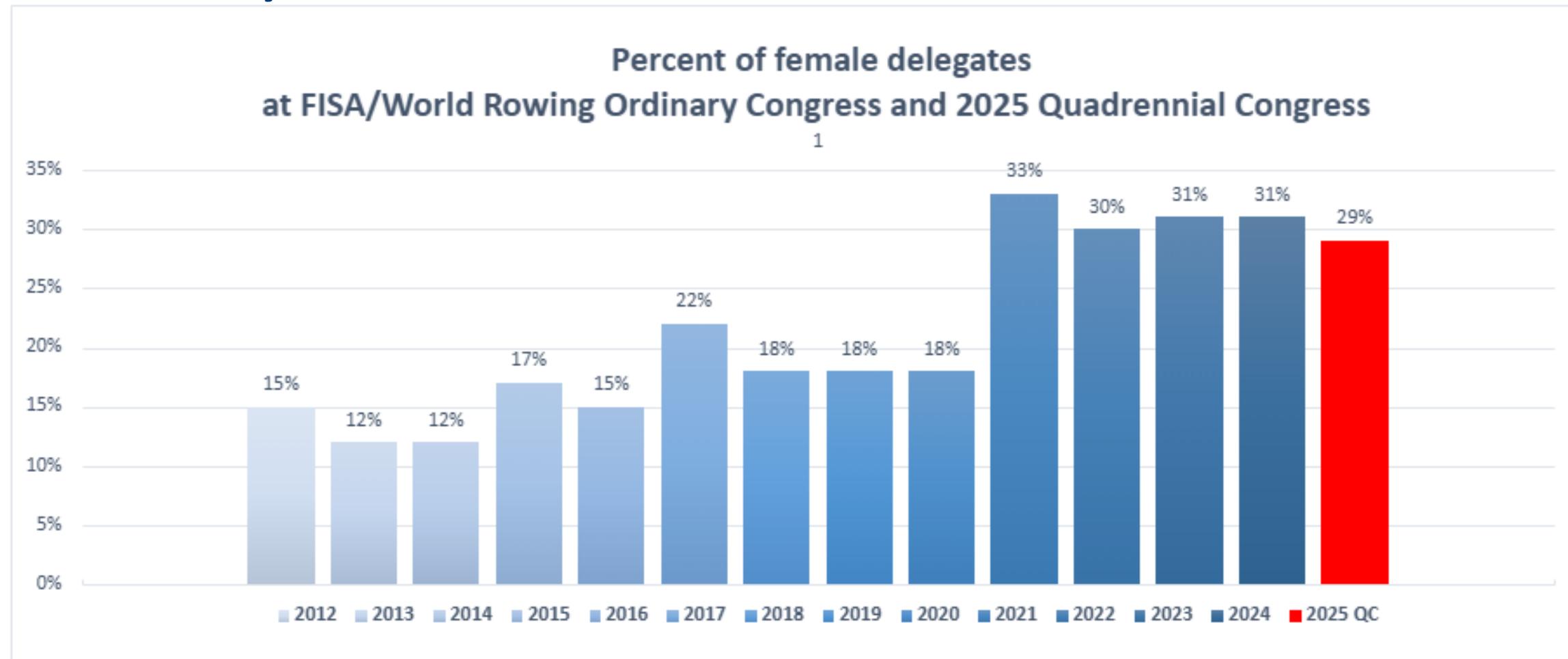
A moment of silence in memory of friends and colleagues who have passed away since the last Congress.

# 1.2. Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority

# Blades of the 160 Member Federations



# Diversity



# **1.3. Appointment of scrutineers for the period of Congress**

### 3. Appointment of the scrutineers for the period of Congress

Lumi will act as the independent scrutineer for the period of the Congress and manage the voting.

# **I.4. Specific Proposals from the Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee**

# Working groups

## **Governance working group**

- Annamarie Phelps, Chair
- Ron Chen
- Algirdas Raslanas
- Jean-Christophe Rolland
- Tricia Smith
- Vincent Gaillard

*Facilitated by Ludovica Caprino and Pat Lambert*

## **Rules working group**

- Kris Grudt, Chair
- John Edger
- Patrick Rombaut
- Lee Spear
- Eva Szanto
- Mike Tanner

*Facilitated by Prateek Gumber*

## 4.a. Proposed Changes to the Statutes and related Bye-Laws

## 4.b. Proposed Changes to the Statute Appendices (Bye-Laws)

## 4.c. Proposed Changes to the Rules of Racing and related Bye-Laws

## 4.d. Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices (Event Regulations and Rules Bye-Laws)

# Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices

- Appendix R2 - Bye-Laws to Rule 28 – Boats and Equipment
- Appendix R3 - Bye-Laws to Rule 30 – Weight of Boats
- Appendix R4 - Bye-Laws to Rules 31 to 33 – Regatta Courses
- Appendix R5 - Bye-Laws to Rules 35-37 – Regatta Roles
- Appendix R6 - Bye-Laws to Rule 38 – Commercial Publicity, Sponsorship, Advertising and Identifications

# New World Rowing Progression System

**World Rowing progression system  
Reloaded/or**

**New World Rowing Progression  
System**

# Progression system

## Reasons for change

1. Organisers: want to have more attractive, shorter and flexible programs.
2. Teams: if we can spare one or two nights we can bring more rowers.
3. Media: we want exiting races and see the best rowers as much as possible
4. Heats and repechages are not the best of races to watch.
5. The repechage system means the heats are not always fully contested.
6. The best (fastest) crews get the least races
7. World Rowing events are expensive to host and to attend due to the length of the programme.

# Progression system

Competitive rowing commission

Principles (in order of priority)

1. Performance is rewarded
2. A finish order for all crews at World Rowing championships.
3. Six boat races are key
4. Every crew gets two races
5. One progression system for all World Rowing Classic events  
(U19, U23, Senior, Paras)

# Progression system

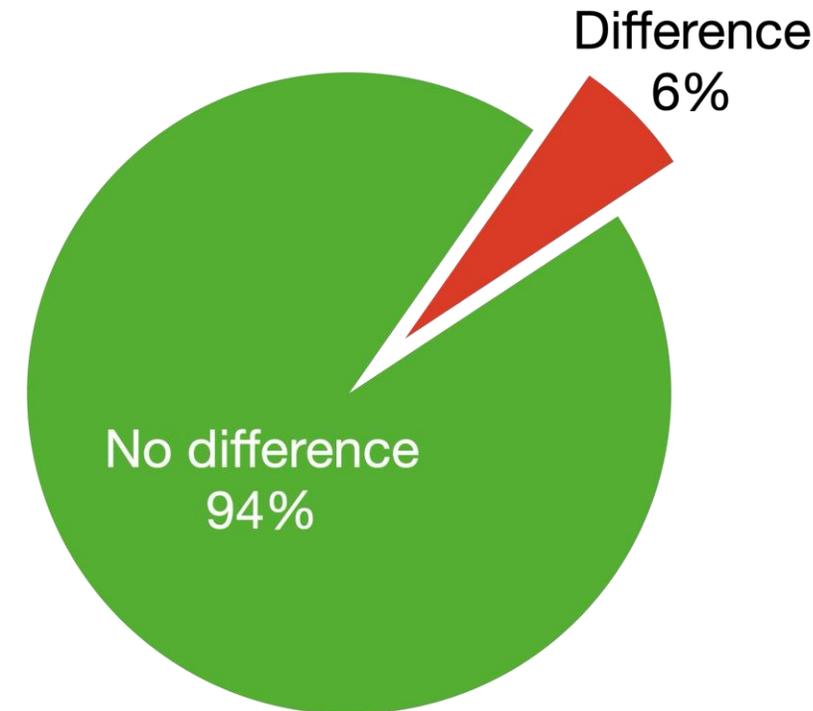
Numbers	Heats	Progression	QF	SF	F
1-6	1	6			A
7-12	2	2 from each H + 2 FT			A B*
13-18	3	2 from each heat to SF + 6 FT		2	A B C*
19-24	4	2 from each heat to SF + 4 FT		2	A B C D*
25-30	5	2 from each heat to QF + 14 FT	4	2	A B C D E*
31-36	6	2 from each heat to QF + 12 FT	4	2	A B C D E F*
37-42	7	2 from each heat to QF + 10 FT	4	2	A B C D E F G*
43-48	8	2 from each heat to QF + 8 FT	4	2	A B C D E F G H*
49-54	9	2 from each heat to QF + 6 FT	4	2	A B C D E F G H I*
55-60	10	2 from each heat to QF + 4 FT	4	2	A B C D E F G H I J*

# Progression system

## Research done comparing old and new system

A comparison of the current and proposed system using the of results of the U19, U23 and Seniors Championships over the last 10 years showed:

- A combined 6867 crews raced in the Championships
- 94% (6,454 crews) of the same crews would have advanced from heats to the next round under the proposed progression system just as did under the current progression system
- Of the 6% difference, about half can be explained by 'strategic rowing' and not putting full effort in their heats
- No significant difference was reported due to EXTERNAL factors



# Progression system

## Effects of the new progression system

- Give maximum exposure to the fastest rowers.
- Every round counts so more exciting racing in all qualifying rounds.
- Potential for each event to have fewer rounds.
- Ability to run all rounds on consecutive days as everyone has raced the same number of races.
- Potential to double up, possibly more entries
- Potential to reduce the number of days for a World Championships.
- Cost reductions for organisers as well as teams.

# Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices

- Appendix R8 - Bye-Laws to Rule 62 – Time Trials
- Appendix R9 - Bye-Laws to Rules 81 to 84 – Duties of the Jury
- Appendix R10 - Bye-Laws to Rule 85 – Anti-Doping
- Appendix R11 - Olympic Games and Olympic Qualification Regattas Regulations – Event Regulations and/or Departures from the World Rowing Rules of Racing
- Appendix R12 - World Rowing Championships Regulations – Event Regulations and/or Departures from the World Rowing Rules of Racing
- Appendix R13 - World Rowing Cup Regattas Regulations – Event Regulations and/or Departures from the World Rowing Rules of Racing

# Appendix R14 Para Rowing Competition Regulations and Appendix R15 Para Rowing Classification

- The International Paralympic Committee has changed the requirements for the classification process:
  - The initial evaluations performed by a Underlying Health Condition (UHC) assessor
  - After the assessments based on the documents and an in person assessment the athlete will be assigned a provisional Sport Class
  - The final step of the evaluation is evaluating the athlete during competition after which the athlete's Sport Class will be confirmed or not eligible for the Sport Class
    - If the athlete is not eligible for the Sport Class in which they were competing, they will be excluded from the results of that Competition.
- Appendix R15 Para Rowing Classification is revised to reflect this new process
- Appendix R14 is also revised based on the new procedures.

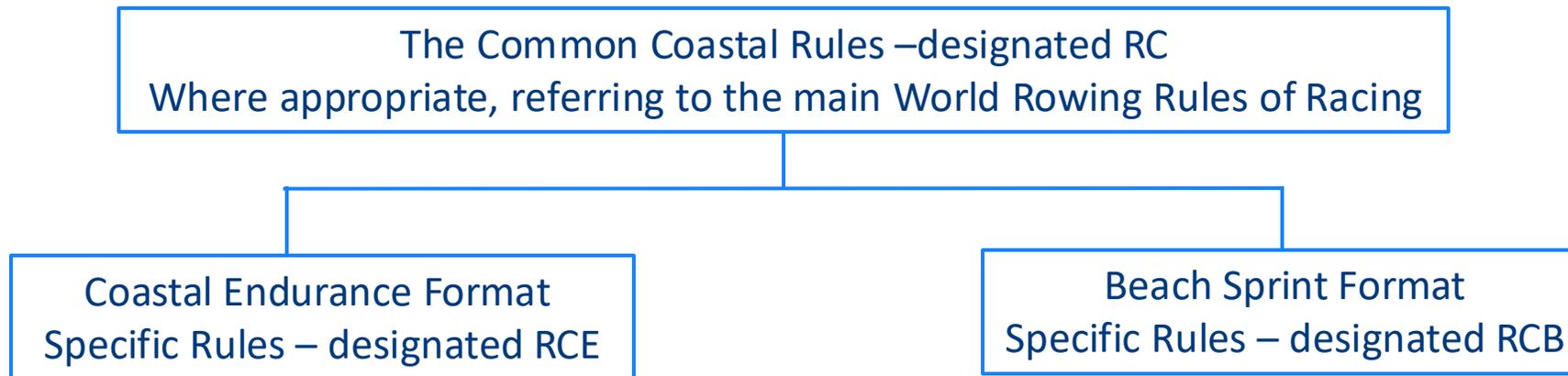
# Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices

- Appendix R16 - World Rowing Masters Regatta Regulations – Event Regulations and/or Departures from the World Rowing Rules of Racing
- Appendix R17 - World Rowing Tours Regulations – Event Regulations and/or Departures from the World Rowing Rules of Racing

# Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices

## R18 – R19 - Coastal Rowing

- The Coastal Event Regulations (Appendix R18) and Beach Sprint Event Regulations (Appendix R19) are being combined into a “stand alone” set of Coastal Rules.
- The format of the Rules is:



- The Bye-Laws for the Rules will appear at the end of the rules

# Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices

## R18 – R19 - Coastal Rowing

- A focus of work on the Coastal Rules is to prepare the discipline for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics
  - Move as much as makes sense into Rules
  - Keep the items that are still developing as Bye-Laws
- The Majority of the Rules and Regulations have been brought into the new Coastal Rules with modifications to the format but no substantial changes,

# Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices

## R18 – R19 - Coastal Rowing

- There following are the substantive changes to the Rules/Regulations:
  - Due to the dynamic nature of Coastal Events with the beach, waves, wind and weather the proposal is to create a Race Committee at WR events composed of a Coastal Expert (the newly defined Principle Race Officer), President of the Jury and Race Director to take key decisions.
  - Adverse weather conditions – the Race Committee can make most decisions regarding adverse weather conditions, however for WR Events, only the Executive Committee or its representative has the authority to cancel events or the regatta.
  - U23 and Masters age categories have been added for both disciplines

# Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices

## R18 – R19 - Coastal Rowing

- Endurance Format Key Changes
  - All time penalties for both water and beach finishes should be served in a penalty box – the options of a penalty loop and penalty turn have been eliminated
  - Race distance is “in principle” reduced from “4km to 8km” to “4km to 6km”
- Beach Sprint Format Key Changes
  - The addition of a PR3 Inclusion Mixed 2x in the program
  - Elimination of the slalom out/slalom back race format – the slalom out/straight back and processional time trials are retained
  - A crew that does not round all the buoys correctly Did Not Finish the race (DNF) and is excluded (no time penalties)

# Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices R18 – R19 - Coastal Rowing

- Beach Sprint Format Key Changes (continued)
  - Dead Heat Rules are changed
    - In a time trial or preliminary round where only one crew advances look to the previous results to determine which crew advances, if no difference or there is no previous round the order a rerow
    - In the Final Eight – no rerows
      - Where only one crew advances - use the performance in the most recent round where both crews competed to determine which crew advances
      - Finals – award equal ranking (and multiple medals where applicable)

# Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices Appendix R20 - Indoor Rowing Regulations

- Based on the model created for a stand alone set of Coastal Rules, a stand alone set of Indoor Rules is also proposed
  - Move as much as makes sense into Rules
  - Keep the items that are still developing as Bye-Laws and Regulations.
- Substantive changes to the Indoor Regulations are:
  - The date for determining the age of a rower has been changed from the date of the competition to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December
  - Additional older age categories have been added
  - The PR3 II (Intellectual Impairment) has been added
  - Lightweight weigh-ins for an athlete changed from “*once per day*” to “*once per day per event*” and allowances are made for alternative weigh-in procedures for athletes competing virtually
  - Each athlete can bring one support person with them onto the field of play
  - In the case of false starts – the first false start is assessed against the full field of competitors with any crew causing a false start on a re-start receiving a red card and being excluded.

# Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices

- Appendix R21 - Event Bidding and Preparation Regulations –  
Event Regulations and/or Departures from the World Rowing Rules of  
Racing

# Part II

# Other governance items

# II.1. Council elections in accordance with Art. 39 and 49.

# Chair of the Umpiring Commission

To complete the mandate until 31 December 2026

- Angela Alonso Fernandez (ESP)



- Kristopher Allen Grudt (USA)



## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Please select your preferred candidate in the election  
of the Chair of the Umpiring Commission

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	133	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	3	
Majority:	67	
Angela Alonso Fernandez (ESP)	78	58.65%
Kristopher Allen Grudt (USA)	55	41.35%

**Congratulations to the new  
chair of the Umpiring  
Commission**

# Voting

## I.4. Specific Proposals from the Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee

## 4.a. Proposed Changes to the Statutes and related Bye-Laws

15 Mar 2025 10:23:28

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Articles  
new 1 to new 9?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	131	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	5	
Majority:	66	
Yes	129	98.47%
No	2	1.53%

15 Mar 2025 10:24:48

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Articles  
new 10 to new 19?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	132	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	4	
Majority:	67	
Yes	128	96.97%
No	4	3.03%

15 Mar 2025 10:26:03

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Articles  
new 20 to new 46?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136		
Valid Votes:	133		
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	3		
Majority:	67		
Yes	132	99.25%	
No	1	0.75%	

15 Mar 2025 10:27:15

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you agree to give authority to the 2025 Ordinary Congress to amend Article new 47?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136		
Valid Votes:	132		
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	4		
Majority:	67		
Yes	129	97.73%	
No	3	2.27%	

15 Mar 2025 10:28:36

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Articles  
new 48 to new 51?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	132	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	4	
Majority:	67	
Yes	131	99.24%
No	1	0.76%

15 Mar 2025 10:29:36

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Articles  
new 52 to new 53?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	136	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	0	
Majority:	69	
Yes	135	99.26%
No	1	0.74%

15 Mar 2025 10:30:41

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Articles  
new 54 to new 57?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	129	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	7	
Majority:	65	
Yes	128	99.22%
No	1	0.78%

15 Mar 2025 10:31:48

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Articles  
new 58 to new 62?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	133	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	3	
Majority:	67	
Yes	132	99.25%
No	1	0.75%

15 Mar 2025 10:33:06

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Articles new  
63 to new 66?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136		
Valid Votes:	127		
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	9		
Majority:	64		
Yes	127	100.00%	
No	0	0.00%	

## 4.b. Proposed Changes to the Statute Appendices (Bye-Laws)

15 Mar 2025 10:34:05

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Appendix S1  
to Appendix S7 and S10

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	127	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	9	
Majority:	64	
Yes	119	93.70%
No	8	6.30%

15 Mar 2025 10:35:07

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for new  
Appendix S8?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	134	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	2	
Majority:	68	
Yes	128	95.52%
No	6	4.48%

15 Mar 2025 10:35:58

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for new  
Appendix S9?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	132	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	4	
Majority:	67	
Yes	130	98.48%
No	2	1.52%

15 Mar 2025 10:36:49

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for new  
Appendix S11

Voting Cards Distributed:	136		
Valid Votes:	131		
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	5		
Majority:	66		
Yes	131	100.00%	
No	0	0.00%	

15 Mar 2025 10:37:44

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for new  
Appendix S12?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	134	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	2	
Majority:	68	
Yes	132	98.51%
No	2	1.49%

## 4.c. Proposed Changes to the Rules of Racing and related Bye-Laws

15 Mar 2025 10:38:57

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Rules new 1 to new 12?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	132	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	4	
Majority:	67	
Yes	132	100.00%
No	0	0.00%

15 Mar 2025 10:40:18

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council Proposal for Rule new 13?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	128	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	8	
Majority:	65	
Yes	113	88.28%
No	15	11.72%

15 Mar 2025 10:41:19

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposal for Rule new 14?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	132	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	4	
Majority:	67	
Yes	121	91.67%
No	11	8.33%

15 Mar 2025 10:42:40

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Rule new 15  
to new 25?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	131	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	5	
Majority:	66	
Yes	125	95.42%
No	6	4.58%

# World Rowing Championships programme (rule 26)

15 Mar 2025 10:44:11

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Please select your preferred proposal option:

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	132	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	4	
Majority:	67	
Council proposal	72	54.55%
GBR Proposal	60	45.45%

# World Rowing Championships programme (rule 26)

15 Mar 2025 10:45:41

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposal for Rule new 26?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136		
Valid Votes:	134		
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	2		
Majority:	68		
Yes	123	91.79%	
No	11	8.21%	

15 Mar 2025 10:46:48

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Rule new 27  
to new 46

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	126	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	10	
Majority:	64	
Yes	125	99.21%
No	1	0.79%

15 Mar 2025 10:47:51

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Rule new 47  
to new 86

Voting Cards Distributed:	136		
Valid Votes:	128		
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	8		
Majority:	65		
Yes	128	100.00%	
No	0	0.00%	

# Exceptional cases (rule 87)

15 Mar 2025 10:49:03

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Please select your preferred proposal option:

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	123	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	13	
Majority:	62	
Council proposal	62	50.41%
SWE, POL, NZL, CAN, AUS, NOR, DEN, FIN, GBR, USA proposal	61	49.59%

# Exceptional cases (rule 87)

15 Mar 2025 10:50:19

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposal for Rule new 87?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136		
Valid Votes:	126		
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	10		
Majority:	64		
Yes	100	79.37%	
No	26	20.63%	

15 Mar 2025 10:51:22

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Rule new 88 to new 89?

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	130	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	6	
Majority:	66	
Yes	128	98.46%
No	2	1.54%

## 4.d. Proposed Changes to the Rules Appendices (Event Regulations and Rules Bye-Laws)

15 Mar 2025 10:52:19

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposal for Appendix R1  
(Bye-Law to Rule 13)

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	129	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	7	
Majority:	65	
Yes	124	96.12%
No	5	3.88%

15 Mar 2025 10:53:18

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Appendix R2-  
R5

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	127	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	9	
Majority:	64	
Yes	123	96.85%
No	4	3.15%

15 Mar 2025 10:54:21

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposals for Appendix R6

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	130	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	6	
Majority:	66	
Yes	88	67.69%
No	42	32.31%

15 Mar 2025 10:55:18

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

Do you approve the Council proposal for Appendix R7 -  
R17

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	127	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	9	
Majority:	64	
Yes	121	95.28%
No	6	4.72%

15 Mar 2025 10:56:17

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

### Do you approve the Council proposal for Standalone Rules & Bye-Laws for Coastal Rowing Discipline

Voting Cards Distributed:	136	
Valid Votes:	129	
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	7	
Majority:	65	
Yes	123	95.35%
No	6	4.65%

15 Mar 2025 10:57:18

## World Rowing Quadrennial Congress 2025

### Do you approve the Council proposal for Standalone Rules & Bye-Laws for Indoor Rowing Discipline

Voting Cards Distributed:	136		
Valid Votes:	130		
Abstentions (Including Blank Votes):	6		
Majority:	66		
Yes	130	100.00%	
No	0	0.00%	

## 11.3. Membership update

# Asian Rowing Federation (ARF)

- ARF met the outstanding conditions set by the 2023 Ordinary Congress.
- Membership confirmed under Article 18.

# Oman Rowing Federation Membership not confirmed

- Oman Rowing Federation did not meet the outstanding conditions linked to the provisional membership granted at the 2023 Ordinary Congress.  
Council is not in a position to recommend a confirmation of the membership.
- Total number of affiliated national rowing federations - 159

# Bahamas Rowing Federation

In accordance with Article 15, the Executive Committee has decided to suspend Bahamas Rowing Federation due to non-compliance with the World Rowing Statutes.