

*world
rowing*[®]

FISA



2025 Ordinary Congress

Shanghai, China
29 September 2025



21. Strategic projects

Strategic Events and Calendar

Review

SECR



**Strategic Event & Calendar Review
update**

**Future World Rowing Cup,
championships
& World Ranking**



Contents

- General update
- WR Events for 2027, 2028
- World Cup series and other events approach— a way forward
- Update on the ranking project



**SECR
General update**



General Update on SECR

- SECR Core group workshops – May, June 2025, + online meetings
- Calendar review
 - World Cups are at 2 weeks intervals
 - World Rowing Cup concepts
 - Continental events
- World Rowing Events Programme – implemented, Competition Schedule under review

General Update on SECR - continued

Changes Implemented in 2025

- World Rowing Events Programme (QC decision)
 - Mix8+ tested at World Cups
 - 10 Mix8+, 11 Mix2x at WRCH in Shanghai
 - Para rowing events – at Varese World Cup – all PR events offered (PR2 M1x/W1x, PR3 M/W 2-)
 - Ongoing review of Programme/Competition Schedule
- Sport Presentation changes
 - Victory Ceremony formats – to be reviewed
 - Competition Schedule – adjustments to allow better fan engagement
 - New ways to be explored
- New Progression System – to be reviewed

Calendar 2027

- **World Rowing Cup I** (11-13 June)
- **World Rowing Cup II** (25-27 June)
- **World Rowing Cup III** (9-11 July)
- **World Rowing Championships (Olympic and Paralympic Qualification)**, Lucerne SUI, 22-29 August
- **World Rowing U23 Championships** (22-25 July)
- **World Rowing U19 Championships** (5-8 August) or combined WRU23/U19CH (28 July – 1 August)
- **Olympic Testing Activities at the Marine Stadium in LA - ???**

Calendar 2028

- **World Rowing Cup I** (28-30 April)
- **Final Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta** (5-7 May)
- **World Rowing Cup II** (12-14 May)
- **World Rowing Cup III** (27-28 May). **Racing distance 1500 m**
- **World Rowing U19, U23 and Senior Championships** (12-20 August)

All continental qualification to take place before the FOPQR.



World Rowing Cup Series & Calendar



Possible ways forward

Success Factors

Attractiveness through high level competition, top crews to participate, „Heros”

Consistency (participation, level of competition, predictability of the season/dates)

Attractive event schedule

Fan engagement, „festivalisation” – engaging the local community, attractive programme for spectator, use new technology

Attractiveness to commercial partners – sponsors, funding agencies

Better product with 5-7 World Cups

Participation at affordable cost

Sustainable commercial model

Potential solutions, considerations

League system

Commitment to participate in all rounds of the series

Alternative schedule

Teams budget, training programme, main goal is the WRCH

Statistics of participation

Team services – lower level

Multiple year contracts

Review of requirements

New events

- Explore possibilities of new competition formats, new events
- World Rowing Shanghai Sprints – 2026-2030



Summary of the ranking project



The Ranking project

Contract in final stage

Aim is to have a first version this winter

Then present it to stakeholders to fine tune based on simulations.

What are the goals?

1. Tool to facilitate the sportive incentive: qualification WRCH, OG
2. Tool to present rowers; crews; teams in a ranking: Story telling
3. Tool to define the event calendar: Share the Olympic value

The Ranking project

Requirements:

- The lifetime of a point must be longer than one year and may be up to four years. An aging index could be necessary too. (Older points weigh less.)
- Racing is always rewarding: avoiding a race cannot be profitable.
- The ranking of individual rowers is the basis for crew rankings.
- Teams need some wiggle room to put the right rowers in the right boats.
- The position on the ranking list is determined by beating others, not by attending an event only.

World Rowing pyramid of events

Olympic Games

World Rowing championships

Continental championships

World cup

Blue ribbon events

Different formats

World cup

✓ Ranking sanctioned International regattas

✓ Ranking sanctioned International regattas

Different formats

✓ Ranking sanctioned International regattas

✓ Ranking sanctioned International regattas

The Ranking project

Main decision to take in 2028:

- Qualification pathway to be eligible to enter the World Rowing Championships
- Qualification through Ranking.

Details later.

SECR - Next steps & Timeline

- 2025 September - Council discussion
- 2026 Q1 – World Ranking first concept ready, stakeholder discussions
- 2026 Q2 – Finalise World Cup concept
- 2026-2027 – World Ranking – Testing
- 2026 Q2 – Council approval
- 2026 August – Presentation at World Rowing Ordinary Congress
- 2028 – Ranking used for seeding
- 2029 – Ranking is used for WRCH qualification
- 2025 Q4 – 2026 Q1 – World Cup concept discussions continue

Thank you

