



19 December 2025  
Lausanne, Switzerland

To: Member Federations  
Council and Commission Members  
Recognised Continental  
Confederations  
Recognised Groupings of Member  
Federations  
Organisers of World Rowing Events  
National Rowing Magazines  
Partners

## World Rowing Circular No. 9 of 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Circular covers the following items:

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3. Event Attributions- 2027 & 2028 WRCCBSF
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### **1. World Rowing Championship – racing programme**

The World Rowing Council has recently completed a review of the WRCH Seniors, U23 and U23 Programmes. The reduction in the number of races over the past few years provides an opportunity to reduce the overall duration of the programme by one day.

The World Rowing Championship Programmes decided by our Council in its latest meeting will be as follows:

- World Rowing Championships Seniors programme reduced from 8 to 7 racing days
- World Rowing Championships U29 & U19 programme reduced from 5 to 4 racing days.

### **2. 2026 WRCCH & 2026 WRBSF Qingdao, CHN – Updates**

The dates and venue of the 2025 WRCCH and WRBSF are now confirmed.

Venue: Golden Beach

Dates:

- 2026 World Rowing Coastal Championships: 11 – 13 October 2026
- 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals: 18 – 21 October 2026

### **3. Event Attributions- 2027 & 2028 WRCCBSF**

World Rowing is pleased to inform Member Federations of the latest event attributions approved by its Council for the **2027 & 2028 World Rowing Coastal Championships and World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals** (combined)

- The **2027 WRCCBSF** has been attributed to Oeiras, POR
- The **2028 WRCCBSF** has been attributed to Antalya, TUR

Further information, including location and exact dates, will be provided in due course.

### **4. Casual Vacancies Nominations**

Member Federations are advised that positions will be vacant in the following Commissions:

- Events Commission
- Sports Medicine Commissions (two vacancies)
- Umpiring Commission

MFs are asked to propose candidates who could positively contribute to these commissions. MF should send a letter of nomination and a completed Commission Member Nomination Form for each candidate **by 30 January 2026**. MFs nominating candidates are expected to commit themselves to providing financial support for the travel and work of the Commission member. The Nomination form can be found on the website at the following link [World Rowing Circulars - World Rowing](#)



## 5. 2025 World Rowing Awards

Following public nominations and based on the analysis of the expert panels created for each of the Awards, the Executive Committee has selected the finalists of the 2025 World Rowing Awards. The Ceremony will be held on Saturday, 24 January at 18:00 CET at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, with access limited to invited participants. The Award winners will be revealed on our website and on social media channels following the ceremony in Lausanne.

More information and the name of the finalists can be found on the World Rowing website at the following link: [Finalists announced for the 2025 World Rowing Awards - World Rowing](#).

## 6. 2026 World Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships – new formats

Entries are now open for the 2026 World Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships (WRVICH), presented by Concept2. Taking place entirely online, the event invites athletes from every corner of the world to compete from home, gyms, local clubs of any discipline, etc. all using Concept2 rowing machines.

This year's WRVICH will unfold across two consecutive weekends in February, featuring an expanded programme of distances and categories:

- Heats of **1min** and **1000m**: Saturday 21 February 2026
- Heats of **5000m** and **1000m/5000m Relays**: Sunday 22 February 2026
- Finals of **all events**: Saturday 28 February 2026

To ensure fair access to athletes worldwide, all Heats will be organised across three time zones: Asia/Oceania, Europe/Africa, and the Americas. No prior qualification is required: every participant will line up in live racing during the Heats, with the fastest advancing to the Finals.

To learn more about the event, rules and qualification, click [here](#).

To submit entries, click [here](#).

## 7. New Indoor Adaptive Categories (formerly Indoor Para-rowing)

During its last meeting, the World Rowing Council agreed that as a trial for the 2026 World Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships and the 2026 World Rowing Virtual Series, World Rowing will now offer 7 (seven) Indoor Adaptive Rowing (IAR) categories for athletes with different physical, visual, intellectual and coordination impairments.

Athletes who already have one of the following eligibilities may enter in an IAR category without any additional documentation or re-assessment:

- Para Rowing Sport Class (PR1, PR2, PR3). National and international Para Rowing classifications are accepted.



- Invictus Games categorisation
- Virtus Eligibility
- IBSA Sport Class (B1, B2, B3)

Otherwise, a categorisation must be requested.

From IAR 1 to IAR 7, all eligibility criteria and categorisation process can be found [here](#).

### 8. Qualified teams to the 2026 World Rowing Shanghai Sprints

The World Rowing Shanghai Sprints (WRSS) is a new five-year event (2026–2030) delivered by World Rowing in collaboration with the Shanghai Administration of Sports, the Donghao Lansheng Group – organisers of the recent 2025 World Rowing Championships – with the support of the Chinese Rowing Association. The WRSS will serve as a climax to the annual Head of Shanghai River Regatta. Eight teams (88 athletes; 11 per team) will be fully funded—flights, hotels, appearance fees, prize money and equipment (boats and oars) and other benefits will be provided. See media [release](#) and [video](#) here.

Based on the 2025 World Rowing Championships Medal Standings Table, six Member Federations have qualified for the inaugural 2026 edition scheduled on September 26<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> 2026. Invitations have been sent on 18 December to those successful MFs. As Host Nation, China will be awarded the seventh invitation. The eighth Team is a 'World Team', made up of the next best ranked individual athletes who are not members of the other seven MFs invited to the WRSS. WR is in the process of contacting these individual athletes and their Federations. More information will be provided in the February 2026 Circular.

### 9. Call for Applications: ASOIF Women's Leadership Online Programme 2026

World Rowing invites Member Federations to submit applications for the 2026 ASOIF Women's Leadership Online Programme, a four-week online course designed to strengthen the leadership capacity of women aspiring to serve in national or international sport governance roles. Two programme groups will run in March-April 2026, delivered by experienced leadership coaches. The course focuses on communication, negotiation, political astuteness, confidence building, and personal leadership styles. It will consist of a combination of live online coaching sessions (2 hours per week) and offline assignments.

World Rowing will support up to two candidates. Member Federations are therefore invited to submit applications using the link below, by **no later than Friday, 16 January 2026 (17:00 CET)**. Applications received after this deadline cannot be considered.

<https://worldrowingforms.wufoo.com/forms/x1aiy7ss0aes4mm/>

Should you require further information, please contact World Rowing at [anna.mguni@worldrowing.com](mailto:anna.mguni@worldrowing.com)



#### 10. 2026 WADA Prohibited List

Member Federations are informed that the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has officially published the [2026 Prohibited List](#), also available through the World Rowing Anti-Doping page [Anti-Doping - World Rowing](#). MFs are strongly encouraged to share this resource widely and to provide any necessary guidance to athletes and athletes support personnel.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Jean-Christophe Rolland, written in a cursive style.

Jean-Christophe Rolland  
President

A blue ink signature of Vincent Gaillard, written in a cursive style.

Vincent Gaillard  
Executive Director