

Annual report 2023



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REPORT OF PRESIDENT

Jean-Christophe Rolland (FRA)

Introduction

I cannot begin this report on 2023 on anything other than an extremely positive note for our sport, our International Federation and all our Member Federations. The highlight of 2023 was, and will undoubtedly remain, the decision of the IOC Executive Board on 17 October 2023 to include coastal rowing in the programme for the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. This was a truly "historic" step, as it will be the first time that rowing will have two disciplines at the Olympic Games. It is the successful conclusion of an important chapter in our Olympic strategy, which I will return to later in this report.

Strategic projects.

As the governing body of rowing, the core of our mission is to provide long-term leadership for our sport and ensure a sustainable future in a changing and undoubtedly increasingly complex and competitive environment. The challenges are considerable and our future depends on our ability to adapt, an adaptation that must be appropriate and sharply measured. The IOC President launched the Agenda 2020 reform with the phrase "change... or to be changed". This also applies to our context.

We must indeed "change" or "adapt", but we must do so while respecting our values and the fundamentals that make our sport unique.

In this context, we are pursuing several initiatives and projects, focusing on our Olympic strategy, the Strategic Event and Calendar Review (SECR) and our commercial approach, as the model for financing sports organisations has also changed significantly. It is essential to diversify our revenues, which are still heavily dependent on the IOC and the Olympic Games, and to attract investors to support our development projects.

The sport of rowing is now a plural one, with three disciplines.

Although our historic mainstay, now called 'classic rowing', has an excellent reputation and a fabulous history, this is not a guarantee of its future. We face challenges that need to be addressed. Remaining attractive to all stakeholders - athletes, clubs, federations, partners, broadcasters, communities and local authorities - is a major, indeed vital, challenge. And we must do so without abandoning the principles and values to which we are committed and which are the strength of our sport. While there is room for manoeuvre and opportunity, we will also have to accept change. Change is never comfortable.

The younger disciplines of coastal rowing and indoor rowing have incredible potential for development. Our disciplines are not in competition with each other, on the contrary, they complement each other and allow us to grow the rowing community and attract more people to our sport.

Coastal rowing, a new Olympic discipline.

I would like to remind you that this is the result of our Olympic strategy, which was drawn up after the Rio Olympics when the IOC's assessment of the rowing programme at the Olympic Games was irrevocable. The project launched at the 2017 Extraordinary Congress on the position of the lightweight category concluded that there were no arguments that could be raised and accepted in the context of the Olympic programme. I won't dwell on this point, which has been widely discussed and shared. Based on the relentless observation that our position of defending the weight category at the Olympic Games at all costs was no longer tenable, we changed our strategy and moved from a "defensive position to a proactive ambition", namely to include the coastal rowing discipline. The Covid crisis and the postponement of Tokyo 2020 allowed us to save the lightweight double sculls for Paris 2024 one last time, but it was clear from the IOC that there would be no further extension.

This decision by the IOC Executive Board is the culmination of a project that has lasted almost seven years. While we can be proud of this achievement, we must remain humble. This gives us a great responsibility - the responsibility of delivering an Olympic competition. More than an achievement, it is in fact a stage that we must now complete, an opportunity presented to us which we must now bring to fruition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed in any way, especially Matt Smith, the Coastal Rowing Commission and its Chair, Guin Batten. As the IOC President pointed out in his press conference following the decision, 17 International Federations had applied to add a new discipline to the programme and only one - Coastal Rowing - was accepted. This shows, if proof were needed, the extreme difficulty of this task and also the quality of our application and the support we provided.

I would also like to thank our Member Federations for signing up for this highly ambitious project without any guarantee of success. I would also like to congratulate the many Member Federations who have already launched programmes to develop the discipline.

One discipline, two formats.

To maximise our chances and to meet the strict criteria of the exercise, we had chosen to submit the "Beach Sprint" format, a format that is better suited to the constraints imposed, particularly in terms of cost, complexity and athlete quotas. The fact remains, however, that the endurance format, the historical hallmark of the discipline, will remain on the World Championships programme.

We will continue our approach of continuous improvement, particularly concerning the competition rules, which need to be simplified, and the environment in the broadest sense, to

create an attractive product. As I said, we are not yet fully mature and we will spare no effort to deliver a concept that lives up to our Olympic ambitions.

A new business model.

There is real room for manoeuvre in developing the potential of coastal rowing, but we don't have the internal resources to achieve our ambitions on our own. So we are working on a different model, to bring in external investors. That's what the league model is all about. While the structure is not yet fully defined, I want to be clear that we will retain full control of the sporting dimension.

Indoor rowing

This is also a discipline with incredible potential. As I have said, we cannot miss this opportunity, because if we do not take it up, it is clear that others will do it for us. In just a few years, we have also been able to adapt. New technologies and the possibility of remote connection are assets that have allowed us to evolve in this way. I praise the work of the Indoor Rowing Committee and the creativity of the products and services that have been developed to attract and connect with a wider audience than the traditional rowing family on the water.

At the IOC Session in Mumbai in October 2023, IOC President Thomas Bach announced the forthcoming creation of the Olympic e-Sports Games. The IOC is determined not to miss out on a huge audience and to get in touch with this "market". Although the details are not yet known, we are working closely with the IOC because we believe that our discipline is perfectly suited to this concept. The first Olympic e-Sports Games will be held in Saudi Arabia, probably at the end of 2025, but this has not yet been confirmed.

To close this chapter, I would like to pay tribute to the partnership we have signed with Concept2. An iconic company if ever there was one, we are proud of this collaboration which will allow us to commit the resources needed to accelerate the development of this discipline.

Classic rowing.

To think that our history and the richness of our past is a guarantee of a sustainable future would be a serious error. Our historic pillar is facing several challenges that must be addressed.

That is what the SECR project, launched at the 2022 Congress in Prague, is all about. Under the leadership of Executive Committee member Eva Szanto, the aim is to work with all stakeholders to carry out a complete and in-depth review of our international competitions, World Cups and World Championships, to find concrete solutions, and to propose a new model to guarantee a relevant calendar, attractive competitions and a sustainable future for this discipline, in the context of increasingly competitive international sport.

A small representative group was set up and working sessions were held. The findings are clear and widely shared: the World Cup model, which was highly relevant when it was created in the 1990s, no longer meets expectations and no longer seems appropriate for the future.

The attractiveness of the event, both for the organising committees and for the federations, is questioned. The participation of the best athletes is a prerequisite for the interest of broadcasters and the media, and therefore an essential dimension in the promotion of our sport. So I can only regret the lack of commitment from the national teams, particularly in the early stages. The reasons are certainly

legitimate for the non-European teams, for obvious logistical and resource reasons, but questionable for the others, given the importance of promotion for the athletes.

I would like to thank all the contributors to this working group. I recognise the difficult task and the high expectations. Some ideas are being considered and proposals will be shared with the Member Federations before being finalised.

Rule 25: World Championships programme.

While the new calendar and proposals to encourage participation in the World Cups as a stepping stone to the World Championships will be finalised for the next Olympiad, changes to the World Championships programme can only be made by decision of the Quadrennial Congress to be held in March 2025. Here too, the discussions are converging towards a reduction in the number of events in our championship programmes, which are too numerous judging by the lack of interest in some of them. I have already expressed my views on this subject on several occasions, notably to the Congress.

Another area for consideration is the introduction of mixed events. This is certainly not a new idea, and the subject has been around for a long time, but the opportunity to revise the Olympic programme for Los Angeles 2028 enforces the timing. The deadline of the Quadrennial Congress is crucial from this point of view. Some Member Federations have already introduced mixed events in their championships. The mixed eight was for the first time and with great success on the programme of the 2023 Pan-American Games, organised by Chile. There are no tangible reasons preventing or limiting this approach. On the contrary, rowing seems to be one of the most suitable sports for mixed teams, even at a high level. We will develop proposals on these issues.

Governance.

A positive assessment

As I write this report, ASOIF (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations) has just published the report of the 5th evaluation of the governance of Summer Olympic International Federations.

I would like to remind you that this report is based on a self-assessment by the federations using a questionnaire containing 60 indicators covering areas such as transparency, integrity, democracy, development and control mechanisms. This assessment is then moderated by I Trust Sport, an independent body.

I would like to pay tribute to the work undertaken with the Governance Working Group, led by Annamarie Phelps, and also to the questionnaire response exercise carried out by our Acting Head of Governance, Pat Lambert. We received the highest ratings among federations of the same size and comparable annual revenues, and even exemplary ratings on certain crucial indicators, reflecting a deeply rooted culture of good governance and ongoing efforts to make progress.

I can say that I fully appreciate the evaluation against the frustration I felt when the report on the 4th evaluation was published, as the final presentation and communication were in some ways unfavourable. The ASOIF general report and the detailed report on World Rowing are available on our website. I can only encourage our Member Federations to draw inspiration from this model and also to commit to a process of continuous improvement.

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The Quadrennial Congress

The working groups on governance (GWG) and competition rules (RWG) have continued their work in preparation for the next Quadrennial Congress - formerly Extraordinary - the only authority empowered once every four years to amend the articles of our Statutes and the Rules of racing. The next Congress will be held in Seville in March 2025, and we need to be ready for it. I would like to thank their chairs, Annamarie Phelps and Kris Grudt, and their members for this exercise. I would remind you that the proposed changes will be shared with our Member Federations before the Congress, so there will be no surprises.

Federation suspended

Although the 2023 World Championships in Belgrade (SRB) were a success from a sporting point of view, and in particular the Olympic qualifiers for the Paris 2024 Games, there were many difficulties in preparing and delivering the competition, which led eventually the Executive Committee to suspend the Serbian Rowing Federation from 1st January 2024 in application of Article 15 relating to financial debts. While we deeply regret this situation, we maintained throughout this difficult period a constructive spirit of ongoing dialogue with the Serbian federation and authorities. The suspension was lifted on 22 January 2024.

Finance.

The evolution of our organisation, our ambitions for the development of our sport on the one hand and the administrative burdens inherent in the governance of sports federations on the other hand require ever greater resources. In a post-pandemic inflationary environment, we are continuing our policy of controlling expenditure. I can say that we are also sparing no effort to diversify and increase our income. Several avenues are being explored, depending on the sector of activity, as briefly mentioned earlier in this report and in more detail in the Executive Director's report. Let's hope they bear fruit.

The 2023 accounts show a deficit. Details are provided by the Treasurer and in the auditors' report. The Finance Committee and the Executive Committee are particularly attentive to and committed to risk management. Although the uncertainties make the exercise difficult, the opportunities are there and we can be reasonably optimistic, despite once again a very difficult context.

Resources.

In this report, I would like to express my full gratitude to the staff of our federation. Under the leadership of Executive Director Vincent Gaillard, the teams have once again delivered in an exemplary manner, despite limited resources compared to the workload. I would like to congratulate each one of them for their commitment to our organisation, and also to Pat Lambert, who has taken on the role of Interim Head of Governance.

Sports season

Allow me to thank all our athletes, who are obviously at the heart of our raison d'être and who through their performances do so much for the promotion of our sport. But I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all the stakeholders

who make up our ecosystem and who ensure that our sport continues to shine on the international stage, in particular the Organising Committees that stage the competitions, the Member Federations, the broadcasters and the media, as well as our partners.

The geopolitical context remains tense

The turbulence in the world has not abated in 2023, and unfortunately many conflicts have continued, with radicalisation on the rise in many countries. While technologies improve communication, human relations have never been so tense and conflict-ridden. My sport use all its added value to promote peace and tolerance by bringing people together.

The politicisation of sport.

The Olympic Charter, which constitutes the statutes of the Olympic Movement, sets out the fundamental principles of Olympism, including political neutrality and the independence of sport. The implementation of these strong principles can nevertheless prove complex.

Sport has a strong political dimension when it comes, for example, to inclusion and respect for both rules and individuals... but also during major international competitions when the representation of a country has a particular connotation depending on the geopolitical context. "Sport can change the world... it can create hope where there was only despair" said Nelson Mandela.

However, and this is the danger, sport must not be held hostage by politicians and governments who decide whether or not athletes will take part in international competitions. This is where politicisation is unacceptable.

Neutral athletes.

The terrible and tragic war in Ukraine is an illustration of this complexity. The world of sport has a duty to address this dilemma, despite all the emotion generated by acts of war, by taking a long-term view of the place of sport in the world. That is where the challenge lies. Protecting fundamental values and principles and maintaining sport as a tool for promoting peace, dialogue and reconciliation. It is in this context that the Executive Committee has pursued the approach of opening up, albeit in a limited and highly controlled way, to the participation of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport in our 2023 international competitions.

Conclusion

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to the members of the Executive Committee for their availability and commitment to our organisation throughout the year. I admit to asking more of them than is reasonable for volunteers, but I am a great believer in teamwork and I can say that we operate as a real team.

I salute the involvement of the members of the Council, for their commitment, their expertise in their respective fields and their contribution to the good governance of our sport. We rely on all our commissions, working groups and panels of experts: I would like to thank each one of them for their contribution.

Allow me to conclude this report by remembering Thor Nilsen, a legend of our sport, who passed away on 5 October 2023.

Jean-Christophe Rolland

REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT Tricia Smith (CAN)

The role of the Vice President is to:

- Carry out such duties as are delegated by the President
- Represent World Rowing when the President is unable to do so, or when requested by the Executive Committee
- Work on special assignments and working groups when requested to do so by the Executive Committee or the Council. These assignments or working groups may concern the internal affairs of World Rowing or its relations with other bodies
- Oversee the work of the Development Programme
- Submit a report to the Ordinary Congress each year

Key activities and achievements in 2023

Geopolitics continued to play a role in international sport in 2023. Conversations continued in 2023 about Olympic Values, sport's role in geopolitics, and how a global movement founded on principles of inclusion and peace can find a path when values collide. It showed us once again the importance of sport, and the Olympic Movement, to these conversations and where this is recognized by the broader global community.

As Vice President I supported the President, the Executive Committee and Executive Director, in all matters related to the many necessary decisions which had to be made regarding possible participation of athletes holding a RUS or BLR passport, following the updated recommendations of the IOC.

The Executive Committee continued to meet twice monthly and continues to oversee the strategic refresh and progress made on marketing and other potential partnerships led by our new Secretary General and the President. Key planning decisions around the new Olympic program which now includes Beach Sprints and the promotion and strategies around Indoor Rowing are ongoing topics. I continue to be part of the Governance Working Group led by Annamarie Phelps. A report on progress will be made at Congress.

The Vice President's role in World Rowing Development continues to be on an advisory and consultative basis only. The World Rowing Development Program is managed on a day-to-day basis by the World Rowing team led by Development Director, Daniela Gomes da Costa, whose report is included in the materials.

I continue to represent the interests of international sport and of World Rowing, where appropriate, at the numerous other sport-related meetings I attended during the year as Canadian NOC President, ANOC EB Member, Panam Sports EB Member, ICAS Member, and IOC Member, including the fight for clean sport, safe sport, the promotion of women in sport, and promotion of rowing in the many regional Games. I continue as a member of the IOC Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission, the Coordination Commission for

the XXV Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, and the IOC Legal Affairs Commission. In 2023 more of the meetings were held in person. A list of some of the key meetings is set out below.

Meetings and events attended in 2023:

World Rowing Activity:

- January 18, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- February 1, 2023, WR Call
- February 2-5, 2023, WR Executive Committee and Council Meetings, Lausanne, Switzerland
- February 15, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- February 24-26, 2023, WR World Indoor Championship, Mississauga, Canada
- February 27-28, 2023, WR Meetings with USOPC and LA2023 Venue Visits
- March 21, 2023, WR Zoom Calls
- March 22, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- March 27, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting, Oxford, United Kingdom
- April 5, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- April 18, 2023, WR Governance Working Group Call
- April 19, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- April 27, 2023, WR Council Meeting
- May 3, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- May 8, 2023, WR RUS/BLR Working Group Call
- May 17, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- May 26, 2023, WR World Championships Discussion
- May 30, 2023, WR President Call
- June 1, 2023, WR World Championships Discussion
- June 3, 2023, WR RUS/BLR Call
- June 21, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- July 5, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- July 7-10, 2023, WR Cup III and Council Meetings, Lucerne, Switzerland
- July 19, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- August 2, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- August 30, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- September 6-12, 2023, WR Championship, Executive Committee and Council Meetings, Ordinary Congress, Belgrade, Serbia
- October 18, 2023, WR TKM Meeting
- October 24-25, 2023, Pan American Games, Concepcion, Chile
- October 25, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting

- November 2-11, 2023, WR Joint Commissions Meetings
- November 22, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- November 27, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- December 14, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting
- December 20, 2023, WR Executive Committee Meeting

International Work 2023:

- January 17, 2023, IOC Members Consultation Call
- January 19, 2023, IOC Consultation Call re State of the Olympic Movement
- February 2, 2023, Meeting with IOC President Thomas Bach
- March 7, 2023, Panam Sports Women in Sport Seminar, Panama City, Panama
- March 27, 2023, IOC Members Consultation Call
- March 31, 2023, ANOC Executive Council Meeting, Madrid, Spain
- May 9-11, 2023, IOC Coordination Commission for the XXV Olympic Games Milano Cortina Meetings
- May 18-19, 2023, Panam Sports Executive Board Meetings
- June 22, 2023, Extraordinary IOC Session
- October 14-17, 2023, IOC Session, Mumbai, India
- October 17, 2023, ANOC Executive Council Meeting
- October 18-November 6, Pan American Games and Panam Sports Executive Board Meetings, Santiago, Chile
- November 17, IOC Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission meetings
- November 27, 2023, IOC Legal Affairs Commission Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
- November 28, 2023, ICAS and ICAS Athletes' Commission meetings, Lausanne, Switzerland
- November 29-December 1, 2023, Court of Arbitration for Sport Seminar, Geneva, Switzerland
- December 5, 2023, Sporting Chance Forum, Geneva, Switzerland
- December 6, 2023, ANOC Executive Council Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
- December 6, 2023, IOC Consultation Call for IOC Members
- December 7, 2023, Meeting with IOC President Thomas Bach
- December 7, 2023, IOC Consultation Call
- December 8-11, 2023, Panam Sports Americas Best Practices Symposium and Sports Awards, Miami, Florida

Thanks as always to Jean Christophe, Vincent, the Council, the team, and all the members of the World Rowing family for your integrity, your dedication, and for your extraordinary work for our athletes and for our sport. Thanks also to our athletes, coaches, and officials. I feel extremely fortunate and proud to be working with all of you.

Tricia Smith

REPORT OF TREASURER

Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED)

The role of the Treasurer is to:

- Liaise with and support the Executive Director in connection with the preparation of the annual budget and the annual accounts, as well as the long-term financial plan, having regard to the four-year Olympic cycle and presents them to the Ordinary Congress;
- Chair and call for meetings of the Finance Committee, and reports to the Executive Committee on the activities of the Finance Committee;
- Act as member of the Internal Audit Committee and is responsible for convening the meetings; and to
- Submit a report and present the financial statements to the Ordinary Congress each year.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

Apart from participation in Executive Committee Meetings, my principal activities in 2023 continued to be oversight of World Rowing's financial activities in coordination with the Executive Director Vincent Gaillard and the Controller Ana Djalo and chairing the Finance Committee and Audit Committee meetings. The report on the 2023 accounts appears elsewhere in the agenda papers.

In the first full year with no effects on events and travel from the COVID-19 pandemic anymore World Rowing's operational result was CHF - 601'095 versus a budgeted deficit of CHF - 449'307. With global markets recovering our investment portfolio result was CHF 272'071 leading to an overall result for the year of CHF - 329'024.

Summary and focus for 2024

Given dependency on the Olympic revenue, the increasing scope of activities of World Rowing to meet expectations from all stakeholders, the inflationary environment and increasing pressure on the traditional broadcast revenue model and other revenue sources, increasing and diversifying revenue streams remains the priority for World Rowing.

During 2023 the Executive Director has strengthened his team and managed to meet all demands from stakeholders within the existing cost base while launching several initiatives to generate more and more diversified revenue. I expect at least some of these initiatives should lead to tangible financial impact in 2024 and especially the years thereafter. Hopefully the inclusion of Beach Sprints in the Los Angeles Olympic Games as well as all efforts from the Indoor Rowing commission will result in revenue streams from new disciplines.

I look forward to continuing working with the Executive Director and his team to drive forward these revenue generating initiatives and get World Rowing in a more sustainable financial position.

REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED)

The role of the Internal Audit Committee is to provide oversight on audit, finance, risk management and governance matters, including overseeing the following:

- the appropriateness of the four-year and annual budget process,
- the integrity of the financial statements,
- compliance with applicable accounting principles and laws,
- internal controls as they relate to financial reporting and non-financial matters,
- the qualifications, independence, appointment and work of the external auditor, and
- the effectiveness of World Rowing's risk management infrastructure.

The Internal Audit Committee shall submit a report to the Ordinary Congress each year.

The Internal Audit Committee consists of three individuals; the World Rowing Treasurer and two individuals who do not hold elected, appointed or employed positions within World Rowing.

Of the three, at least one should have a legal background and one a finance background.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

The Internal Audit Committee met virtually in June and had a physical meeting in Belgrade in September. Key topics that were reviewed and discussed included the risk assessment matrix, the annual report including a discussion with the auditors, the budget and financial 4-year planning, efforts to diversify World Rowing's revenue, recommendations of the audit and auditor for next year, water safety, and human resources. Additional attention was given to the audit process, which was delayed because of the problems with the accounting software and the transition to the new financial manager.

Focus for 2024

For 2024 the Audit Committee identified the following topics to focus on: audit review with PWC, review of IT risks (i.e. cyberattack, personal data /GDPR compliance, and IT systems/servers backup), and diversification of the commercial revenue.

Summary

The review of the financial audit, 4-year financial planning, and water safety did not reveal any (potential) shortcomings or new risks given actions/measures taken. The high dependency on one source of income (Olympic revenue) is a (known) risk that the Audit Committee has continued to stress to intensify efforts to identify other sources of income and monitor progress.

2023 Internal audit Committee

Hans-Jorgen Aversen
Germaine Bauer
Gerritjan Eggenkamp, Chair

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vincent Gaillard (SUI)

Following a thorough assessment of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to both our sport and our organisation – conducted over the year 2022 in coordination with our Executive Committee, with the benefit of conversations had with many of our Members, Partners and Stakeholders – a set of new strategic and operational priorities was developed for our organisation. 2023 provided a very concrete opportunity to materially progress around each of these priorities and into our 15-year plan to transform the reach, image and revenues of Rowing.

Twelve priority objectives were set for the year 2023, all of which intended to be above and beyond 'business as usual':

- Pursue Strategic Commercial Partnership/Investment Project: Phase 1 completion, Phase 2 launch
- Launch Strategic Event & Calendar Review process, focused on Classic Rowing.
- Develop Indoor Rowing strategic plan and Rowing Machines Certification Program.
- Elevate Coastal / Beach Sprint event delivery; Pursue LA28 campaign to conclusion.
- Re-energize WWF International / World Rowing 'Clean Water' partnership and overall Sustainability strategy.
- Consolidate Governance administration, including Commissions coordination & Confederations collaboration.
- Reassess general good-governance objectives and resource requirements, focusing on safeguarding.
- Develop Innovation culture within WR, initiate data & MF CRM projects.
- Consolidate and strengthen Team; improve general People administration and Lausanne office environment.
- Transition Accounting department; deploy budgets with all departments with increased accountability.
- Develop communications, media / social media engagement and public relations strategy.
- Pursue "low-hanging" revenue / budget-offsetting opportunities where possible.

For each of the above twelve objectives, I summarize here the areas where most substantial progress has been made:

- **Pursue Strategic Commercial Partnership Project: Phase 1 completion, Phase 2 launch.**

With a completion of Phase 1 in early 2023 – updates were provided a few months prior at the 2022 Congress – we decided to focus Phase 2 on tackling several time-sensitive priority initiatives designed to strengthen our long-term commercial potential and revenues. Some of these initiatives are further detailed in the points that follow. The focus from a strict partnership/investment standpoint was on preparing for new commercial collaborations, including (a) the development

of a franchise-based Beach Sprint Rowing League – presented at the 2023 Congress and in continued development since then –, (b) the Andalusia-Seville partnership – focused on World Cup sponsorship, hosting of Awards Galas, Conferences and Quadrennial Congress, to be announced in early 2024 –, and (c) an enhanced Concept2 partnership to support the growth of Indoor/Connected Rowing, to be announced in 2024. While the first of these initiatives is very much focused on mid to long-term revenues, the last two were designed to enable incremental revenues and budget offsets from 2024 onwards.

- **Launch Strategic Event & Calendar Review process, focused on Classic Rowing.**

This highly critical project – from a sporting standpoint but also in relation to our long-term commercial success –, launched in 2023 and presented at the Belgrade Congress, saw, amongst other initiatives, the implementation of a membership Survey and the creation of a first Key Stakeholder Group workshop immediately following the World Championships in Belgrade. Over the course of the year, some early progress was made, notably through the agreement on a revised World Cup event scheduling and the development of a revised 'Rule 25' for the World Championships sports programmes for the 2025-2028 cycle (the latter to be approved at the 2025 Quadrennial Congress). The work is expected to continue over the course of 2024 and 2025 as planned, notably in relation to a future World Cups 'sporting incentive scheme', an athlete Ranking system and the definition of our future sport calendar and 'World Series' for 2029 onwards.

- **Develop Indoor Rowing strategic plan and Rowing Machines Certification Program.**

2023 marked a highly productive year for the continued development of this emerging discipline, notably with the delivery of our first fully hybrid World Championships in Toronto, our planning for the following edition in Prague in early 2024, and our successful participation to the IOC eSports Week in Singapore. 2023 also marked a further development of our Indoor Rowing strategy in close cooperation with the Indoor Rowing Commission; the announcements of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Japan Sports Council to collaborate on relevant research projects; the development of an enhanced Concept2 partnership to support the growth of Indoor/Connected Rowing (to be announced in 2024); the launch of the attribution process for 2025-2026 World and European Championships; the development of a Rowing Machine certification programme to be launched in Q2 2024. Importantly, 2023 saw the announcement by the IOC of the creation of the first Olympic eGames in either 2025 or 2026, and the work started to ensure participation in the first and all future editions of the event, maximizing the prospects of a third discipline of Rowing reaching 'Olympic status'. A decision in that regard is expected in the summer of 2024.

- **Elevate Coastal / Beach Sprint event delivery; Pursue LA28 campaign to conclusion in Q3 2023.**

The main highlight of the year was undoubtedly the confirmation by the IOC of the inclusion of Beach Sprint Rowing at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, following years of development of this exciting format and its confirmed inclusion into other high-profile multisport Games, including the 2026 Dakar Youth Olympic Games. This decision accelerated the development of a '13pt Olympic plan' designed to elevate our discipline to Olympic standards, presented by the Chair of the Coastal Commission at the 2023 Congress. Other important highlights of 2023 included a vastly improved event delivery and sports presentation at the 2023 World Coastal Championships and Beach Sprint Finals in Barletta, Italy, and the continued development of a franchise-based Beach Sprint Rowing League, presented at the 2023 Congress.

- **Re-energize WWF International / World Rowing 'Clean Water' partnership and overall Sustainability strategy.**

The year 2023 saw the formal closure of the Kafue River Rowing Centre project and an agreement with the WWF International on the usage of funds raised to support a new, ambitious "Healthy Waters" initiative, intended to resonate at national/regional levels through the involvement of World Rowing's Member Federations and relevant WWF offices around the world. This initiative is being further engineered in early 2024 and will be launched at the World Coastal Rowing & Beach Sprint Finals in Genoa, Italy. 2023 also saw the successful launch of the "Water Wardens by Rowing" project in collaboration with the French Rowing Federation, World Rowing's engagement with the IOC Sports for Nature framework, further progress with our UNFCCC Sport for Climate partnership on climate change, and importantly, the onboarding of additional resources to support our sustainability plans: Pat Lambert, Strategic Projects Advisor, and Maïke Diekmann, Development & Sustainability Coordinator.

- **Consolidate Governance administration, including Commissions coordination & Confederations collaboration.**

The year 2023 saw progress being made on several important fronts, including with a greater support to the various World Rowing Commissions through dedicated staff liaisons and improved online working tools. World Rowing was asked by ASOIF to collaborate on the development of a revised methodology for the upcoming ASOIF Governance Survey, which will be published in June 2024 and for which World Rowing has expectations of receiving a higher recognition. World Rowing joined the Geneva-based Centre for Sport & Human Rights as an 'Engaged Organisation', with a view to improve its processes across events and supply chain. We also prepared for the launch of the Confederations Collaboration Project, due to be approved by the World Rowing Council and start in February 2024. All this was achieved in a challenging managerial context due to the accident suffered in October by Governance & Integrity Manager Ludovica Caprino, who had to leave World Rowing for the remainder of the year. We were fortunate, in this context, to benefit from the increased support of Pat Lambert, who has been acting as Interim Governance & Integrity Manager ever since, as well as the World Rowing staff members who agreed to take some of Ludovica's duties in her absence.

- **Reassess general good-governance objectives and resource requirements, focusing on safeguarding.**

With our various 'good governance' initiatives in continued progress, our focus for the year 2023 was on a transition in the internal management of our Safeguarding initiatives and the full onboarding of our new Safeguarding Lead, Inas Hussein. This transition was fully completed at year-end, with the additional positive news that Inas completed the IOC Certificate "Safeguarding Officer in Sport" and was appointed in the IOC Safe Sport working group under the leadership of HRH Prince Feisal al Hussein. All open safeguarding cases were formally closed during the year, and on that positive situation, we focused efforts on the 're-wiring' of our various processes and the clarification of roles and responsibilities, including with the Safeguarding Advisory Group.

- **Develop Innovation culture within WR, initiate data & MF CRM projects.**

Many innovation projects across disciplines have been launched or progressed during the year 2023 – many of which are reported in other sections of this report – and one of them was financially supported by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) through the engagement of third-party consultants: the first phase of our Strategic Event & Calendar Review, which is ongoing. Another notable initiative was related to the development of a License programme for Masters Rowers, to be launched in early 2024. A key underlying objective of these initiatives is to allow World Rowing to better know and serve the Rowing Community through the procurement and consolidation of relevant Rowing data from a variety of sources.

- **Consolidate, strengthen Team; improve general People administration and Lausanne office environment.**

Several staff retention and cohesion initiatives were implemented over the course of 2023, including a renovation of the World Rowing offices, upgrade of the IT infrastructure and development/implementation of online collaborative tools for greater efficiency. We also strengthened the World Rowing team in areas where we were critically understaffed to handle the increasing workload and additional strategic priorities (Events and Marketing/Commercial, in particular). 2023 was the first full year during which we implemented a monitoring process for individual performance of each World Rowing staff member.

- **Transition Accounting department; deploy budgets with all departments with increased accountability.**

Critical objectives for the year 2023 were to transition in the management of the Finance / Accounting department following the arrival of Ana Djalo in late 2022 and to modify our work routines for a greater empowerment of the World Rowing departments in the ongoing budgeting and controlling process. 2023 also saw the decision for World Rowing to upgrade its working tools to adapt to a more integrated, online environment, with the transition to a new business management software (Odoo) and a revised chart of accounts, both of which to be developed in 2024 for full implementation in 2025.

- **Develop communications, media / social media engagement and public relations strategy.**

A greater emphasis was given in 2023 to the strategic development of our communications strategy for more coherence, reach and effectiveness across channels and platforms, for each of our three disciplines and for general 'corporate' communications. Amongst several positive outcomes, 2023 saw a substantial growth in both quality and volume of content produced and a greater reach across digital, social media platforms.

- **Pursue "low-hanging" revenue / budget-offsetting opportunities where possible.**

Many of the initiatives underlying this objective are reported above. From a strict standpoint of securing short-term incremental revenue and budget offsets, the 2023 focus was on preparing for new commercial collaborations, including (a) the Andalusia-Seville partnership – focused on World Cup sponsorship, hosting of Awards Galas, Conferences and Quadrennial Congress, to be announced in early 2024, (b) an enhanced Concept2 partnership to support the growth of Indoor/Connected Rowing, to be announced in the first part of 2024, (c) the development of the Rowing Machine Certification Programme, to be launched in Q2 2024, and (d) the development of the Masters License initiative, to be launched in Q1 2024.

Importantly, the end of 2023 saw the setting of a new set of objectives above and beyond 'business as usual' for the year 2024, which are outlined here:

1. CLASSIC: Paris 2024 participation & communications, festivalisation, Event Review deliverables in preparation for 2025 Quadrennial Congress and 2025 Annual Congress;
2. INDOOR: General development, partnerships, festivalisation, certification, Virtual Series, Olympic Esports, content production;
3. COASTAL: General development & Olympic planning, Beach Sprints League, festivalisation, content production;
4. REVENUES: maximize opportunities across departments, SCPP initiatives, Business plan, EBU & ECM renewal;
5. STRATEGIC EVENT ATTRIBUTION PROCESS (SEAP): 2025-2028 attributions for long-term visibility, further efficiencies and revenues/cost reductions;
6. SUSTAINABILITY: launch renewed WWF partnership, implement UNFCCC carbon action plan, Team initiatives;
7. GOVERNANCE: Interim transition, ASDIF Governance Survey, Confederations collaboration;
8. GOOD-GOVERNANCE: re-wire Safeguarding, developing MF capability with support of SAG/GWG;
9. MASTERS: Develop community, individual profiles & related commercial revenues;
10. FESTIVALISATION: increase general event attractiveness to fans and viewers across disciplines and events;
11. FINANCE: transition accounting software & chart of Accounts, consistency in budgeting/booking, management tools;
12. TEAM: continue to improve office environment, social occasions, cohesion & role-sorting.

We closed the year 2023 with much progress made on a number of fronts, many challenges overcome and several crisis successfully handled thanks to a very close and fruitful

collaboration with the World Rowing President, Executive Committee, Council and Commissions. However, the general financial situation of World Rowing continues to demand great attention in consideration of increasing governance and sports development costs.

My most sincere thanks go to the World Rowing Team and all our staff members who, in their respective roles and functions, have shown an outstanding commitment and dedication to growing Rowing around the world. The reports of our various departments follow.

Development and Sustainability

World Rowing is continuing its efforts on the implementation of its long-term development strategy which focuses on five key objectives (participation, integration, opportunities, quality/education and universality) underpinned by the Vision to encourage the development of the sport of Rowing and the Mission to make Rowing a Universally practiced sport.

The long-term strategy built for the 2020-2024 Olympic and Paralympic cycle was designed to build capacity to introduce, grow and sustain Rowing at national-regional-continental-world level by ensuring that an increasing number of WR Member Federations (MFs) have access to capacity building opportunities in line with their specific contexts. It aims to assess & identify needs to promote tailor-made education, training, competition opportunities for athletes and coaches across all continents and for technical delegates, national technical officials, managers where most needed, at national and regional level. Technical, financial and administrative assistance continues to be provided to MFs/National Olympic Committees (NOCs) with the greatest needs to attend regional, continental and world level regattas (adapted to the different levels of performance). This includes training camps and coach education preceding regattas. The sustained projects aim at increasing the number of training and competition opportunities, increasing the number of MFs in leading events in the regions and continents as a means to strategically promote both participation/performance and ensure sustainable development with a level playing field across continents. Additional support is provided to develop national sport systems, including development pathways for all roles and levels, equipment assistance, and capacity to create and self-sustain the organisation of small national/regional based events.

In 2023, the Development Programme targeted MFs for support in 15 events, including flagship events, such as the World Rowing Championships and first Continental Olympic and Paralympic Qualification regatta in Africa. But also significant new regional and continental Beach Sprint Events in Asia, Americas and Africa, thus strategically contributing to the long-term plan to have Beach Sprint Rowing included in the LA 2028 Olympic Games Programme.

Quality and performance metrics underpin the WR Development Programme technical approval process and aim to guide coaches to identify talent, monitor the effectiveness of their training programmes and contribute to the quality of Rowing and Coaching both at our pinnacle events and in general across the World. In 2023 the rowing test app (a system designed for the WR Dev Programme to collect test results from rowers from all over the World) was updated.

The WR Development Department is the main workforce in developing and managing the World Rowing Academy

– Education), having reached 500 active users in 2023 and reinforcing its educational offer with series of new online courses, from those aiming at optimizing the Coach Development Programme (CDP) in person deliveries (L1 self-guided learning modules, Coastal Rowing Modules) to those prepared by different commissions and Working groups to contribute to continuous personal development of the WR community (Umpiring Commission 2023 WR Rules updates and Event Safeguarding Officer-essentials training).

The team continued to directly support the efforts of the Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Cross Commission and assisted with the third edition of the WhatsNext2Rowing Seminar rolled out during the 2023 Belgrade Worlds.

In addition, WR concluded the 2022-2023 High Performance Female Coaches Network, where nine participants from seven countries shared, reflected, collaborated and learned on topics such as Stakeholder Management, High Performance Culture and Communication, a key milestone to increase female representation in coaching and other senior roles in high-performance sport.

The Women in Sport High Performance Pathway (WISH) continued in 2023, with Cohort 3 residential week and the ongoing Sport specific mentorship scheme where each coach is paired with a mentor for a series of sport specific mentor sessions and exchanges.

In October 2023, World Rowing launched the WIL - Women in Leadership programme, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering women in rowing administration, management, and governance. This Leadership Academy, born out of recommendations from the WR GEDI Cross Commission, provides tailored training and support to women leaders, equipping them with the tools and confidence to realise their full potential.

The WR CDP launched a renewed coach education framework for Level 2 Classic Rowing Coaches. The pilot project included two Coaching Courses with 17 coaches from 7 nations.

The strategy for delivery of the new coaching education scheme focused on regional and continental delivery and complemented the national development of sport systems in close cooperation with IOC Olympic Solidarity, benefiting a total of 23 MFs in 2023.

The development team contributed to developing national sport systems across ten MFs.

26 Olympic Solidarity Athlete Scholarships were reviewed and endorsed while full management of the scholarships were provided to athletes from five NOCs.

The WR Development and Sustainability Department led the 2023 Sustainability strategic review to help World Rowing move to a new Sustainability Race Plan, to lead by example globally (and thus engage more Rowing communities and partners) and make a difference locally. This journey involved multiple in-house sustainability workshops to build a final list of realistic actions and objectives to be deployed in 2024 and beyond. As a result, at the end of 2023, World Rowing created a new Sustainability Checklist, Sustainability Plan template and a guide on how to create a Sustainability Plan to guide and follow-up with each Event Organising Committee on their planned sustainability actions.

World Rowing's actions to combat climate change formally included for the first time ever, measuring and reporting emissions related to all World Rowing's activities, on an annual basis. The accurate assessment of World Rowing's carbon footprint was an essential first step in order to identify areas for emission reduction, or offset. The World Rowing 2022 – GHG emission report was published in October 2023.

In 2023 World Rowing closely worked with the French Rowing federation (FFA) to support the delivery of the EU Grant awarded project "Water Wardens by Rowing" with the aim to create a global movement in France around the urgency of using water efficiently and to protect it. This pioneer project assisted a number of event organisers to improve environmental standards, and created education tools for awareness raising about the importance of water protection on biodiversity. In addition the clubs and rowers in France can now use an application which will allow them to become true Water Wardens, and contribute to a database of water bodies evolution in France.

2023 was marked by both sustainability and innovation, critical elements to advance our sport and support our membership in an increasingly complex and competitive international sporting landscape. A set of multidisciplinary (education/training/event) programmes were offered throughout the year to build capacity and assist athletes, coaches, officials, entourage and leaders to progress. WR engaged with 80 MFs throughout 2023 and continues to mainstream equality, diversity and inclusion across its activities, along with continuous efforts to promote safety, safeguarding and strengthen sustainability.

The Development and Sustainability Department is composed of administrators and project managers along with highly knowledgeable rowing experts able to plan and promote rowing development worldwide. This structure is able to respond to the WR membership specific needs and contexts and turn challenges into opportunities. The strength of the programme lies on the collective and relentless efforts of many, to whom we wish to express our heartfelt acknowledgement: all WR Staff, Commissions, Continental Representatives, IOC Olympic Solidarity and Sports Department, the International Paralympic Committee and its Membership Engagement Team, our Member Federations and Organising Committees for World Rowing Events, National Olympic Committees, National Paralympic Committees and Equipment manufacturers.

Sport and Events

The year started with the 2023 World Rowing Indoor Championships, presented by Concept2, which took place in Mississauga, Toronto, Canada. This was the first time the event was "hybrid" with racing taking place in Toronto and from competitor's homes around the world. It also included the first "Versa Challenge", a new multi-challenge competition consisting of five different events over two days which was open to only 10 men and 10 women athletes through two qualifying challenges. It tests skills and the strength of the athlete exposing them to unfamiliar race formats which adds elements of uncertainty and variability.

This was followed by the World Rowing Cup regattas which were successfully staged in Zagreb, Croatia; Varese, Italy and Lucerne, Switzerland. At the beginning of July, the World Rowing Under 23 Championships were held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Due to the extreme heat, the government put in recommended times where physical activity must be avoided, therefore the schedule had to be adjusted.

Next was the World Rowing Under 19 Championships in Vaires-sur-Marne, France, the regatta venue for the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. Various testing activities were carried out by Paris 2024 and World Rowing, such as the Field of Play and Timing & Scoring. It also enabled Member Federations to have a preview of the course.

The World Rowing Championships, which was the first qualification opportunity for the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games saw some fantastic races over 8 days in Belgrade, Serbia.

The World Rowing Masters Regatta was held in Tshwane, South Africa. This was the first time World Rowing hosted an event on the African continent other than African qualification regattas. The Organising Committee provided an unforgettable experience to the participants, offering glamping accommodation at the venue to various daily social events every evening under the African sky.

The end of the World Rowing events season culminated in the World Rowing Coastal Championships and Beach Sprint Finals in Barletta, Italy. The event took place shortly before the confirmation that Coastal Rowing would be included in the programme for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The final event of the season was the first Continental qualification for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, which was successfully held in Tunis, Tunisia.

Away from planning and delivery of events, and strategic planning across all disciplines, work was done around the inclusion of Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) at 2023 events following the war in Ukraine; preparing bid documents for launch end of 2023 and attribution in 2024; as well as the start of the Strategic Event & Calendar Review focusing on three key deliverables (World Championship Programme – Rule 25; World Rowing Cup incentive scheme; 2029 event calendar). In addition, there was again close collaboration with World Rowing Commissions, consultants and stakeholders across all disciplines.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the events in 2023.

The Events and Sports department is composed of Nathalie Phillips (Head of Sports and Events); Matt Evans (Senior Events Manager), Priscilla Moreira (Events Manager), Christine Jacobsen (Events Manager); Matt Draper (Strategic Projects Manager); Jodie Cameron (Events Coordinator); Bruno Rodrigues (Architectural Consultant).

Corporate Services

It was a satisfying year for the team who continues to take pride in their work and strives to assist other departments and stakeholders through their activities.

Implementation of Sharepoint for all of World Rowing's data storage and sharing was the highlight of 2023. All data from the local server was migrated to a customized sharepoint site to ensure easy and efficient access to files and data for World Rowing and its collaborators. Separate and dedicated sharepoint sites were developed for Executive Committee, Council, Commissions and a few working groups to enable them to easily be able to share and showcase their work.

This was a significant step up for World Rowing to have an oversight and control of all the valuable work being done by our dedicated volunteers.

On the Event services, the department oversaw successful delivery from the different event service providers of Timing and Data (Swiss Timing, Time Team, Poznan Timing Team), Sports Presentation (Event360), Event Clothing and Boat Stickers (new Wave) and plenty of other event suppliers of accreditation and registration services, medals, Trophies and diplomas. Relationship and Contracting of Event Consultants – Commentators and TV CAT drivers continued as usual during the season. At the end of the season the relationship management of race commentators was handed over to E360 and Video Commentators and TV CAT Drivers to the Commercial and Marketing Department.

Another important achievement was the development of the World Rowing Coastal Championships entry system which is now fully integrated with the World Rowing Database and ensures that data and results from this discipline are also now all captured to a central database.

On a trial basis, a pre-season participation survey of teams was carried out to get indications to help World Rowing and OCs plan the Event Schedules and logistics better. Another outcome was the determination of the percentage share of the different makes of the indoor rowing machines used/preferred by teams. This helped us plan the warm-up areas at our events properly. This survey exercise turned out to be very useful for all concerned and it was decided to make this an annual activity.

Sports Data, Entry and Accreditation services were delivered seamlessly across events of all disciplines with the team cementing their constructive and collaborative relationship with Team Managers.

Corporate Services Team delivered the virtual component of the 2023 Hybrid Indoor Rowing Championships through a control room in the Lausanne headquarters by coordinating with Race officials and Umpires from all over the world.

Along with the World Rowing Masters commission, Prateek as the Event Manager was involved closely in the delivery of the 2023 World Rowing Masters Regatta in Tshwane South Africa, the first World Rowing event in Africa. The event turned out to be a huge success leaving a valuable legacy for the venue Roodeplaat dam and South African Rowing.

Prateek was involved closely in the activities of Rules Working Group, Umpiring Commission and Equipment and Technology Commission. Monika took over the relationship management and supporting of the Masters Commission and Competitive Rowing Commission.

World Rowing Masters License project was conceptualized and work started on the development of the portal that aims to bring together the masters community under direct contact with World Rowing and gives them the deserved profile on the World Rowing platforms.

The Corporate Services department was comprised of Prateek Gumber who leads the team and Monika Briedyte who was promoted to Event Services Manager at the beginning of 2023. The team was joined by interns Jai Kapoor and Sherry Payne during the year who played a crucial support role during the year.

Broadcast Media, Marketing, Commercial

The year 2023 presented numerous challenges for World Rowing's new Broadcast & Marketing team, akin to those faced by other departments. Significant investments of time and effort were required to develop strategic commercial initiatives aimed at diversifying the organization's revenue streams, as highlighted by the World Rowing Treasurer and detailed by the Executive Director. The team successfully balanced these demands with the delivery of the ongoing daily operations, focusing on critical commercial development projects to establish future commercial strategies and structures.

Key Activities, Focus Areas, Accomplishments, and Achievements

Commercial Vision & Strategy and Future Commercial Architecture

In 2023, the Broadcast & Marketing team continued to make significant strides in developing a commercial vision for the organisation and each Rowing discipline. The primary goal remains to lay the foundation for an overarching future commercial architecture, emphasizing the need to expand our reach and identify new opportunities for revenue diversification to support the promotion and growth of Rowing.

Broadcast Media

- Delivered World Rowing's contractual obligations to international broadcast partners;
- Ensured the delivery of the host broadcasting services for all applicable WR & ER events despite partly very challenging scenarios with the dedicated service providers for key events such as the World Rowing Championships in Belgrade (SRB) and the World Rowing Cup I in Zagreb (CRO);
- Developed a broadcast production philosophy for the Beach Sprint Rowing format, set for phased (but budget allowance dependent) implementation from 2024 onwards;
- Monitored the international broadcast market to expand World Rowing's global broadcast footprint, in particular with a view to the upcoming contract renewal discussions with the European Broadcasting Union;
- Introduced IRIS Sportmarketing GmbH as a new service provider with a view to providing more comprehensive and objective media monitoring, and enhanced market/research intelligence and sponsorship consulting.

Business Continuation

- Managed commercial aspects and programmes of all World Rowing and European Rowing events, including brand visibility, licensing, merchandising, and partnerships.
- Conducted essential legal work and progressed international trademark registrations for the World Rowing brand.
- Increased revenues from the Licensing & Merchandising program compared to 2022.
- Secured relevant insurances for World Rowing's activities.

- Contributed to the Strategic Event Allocation Process by introducing enhanced WR/ER bid brochures, redefining broadcast and commercial requirements, and completing legal work related to the drafting of event hosting agreements.

Business Development

- 2023 Olympic Esports Week, Singapore (SGP): In close cooperation with the Indoor Commission, we presented a compelling case to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for including Indoor Rowing in its 2023 Olympic Esports Week in Singapore. This involved conceptualizing World Rowing's participation in the event, securing partnerships/cooperations with Salty Lemon Entertainment Ltd., Rowcave Ltd., and RP3 Rowing B.V., managing the logistics, and operating World Rowing's presence in the festival's free-to-play zone. The week in Singapore was a resounding success, with thousands of visitors engaging with the World Rowing showcase. Filip Ljubcic, Chair of World Rowing's Indoor Rowing Commission, took centre stage at the related IOC Forum, delivering the Rowing message to a high-profile opening panel. This led the IOC to further recognize the value and opportunities Indoor Rowing offers for its Esports initiative. Discussions are now underway regarding the potential integration of Indoor Rowing into the inaugural Olympic Esports Games, as announced by IOC President Thomas Bach at the 141st IOC Session in Mumbai, India. Additionally, World Rowing's presence at the event resulted in a collaboration with the Japan Sports Council on an international joint research project focused on Virtual Sports and Indoor Rowing.
- Programme of the Olympic Summer Games Los Angeles 2028 - Beach Sprint Rowing In spring 2023, the Broadcast & Marketing department supported the successful application for Beach Sprint Rowing to be included as a new event in the sports program of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Summer Games. By providing essential data analysis and key marketing and promotional materials, the department significantly contributed to this historic achievement for the organisation.
- Partnership Development - World Wildlife Fund In late 2023, the department, in close collaboration with World Rowing's Development Department, supported the revitalization of the longstanding partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). This overall effort led to the creation of a new campaign, set to launch in 2024, centered around "Healthy Waters." The campaign will offer enhanced participation opportunities for Member Federations and Rowing Clubs worldwide, along with new fundraising and partnership acquisition and activation possibilities.
- Partnership Development - Concept2 Inc. Towards the end of 2023, World Rowing and Concept2, the renowned pioneers in Rowing equipment and creators of the modern Indoor Rowing Machine, successfully extended their long-standing partnership. The new agreement, commencing in 2024, aims to enhance the global Indoor and Connected Rowing ecosystem through several key initiatives. These initiatives will drive community engagement and expand this growing movement.

In the context of this partnership World Rowing will establish a comprehensive year-round calendar of various Indoor Rowing events, optimize existing competition formats, and develop new ones. Additionally, together with Concept2 it will advance data generation and display technologies, introduce community-building tools and platforms, and deliver a cutting-edge gamified offering to the Esports realm. Under an enhanced commercial/financial agreement, Concept2 will become a Global Partner of World Rowing and the presenting sponsor of the World Rowing and European Rowing Indoor Championships until 2028. Concept2 will also receive enhanced promotional visibility across various World Rowing events in the discipline of Classic Rowing. This partnership will significantly boost World Rowing's incremental revenue.

- Partnership Development - Andalusia Tourism / Athlete+ LLC
Significant time and effort were dedicated to forming a new multi-year collaboration with stakeholders from the City of Seville and the Spanish region of Andalusia. This initiative aims to attract global audiences and top-level tourism to experience Andalusia's rich sporting culture, beauty, history, and the high-performance Rowing training centre, "Centro Especializado de Alto Rendimiento de Remo y Piragüismo La Cartuja." The agreement allows World Rowing to stage several institutional non-sporting events in Seville on significantly enhanced commercial terms compared to previous editions. The city will host the:
 - World Rowing Awards in 2024, 2025, and 2026;
 - World Rowing Quadrennial Congress & Joint Commission Meetings in March 2025;
 - World Rowing Coaches and Sports Medicine Conferences in 2025 and 2026.

Additionally, a sponsorship agreement for the World Rowing Cup in 2024, 2025, and 2026 was secured. Furthermore, it is expected that the city of Seville will apply to host one of the 2026 World Rowing Cups and the 2027 World Rowing Championships.

- Development of Investment Cases for the Sport of Rowing
In 2023, as part of the Strategic Commercial Partnership/Investment Project, the Broadcast & Marketing department played a key role in developing investment cases for the sport of Rowing. These efforts included:
 - Defining the foundations for an investor-funded, franchise-based international Beach Sprint Rowing league. This was done in collaboration with Hydrow Inc., a US-based company specializing in immersive Rowing Machine & Fitness workouts, with Sidley Austin LLP, an internationally renowned law firm and sports property investment expert; and with long-standing World Rowing consultants from Charles Russell Speechlys LLP.
 - Initiating consultations with various market players, such as the Nagra-Kudelski Group and Switzerland-based Partners for Sports GmbH, about an investor-funded digital direct-to-consumer (D2C) content platform. This platform aims to offer various types of

rowing-related content (live and on-demand video, online rowing/community/ competition/gamified experiences) 24/7 directly to end-consumers worldwide, thereby providing a new broadcast home for the sport as it is expected to be moved away from traditional linear television in the near future.

- Conducting further meetings and consultations with several relevant market players from the sports investment sector.
- Rowing Machine Sealing Programme
- After initial consultations with a selected group of international Rowing Machine manufacturers, the department began defining and developing a Rowing Machine Sealing programme for World Rowing. Set to launch in 2024 with the involvement of several external partners, this programme aims to reinforce World Rowing's position as the governing body of the sport while generating additional revenue.

Department

In 2023, we took the initial steps to build a well-structured and properly resourced Broadcast & Marketing Department. A significant development was the arrival of Kevin Fulgham (USA) as Broadcast & Marketing Coordinator. Kevin joined the World Rowing family after completing a six-month internship with the organisation. He brings a strong background in Rowing as a former member of the University of California, Berkeley Rowing team, along with a "Master of Advanced Studies in Sport Management and Technology" degree from the International Academy of Sport Science & Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland. World Rowing will greatly benefit from his expertise and experience.

In 2023, the Broadcast & Marketing team was comprised of Christian Osterode who leads the team as Head of Broadcast & Marketing and of Kevin Fulgham who joined the team end of 2022 as Coordinator Broadcast & Marketing.

Opportunity is taken here to extend a warm thank-you to the consultants, subject-matter experts and partners, for the collective effort and their sustained commitment to growing our brand presence and commercial footprint around the world. And, of course, to Christian Osterode and Kevin Fulgham for the valuable contributions and commitment.

Communications, Media & Social Media

Throughout 2023, our Communications and Media team navigated through challenges with resilience and innovation, leveraging diverse platforms and strategies to elevate the sport's profile and narrative. From captivating storytelling to strategic digital initiatives, each project, each event has contributed to the growing presence of Rowing in the modern media landscape.

The Communications strategy for 2023 achieved the common objective to grow our sport by attracting new audiences, especially outside of the Classic Rowing discipline, through targeted campaigns and coverage of all our World Rowing events, particularly the 2023 World Rowing Championships in Belgrade. Media coverage generated during the year had a reach of 10 million people. World Rowing's social media channels all grew substantially during the year to reach a total

fanbase of half-million people. Instagram saw the strongest growth as we celebrated our 150 000th subscriber. The World Rowing website clocked 9.7 million visits throughout the year, just over half of them during events.

The Media operations at events now allow accredited media to have an easier and smoother access to athletes and various information at events, but also provides now a dedicated remote access to the different documents and a new quote service from our athletes. A special effort was made to reach out to the sport business press, that translated into Rowing being in the front-cover of the Sport Business website.

New Implementations

Video production with focus on human-centered stories:

The vast majority of content is produced at events, by World Rowing Productions / Quattro Media, or by our consultants. In order to ensure that not only each bit of content is properly highlighted and each story given its own space, but that there is content to share outside of events, we have been focusing on content that is relevant beyond the event. We launched a mini-series called "Single Minded" that highlights the single scullers, but have also produced some great interviews, such as "The Rowing Mums" or a mini-series about Indoor Rowing with Cameron Buchan ahead of the World Rowing Indoor Championships, presented by Concept2.

Gathering of athlete information via QR code: Useful not only for stories and other content produced by the communications team, this has also been very helpful for commentators, who want to be sharing the most up to date information about athletes when commenting their races. This continued in 2023 and enabled our commentary / editorial team to gather more information about crews around the globe.

YouTube Monetization: During the past year, we were able to start monetizing the content on our YouTube channel. While we only generated 1 900 CHF through YouTube in 2023, we are on an upward trend, with a projection of over 1000 CHF for the month of January 2024 alone.

World Rowing Awards: Tasked again with the production of the 2023 World Rowing Awards, the World Rowing Communications & Media team took a similar approach to the successful 2022 version of the Awards. Partnering with Row360 to produce the project, World Rowing commentators Peter O'Hanlon and Camilla Hadland-Horrocks presented the recorded program of the 2023 World Rowing Awards from the River & Rowing museum in Henley-on-Thames. An all around success in terms of numbers and media impact all across the world for a ceremony that will grow even further in 2024 as it will be hosted in Sevilla, Spain.

Quotes and "Qualified Banner" at 2023 World Rowing Championships: At the 2023 World Rowing Championships, we organised a special "quote-gathering" moment directly in the boat for all crews that qualified their boats for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We also designed a special "banner" for athletes and crews, to get a special souvenir of this moment – this got an enormous success and was used at all Continental qualification events.

Key Figures

In 2023, the main mission was to develop furthermore the main World Rowing digital platforms - while trying to consolidate some new channels to reach new audiences. World Rowing X (formerly Twitter) followers increased from 48,600 followers

to 49'300 followers, reaching more than 6 million impressions. The World Rowing Instagram platform grew from 53,000 followers in 2018 to breaking the 150'000 mark in 2023 and generated more than 60 million impressions. TikTok was quite stable in 2023 after a skyrocket launch in 2022. While the potential of this fast-growing channel is clear, we haven't been exploring fully the different possibilities of this platform – therefore seeing a stabilisation in terms of number for 2023. Special efforts at events will be made in 2024 to get more engagements / views on this platform.

In 2023, World Rowing joined two new platforms: Threads, and WhatsApp Channels. Linking directly from our existing Instagram account, World Rowing has already amassed nearly 14 000 followers on Threads. On WhatsApp, World Rowing shares all of its webstories. This platform is focused on unidirectional content, and only allows followers to react to the post with an emoticon.

Finally, with over 1.6 million video views, and 300 uploads (videos, shorts, livestreams), 2023 has been our largest year on YouTube thus far. These numbers only help drive the idea to monetize our channel on the platform, which was done in July of 2023.

In summary:

- Total number of followers across the different channels : 500k
- Number of impressions in 2023 : 75 million
- Number of web stories published : 278
- Number of webpage views : 9.7 million
- Number of accredited media at events : 900+

The Communications, Media and Social Media department is composed of Brian Orsini (Head of Communications and Media) and Mauricie Summers (Digital and Social Media Manager).

Governance & Integrity

Governance and Integrity always are at the core of World Rowing's operations with a continued focus on transparency of decision-making, safeguarding, gender equality & diversity, transparency, and education on integrity matters. To underpin these topics, the Governance Working Group led by the independent chair Annamarie Phelps reviews World Rowing's governance processes and oversees recommendations to the statutes which will be presented at the quadrennial congress in 2025.

In the competitive world of sport, WR is committed to avoiding conflicts of interest and requires all Council, Commission, working groups, and panel members to annually fill in a conflict of interest form; the topic is also a fixed point in the agenda of each Council and Executive Committee meeting and conflicts are taken up in a register.

Gender equality is a principle at the highest level of our governance as it is for our sporting participation. Effective initiatives rather than specific quotas or standalone policies have resulted in achieving balanced representation in the board as shown in the World Rowing detailed information from December 2023 about the current status of female representation in the Governance Structure.

As far as education on integrity matters is concerned, World Rowing further developed educational resources on safeguarding/safe sport as well as outreach and support to our Member Federations. We are closely working with the Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions to raise awareness together with our two ambassadors – Kirsten McCann (RSA), and Saulius Ritter (LTU) – at Integrity booths organised at key WR events where anti-doping in collaboration with ITA and safeguarding are also addressed.

World Rowing is indeed also fully committed to operating a credible and efficient anti-doping programme to discourage doping and to prosecute those who do and outsourced all critical functions to ITA since 2021; the report from ITA can be found in these Agenda Papers in the form of an infographic.

An important governance milestone was achieved for World Rowing by joining the Centre for Sport and Human Rights* (CSHR), a multi-stakeholder network working to advance responsible sport. This collaboration with the network of engaged organisations and partners leads to developing guidance and promoting best practices.

The 2023 Annual Congress was organised in a hybrid form in Belgrade, SRB, on 11 September 2023 and decisions of the Council and Executive Committee meetings are communicated with the MFs in regular circulars. Furthermore, Member Federation online and in-person consultation meetings were regularly held. As for the Joint Commission meeting, it was organised virtually in October and November 2023; the reports are published on the World Rowing website.

The Governance and integrity manager is Ludovica Caprino.

Report from the International Testing Agency (ITA)
2023 Annual review for World Rowing



ATHLETES COMMISSION

Frida Svensson (SWE)

The purpose of the Athletes Commission (AC) is to represent active elite rowers (including Under 19s and Under 23s) and to act as a liaison between them and World Rowing.

The main activities of the Commission are:

- To establish a network of representative rowers throughout the world for a wide canvassing of opinion, providing balanced representation across gender, geographical areas, member federation size, etc.
- To make known to the Council the views of rowers on any matter in the field of competitive rowing, in all its forms, as it sees fit.
- To convene and conduct rowers' surveys and/or meetings at World Rowing Championships and to provide a report to the Executive Committee, and the Council.
- To analyse the organisation of the World Rowing Championship and Olympic and Paralympic regattas and to report its findings to the Council.
- To communicate information from World Rowing to the elite athlete community.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

- WR Integrity booth
 - AC together with the Governance and Integrity department continue to deliver the Integrity booth initiative, it creates a place and an opportunity for athletes and teams to connect and educate themselves in different areas.
 - Anti-doping
 - Prevention of competition manipulation
 - Safeguarding
 - Athlete365
 - The Booths were delivered in collaboration with the IOC Athlete365 and the International Testing Agency, ITA.
 - Integrity booth took place at U19 and senior world championships.
- AC contribute to event review, GEDI, Fairness, Safeguarding
- Representation at IOC athletes
- Social media plan together with WR media team
- Athletes Commission representatives at major World Rowing events: World Cup, U19, WU23 Championships, World Championships.

Focus for 2024

- World Rowing Integrity booth at 2024 events (4 events)
- Athlete Experience
- Support sustainability initiatives together with WR
- Anti-Doping education and webinars by athletes for athletes
- Education Program on Declaration of Athletes Rights and Responsibility in collaboration with Lenka Wech Dienstbach
- Mental health awareness
- Athlete Lane selection-finalisation and presentation of project
- AC election
- AC athletes survey all senior world championships

Summary

World Rowing AC is proud of our IF and its MFs work to put the athletes at the center of its decision-making processes. Thank you to everyone for making this come true and congratulations to World Rowing for leading by example and always making way for athletes and athletes' voice. AC strives to always assist, empower and educate athletes. The AC looks forward to contributing to WR work in developing our sport in all disciplines on all levels, to work closer with the marketing team on promoting our athletes and sport. Athletes' wellbeing and athletes experience is important to safeguard; AC wants to increase their work around this and invite all athletes and stakeholders to come together to create a safe, fun, inspirational environment to be part of.

2023 Commission Members

Esther Briz (ESP)
 Mindaugas Griskonis (LTU)
 Luke Letcher (AUS)
 Nazarin Malaei (IRN)
 Julia Michalska Plotkowiak (POL)
 Robin Prendes (USA)
 Benjamin Pritchard (GBR)
 Frida Svensson (SWE), Chair
 Emma Twigg (NZL)
 Niels Van Zandweghe (BEL)

COMPETITIVE ROWING COMMISSION

Rosie Mayglothling (GBR)

The purpose of the Competitive Rowing Commission is to encourage and support the growth of rowing in support of World Rowing's Strategy, to act as a centre of excellence for the discipline of classic rowing and provide support for sustainable development.

The main activities of the Commission are:

- **Discipline Oversight**
 - To guide the strategic growth of international rowing competitions and support the development of different competition formats.
 - Centralise information about the discipline, as it relates to key stakeholders.
 - Develop activities to build capacity across all areas of the discipline.
- **Competition**
 - To analyse and provide advice on international rowing competition in terms of composition (events, boat-classes and categories), conditions, environment, and the international regatta calendar.
 - To monitor and analyse relevant sporting and global trends to ensure the discipline remains relevant and sustainable e.g., in competitive standards, social and financial environment, global mobility, participation levels.
 - To undertake the tasks delegated to it by the Council or the Rules in relation to World Rowing events, including but not limited to fairness and seeding.
- **Discipline Development**
 - To advise on training and education including support in the production of specific educational material and coaching courses and seminars.
 - To assist in the implementation of the coaching development programmes in conjunction with World Rowing's Development Department.
 - To provide appropriate coaching content and organise the annual World Rowing Coaches Conference.
 - To nominate appropriate coaching experts for the Coaching Development Cross Commission.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

- Delivered a successful 3rd World Rowing Virtual Coach Conference in January 2023. The Coastal, Indoor, Competitive, Para, Sport Medicine, GEDI, Youth commissions with World Rowing President, Executive Director, Governance, Development and Event Teams all contributed. Planning and programme publication for the 4th World Rowing Virtual Coach Conference due to be delivered in January 2024.

- Coach education- Continued development and training of a Coach Educator workforce to deliver at continental level. Delivery for L1 Classic, Coastal, the Coastal Race and Para Rowing modules.
- Pilot of World Rowing L2 Coaching Course in March, Bled and December in Schinias.
- Seeding - Conducted seeding according to the Seeding Protocol at the European Championships, World Rowing Cups and the senior World Rowing Championships.
- Fairness Committees – Fairness Committees nominated for the European Championships, World Rowing Cups, World Rowing Championships at Senior, U23 and U19. Weather data and Fairness preparation before events continues to be developed.
- Competitive Commission meetings in 2023 – frequent zoom meetings throughout the year and in person meetings at rowing events.
- Continue to co-ordinate the Coaching Cross Commission meeting.
- The Commission and individual members supported the 8 rowing coaches on the Women in Sport High Performance Pathway (WISH).
- Weather buoys deployed on the Paris 2024 Olympic course during the 2023 World Rowing U19 Championships and two other events.

Focus for 2024

- Increase the standard and number of coaches by:
- Continuing to create opportunities for coaches to access education through the World Rowing Education programme and coaches conference.
- Co-ordinate the Coaching Development Cross Commission.
- Continuing to support the development programmes.
- Continue to Support the Women's Development strategy and in particular developing women coaches and coaches of women.
- Support initiatives from the GEDI group to increase diversity and inclusion in coaching.
- Finalise the L2 Qualifications following the pilot programme in 2023 and orientate coach educators to deliver post the 2024 Olympic Games.
- Start the planning process for a sport science and medicine and coaching conference in 2025.
- Continue to deploy the weather buoys at key rowing venues during and around events to build models to be used in the future. Liaise with the Equipment and Technology Commission members with appropriate expertise in this area.

- Ensure that Fairness Committees are appointed within the continent for all the World Rowing Continental Qualification Events and provide a briefing before and support throughout the events.
- Support World Rowing to evaluate alternative formats of the sport and work with other commissions to develop these as appropriate.

Summary

The Commission has worked effectively to contribute to World Rowing events through such processes as the Events Review. Commission members have contributed to the development programme supporting events and coaches. Thanks to the members of the Commission for their continued time and effort for the sport, to the other commissions with whom we work closely and to the Council, Executive and World Rowing Staff for their continued cooperation.

2023 Commission Members

Peter Cookson (CAN)
Nebojsa Ilic (SBR)
Rosie Mayglothing (GBR), Chair
Chris Perry (HKG)
Faycal Soula (TUN)
Paul Thompson (AUS)
Marcello Varialle (BRA)
Mario Woldt (GER)
Henk-Jan Zwolle (NED)

EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Mathias Binder (SUI)

The purpose of the Equipment and Technology Commission is to support development in the field of rowing equipment, including the review of new technology and its potential application to rowing.

The main activities of the Commission are:

- To establish standards for the safety of rowing equipment and enforce this at World Rowing events.
- To establish and ensure compliance with rules concerning boats and equipment used in rowing events to which the World Rowing Statutes and Rules of Racing apply, including working in co-operation with the Control Commission at World Rowing Championships.
- To encourage the production of inexpensive rowing equipment complying with specified standards.
- To encourage and promote dissemination of information and courses on boat building and repairs.
- To survey equipment in use and produce theoretical material and drawings for rowing equipment.
- To collect and review scientific information, relating to equipment and technology, available for the sport of rowing.
- To be the point of contact with World Rowing for the manufacturers of equipment and technology in the sport of rowing, including innovations (Rule 29).

Key activities and achievements in 2023

- Established pre-race Para equipment check (currently still non-compulsory) in collaboration with the Para Rowing & Umpiring Commissions
- Designed and built a special caliper to measure and check coastal boats (Rule 28)
- Commission members attended various regattas to survey equipment and support equipment related discussions and problem solving on the spot
- Review of equipment submitted as possible innovations
- Started interesting discussion on a possible sustainable project (recycling project)
- Follow-up and investigated several suspicious observations that have been reported (e.g. bow number issue)
- Organised the files and archives in the Equipment Technology Sharepoint Site

Focus for 2024

- Integrate three new commission members (=50% of the commission) so they can attend a regatta on their own
- Establish regular (mostly virtual) commission meetings to share information amongst the group and discuss current and new topics

- Further institutionalize pre-race Para equipment check, planned now for all events with Para races including qualification events (for 2024 still non-compulsory)
- Commission internal education for all members for the Para equipment check so every member has the skills to support it at regattas
- Strengthen collaboration with various commissions (esp. Coastal, Indoor, Para Rowing, Competitive Commissions)
- Review of equipment submitted as innovations
- Make E&T related forms available on the WR website and add E&T related content to website
- Regatta attendance
- Review and discuss the current rules on quick-release of shoes against the models now on the market
- Strengthen relationship with equipment suppliers / Rowing Industry Trade Association (RITA)

Summary

Our primary activities centre around racing, regattas and the development of equipment. We will continue to monitor new electronics and technology and their use in competition. We are aiming to find more advanced ways that athletes, coaches and spectators can benefit from developments in this area while keeping it fair for all.

Thank you to the World Rowing family, we appreciate the help, input and counsel we receive in doing our work.

2023 Commission Members

Merko Banovic (CRO)
 Mathias Binder (SUI), Chair
 Conny Draper (AUS)
 Thomas Ebert (DEN)
 Arnaud Greidanus (NED)
 Stefan Piesik (GER)

EVENTS COMMISSION

Eva Szanto (HUN)

The purpose of the Events Commission in conjunction with relevant Commissions and staff members and in line with World Rowing policies, is to establish and monitor the standards of international regattas and of all World Rowing events with regard to the venue, the technical installations, the safety of all participants and the organisation of the events.

The main activities of the Commission are:

- To advise organising and bidding committees of World Rowing events on the standard of facilities and regatta courses and organisation of events. To support the transfer of knowledge and best practice between event/regatta organisers.
- To maintain and improve the standard of regatta organisation at all major international events in co-operation with other Commissions as appropriate.
- To visit and inspect regatta courses and regattas.
- To provide advice, consultation and guidance at every stage from initial concept to final commissioning in the development of new courses and new regattas, advise on the upgrading of existing courses.
- To provide members for the technical group responsible for inspecting candidates of future championships and multi-sport Games candidates.
- To monitor, coordinate and advise on changes to the structure of the World Rowing international regatta calendar in conjunction with the World Rowing Events staff taking into consideration the advice of the relevant Commissions.
- To prepare and regularly update documents and manuals which specify the World Rowing requirements for all aspects of: a) the upgrading of existing courses; b) the development of new courses; c) the organisation of championships and major regattas.
- To train and develop Technical Delegates for events, and to propose to the Executive Committee nominations for the Technical Delegates for World Rowing events

Key activities and achievements in 2023

- In the 2023 rowing season all World Rowing events - World Rowing Cups (Zagreb CRO, Varese ITA, Lucerne SUJ), WRU19CH (Paris FRA), WRU23CH (Plovdiv BUL), WRCH (Belgrade SRB) - were staged successfully despite some major challenges. The Events Commission members contributed to preparing and organising the classic rowing events with excellent cooperation from the WR Events Team and members of other commissions. It has been a fundamental priority for the Events Commission, Technical Delegates and Event Managers to create and maintain good relationships with the Organising Committees.

- During the World Rowing U19 Championships at the Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium, which is the venue for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Regattas in Paris, several test activities were carried out as part of the preparations towards the Games. These test activities included, inter alia, the FOP operations, Timing & Results and OVR services. The OCOG and IOC adopted a new approach to not run the whole championships as a test event, but only to test specific operational elements. This required enhanced coordination between the WRU19CH OC, Paris2024 and WR.
- The event experienced adverse weather conditions, which created additional challenges for the teams, athletes and everyone involved in operations.
- The World Rowing Championships in Belgrade required additional resources and time from the TDs, the Event Manager and the Commission to deal properly with the unique challenges.
- Despite these challenges, some innovations were implemented successfully, such as the flash interviews of all crews immediately after their races who had qualified for the Olympic or Paralympic Games..
- The Olympic qualification regattas began during 2023. After the qualification World Rowing Championships in Belgrade, the African Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta took place in Tunis (TUN) in October 2023.
- The FISU Summer University Games regatta in Chengdu (CHN), which finally took place in 2023 after several postponements due to the Covid pandemic, was a big success with the involvement and contribution of the World Rowing Technical Delegate.
- Technical Delegates, together with the WR Event Managers, were in constant contact with Organising Committees, assisting them to prepare the regattas to the highest possible standards. Besides the regular practice of site visits, we had online meetings with the Organising Committees which proved to be very helpful in the preparations for the events. Additionally, several online meetings and workshops were arranged for the Organising Committees dedicated to specific operational areas such as Results & Timing Services, Sport Presentation, Broadcast, Water Safety, Sustainability, Safeguarding.
- Attendance at World Rowing events - members of the Events Commission were involved in all World Rowing events (classic rowing) in 2023. The Commission also continued to attend and advise on several continental events. Events Commission members were appointed as Technical Delegates at three European continental championships. The ERU19C and the ERU23CH were supported by WR staff remotely as a means of optimising and saving cost.

- An opportunity to test Time Trials was offered to the athletes at the World Rowing Cup in Lucerne. The Time Trial format was implemented during the heats round for most of the events. A guiding principle was that each crew would have at least two side-by-side racing opportunities during the regatta. The learnings from the test have been taken into consideration when adjusting the Time Trial scenario and process.
- We continued to improve the course survey process description and requirements. As a result, the survey reports provided by Organising Committees improved and were more consistent. The Technical Delegates spent significant time with the surveyors on site to ensure that the course is appropriately measured and properly set up.
- The recommendations of the Water Safety Working Group were successfully implemented at events.
- The Events Commission members continued to contribute actively to the Rules Working Group, the Water Safety Working Group and to the GEDI Cross Commission. In addition, members of the Commission played a key role in the Strategic Events & Calendar Re-assessment project.
- The Events Commission held an in-person meeting and TD workshop with the WR Events Team in Szeged (HUN). Holding the workshop at a rowing regatta venue with a lot of permanent facilities provided a good platform to consolidate the practical knowledge and approach to the technical requirements among the Commission members. Several other Commission meetings were held virtually during the year.
- Ongoing contribution to the Water Safety WG, implementation of guidelines, refining processes, reporting of incidents, setting up extreme weather protocols, in close collaboration with the Sport Medicine Commission.
- Continue to support the GEDI group, Safeguarding and Environmental/Sustainability initiatives by raising awareness with OCs and including specific discussion topics in site visit agendas.
- Continue to contribute to the Rules WG and the Strategic Event and Calendar Re-assessment project.

Focus for 2024

- Planning for and successful delivery of the Olympic and Paralympic Regatta in Paris.
- Run the remaining three continental qualification regattas successfully.
- Continue planning for and deliver events, implement a successful regatta season for World Rowing and continental events, contribute to the successful execution of the FISU Rowing World Championships. Site visits will continue to be a combination of physical site visits and virtual update calls with the Organising Committees which helps to improve our environmental footprint.
- Continued transfer of knowledge across the Commission to Organising Committees of rowing regattas; identification of a "pool of talent" - the next generation of TDs for continental events.
- Continued discussions with the Coastal Rowing Commission to find ways to transfer knowledge and expertise between the two Commissions and to identify what each race format (Coastal Rowing & Beach Sprint events and classic rowing) can learn from each other.
- Continue to explore better ways of information sharing and knowledge transfer, start using a new sharing platform. Set up a shadowing scheme for new personnel and Commission members and organise a TDs workshop.
- Ongoing improvement of the course survey reports, review and update requirements, produce new templates.
- Continue to update and restructure the World Rowing Manual.

Summary

2023 was another busy season with specific challenges, including the preparations for the 2024 Olympic & Paralympic Games, the World Rowing Championships in Belgrade and the operation and testing activities during the WRU19CH.

There was a significant change in the Commission's membership and we had to operate with fewer members than previously.

The Commission's goals included the improvement of event-related internal processes, close cooperation with other commissions, and ongoing contribution to the World Rowing strategic objectives.

The Events Commission will continue to be involved in a wide range of World Rowing's work with clear focus on the quality of event preparation, in close consultation with the Events Team in the World Rowing office. It will continue its work to provide better support and extend good practice at continental and regional levels.

I would like to express our thanks to the World Rowing Events Team for their highly professional work and extraordinarily good cooperation with the Events Commission members, and to the other colleagues in WR departments for their committed support.

2023 Events Commission Members

Victoria Aguirregomezcoarta (ARG)
 Joost De Geus (NED)
 John Hedger (GBR)
 Pascal Jolly (FRA)
 Kirsten Meisner (USA)
 Victor NG (HKG)
 Bill Schenck (CAN)
 Jernej Slivnik (SLO)
 Eva Szanto (HUN), Chair

MASTERS ROWING COMMISSION

Ronald Chen (USA)

The purpose of the Masters Rowing Commission is to oversee and promote Masters rowing in all its forms on a national and international basis. The main activities of the Masters Rowing Commission are to:

- Organise the World Rowing Masters Regatta (WRMR) annually;
- In cooperation with other Commissions, establish standard masters classes in other forms of rowing;
- Gather dates and locations of key international masters regattas for the international calendar;
- Publish written information; and
- Consult with and advise the Youth Rowing Commission regarding the Masters Fund for Youth Rowing and the use of the resources of the Fund.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

- First World Rowing Event in Africa a Success! The First World Rowing event ever to be held on the continent of Africa took place in Tshwane, RSA on September 21-24. The 2023 World Rowing Masters Regatta saw 308 races taking place on the Roodeplaat Dam, competed by 805 athletes. From the individual men's and women's age groups to the mixed events, the regatta had hugely competitive athletes mixed with virtual novice rowers through to former Olympians.
- This event will be long remembered as a version of the World Rowing Masters Regatta that created a new paradigm for hosting our regatta. While it may not have been the largest in terms of participation, since it took place far away our largest masters rowing populations, it established that even an event dependent on participation where athletes completely self-fund themselves can be operationally and financially sustainable when the organizers show the level of creativity and hospitality in marketing and planning a unique event as did the Tshwane team. The many beneficial lessons and examples we learned this year will certainly find their way into future versions of our regatta.
- 2024 and beyond - The schedule for the next three years remains:
 - 2024 Brandenburg GER
 - 2025 Banyoles ESP (postponed from 2020)
- 2026 SEAP Process: In 2024, we expect to conduct the multi-year SEAP process to select the 2026-2028 WRMR venues.

Focus for 2024

- 2024 World Rowing Masters Regatta: In 2024 the WRMR returns to Europe, and we anticipate a regatta that will be of similar size and complexity as those that took place before the COVID pandemic and as masters rowers return to their traditional pastimes.
- Development of masters rowing globally – The Commission will continue to explore opportunities to develop masters rowing globally. We will consult with the Indoor Rowing Commission about ways to coordinate in our areas of shared responsibility and interest, including the possibility of more virtual rowing events with the advent of improved technology that makes such competitions possible.
- Enhancing the Masters Rowing Identity: The Commission is working on projects to enhance the ability of masters rowers to participate, through consistent and secure data management systems, in international regattas and to publicize, if desired, their results on an accessible platform.
- We also hope to continue our outreach to geographical areas outside Europe and North America, and the addition of a Commission member from Latin America has already enhanced our level of communication with the very large masters rowing populations from those regions.

Summary

I continue to be supported by very able and high-functioning Commission members whose diverse talents have been essential in maintaining the work of our Commission. This was especially the case in 2023, when temporary health issues unfortunately precluded me from attending the 2023 WRMR in Tshwane, but each commission member seamlessly and flawlessly stepped in to make sure my role was covered.

We welcomed Santiago Fuentes (MEX) to the Commission, who has already broadened our global perspective and helped us expand our communications, particularly with masters rowers from the Central and South American countries.

2023 Commission Members

Gary Bain (GBR)
 Ron Chen (USA), Chair
 Inga Daukantiene (LTU)
 Sebastian Franke (GER)
 Santiago Fuentes (MEX)
 Ana Nikolic (SRB)
 Herman Van Velze (RSA)

PARA ROWING COMMISSION

Rebecca Thomas Orr (CAN)

The purpose of the Para Rowing Commission is to support, oversee and promote rowing for persons with an impairment (Para Rowers) on a national and/or international basis.

The main activities of the Commission are:

- To develop inclusive policies within World Rowing.
- To develop inclusive competitions for all forms of rowing.
- To increase participation in para rowing at all levels of performance.
- To promote and monitor trends in para rowing at national, international and Paralympic levels.
- To include para rowing in active life programmes.
- To research and disperse knowledge on para rowing to the community.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

Successful Coastal Inclusion: The initiative to add an Inclusive Mixed 2x (1 able bodied + 1 para rower, mixed gender) to the programme of the 2023 World Rowing Coastal Championships (WRCC) produced a fantastic test for this event. The addition of the inclusive Mix 2x further diversified the competition landscape, fostering inclusivity and innovation within the coastal rowing community. As the sport is evolving at such a rapid pace, we are thrilled to be a part of the journey.

Efficient Rollout of Para Equipment Check: The Para Equipment Check process, piloted at the Gavirate International Regatta and Belgrade World Rowing Championships, was met with support from the athletes and Member Federations (MFs), and collaboration among the Umpiring, Equipment & Technology and Para Commissions. This critical step ensures the safety and compliance of para rowing equipment, enhancing the integrity of our para rowing competitions. Having launched the concept at Gavirate and improved on it for the World Championships in Belgrade, it is clear that there is a commitment from all involved to continue to enhance this process to ensure we are providing safe and equitable competitions for our para athletes.

Significant Participation in PR3Mix2x Qualification:

The qualification process for the inaugural PR3Mix2x event which will debut at the 2024 Paralympic Games witnessed an impressive turnout, with 11 crews from three continents competing in the category. This showcased the growing interest and competitiveness within the para rowing community, and helped confirm that this new event is serving the purpose of making para rowing accessible to more federations.

Increased Representation at 2023 WR Events: A notable accomplishment in 2023 was the representation of 42 Member Federations (MFs) in World Rowing para events. This widespread participation is a direct result of the collaborative

work with the WR Development Team. The change in focus to continental opportunities has proven to be a successful model for further development and participation of para rowing. The collaborative and inclusive approach with development, coaching and classification is continually evolving and improving. New formats for delivery of the various programs will be trialled in 2024 for further improvements.

Enhanced Communication with Para and Rowing Community:

The Para Rowing Commission prioritized increased communication with the para and broader rowing community through various channels, including webinars, coaching conferences, and direct engagement with athletes, umpires, and coaches. These efforts have facilitated knowledge sharing, promoted best practices, and strengthened relationships within the rowing ecosystem. By fostering an open dialogue, World Rowing cultivates a supportive and informed community dedicated to advancing the sport's goals and values.

Para Rowing Commission virtual meetings were held monthly. The para Athletes Commission member joined the meetings quarterly.

We were represented by two Para Commission members at the 2023 VIRTUS Global Games in Paris, along with an International Para Rowing Classifier.

Focus for 2024

Increase the Number of MFs at Paris 2024 Paralympic Games:

- Implement targeted outreach programs to encourage greater participation from MFs in qualification events for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.
- Develop resource materials and provide support to assist MFs in preparing their para rowing athletes for qualification and participation in the Paralympic Games.
- Collaborate with national governing bodies to identify and address barriers to participation, such as funding constraints or lack of infrastructure, to ensure representation from a diverse range of countries.

Develop targeted communication strategies to raise awareness and understanding of para rowing amongst the broader rowing community, including athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.

- Utilize various channels, such as social media, newsletters, and webinars, to disseminate information on para rowing classification, equipment, training methodologies, and success stories.

- Foster dialogue and collaboration through interactive platforms, enabling stakeholders to share insights, ask questions, and provide feedback, thereby promoting inclusivity and mutual support within the rowing community.

Strengthen Collaborative Working Relationship with Equipment & Technology Commission (E&TC) and Umpiring Commission (UC):

- Facilitate regular meetings and workshops with the E&TC and UC to discuss key issues, share best practices, and align strategies for the effective management and officiating of para rowing events.
- Collaborate on the update of policies, procedures, and technical regulations governing para rowing competitions, ensuring consistency, fairness, and adherence to international standards.

Introduce PR3 Mixed Inclusion 2x at U23 Events:

- Advocate for the inclusion of the PR3 Mixed Inclusion 2x event at U23 WR Championships and other regattas, highlighting its significance in nurturing young talent and promoting diversity within the sport.
- Collaborate with event organizers and MFs to integrate the PR3 Mixed Inclusion 2x race into existing competition schedules, ensuring adequate resources and support are available for participating athletes.

Increase opportunities for Para Equipment Checks:

- Add more opportunities for the optional para equipment checks; working on evolving the process with more feedback and experience from all involved. Offer at all the continental qualifiers.

Summary

I am sincerely grateful to the Executive Committee, fellow Council members, and staff at WR for their steadfast support in championing the integration of para rowing. I believe that WR leads by example with our commitment to inclusivity and excellence.

A special acknowledgment goes to all the members of the Para Rowing Commission. It is an honor to collaborate with such a dedicated group of individuals. I am proud to be part of a team where each member brings unique perspectives, expertise, and passion to the table, fostering a collaborative environment where we collectively strive to bring out the best in each other.

And finally, I would like to give a thanks to Han Seung Hon (KOR) who has stepped down from the WR Para Commission, but continues to support para rowing, and by default the PR Commission, through many other volunteer roles within the para rowing community.

2023 Commission Members

Gaurav Datta (IND)
 Marco Galeone (RSA)
 Hélène Gignoux (FRA)
 Simon Goodey (GBR)
 Monika Kuczma (POL)
 Fred Mallrich (BRA)
 Gordon Marcks (AUS)
 Rebecca Thomas Orr (CAN), Chair

COASTAL ROWING COMMISSION

Guin Batten (GBR)

The purpose of the Coastal Rowing Commission is to aide and encourage the growth of coastal rowing to support World Rowing's Strategy, to build capacity across the discipline by developing skills, knowledge and experience in a range of areas serving coastal rowing and to oversee and promote on a national and international basis touring and recreational rowing.

The main activities of the Commission are:

- Discipline Oversight
 - To guide the strategic growth of international coastal rowing competitions and to support the development of different competition formats.
 - To centralise information about the discipline, as it relates to key stakeholders.
 - To develop activities to build capacity across all areas of the discipline.
- Competition
 - To analyse and provide advice on international coastal rowing competition in terms of composition (events, boat-classes and categories), conditions, environment, and international regatta programme.
 - To monitor and analyse relevant sporting and global trends to ensure the discipline remains relevant and sustainable e.g., in competitive standards, social and financial environment, global mobility, participation levels, safety.
 - Support the organisation of the World Rowing Coastal Championship, World Rowing Beach Sprint events, and other coastal rowing events within World Rowing.
 - Develop a range of competition opportunities and drive inclusion of the discipline in multisport, and other, events.
- Discipline Development
 - To advise on training and education including support in the production of specific educational material and coaching courses and seminars.
 - To assist in the implementation of the Coaching Development Programme in conjunction with the Development Department.
 - To organise coastal rowing educational seminars, as appropriate, and provide coastal rowing coaching content for the Coaches Conference.
 - To nominate appropriate coastal rowing coaching experts for the Coaching Development Cross Commission.
- Recreational Rowing
 - To collaborate with Member Federations to share knowledge, expertise and develop tour and recreational rowing, in new countries and to new rowers.

- To develop activities to protect and promote heritage boat classes and support the traditional activities and regattas.
- To foster communication between the different rowing communities.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

Discipline Oversight

Coastal Futures – the commission continues to provide expert advice to Council and Congress on the strategic future of the discipline. In addition:

- As part of the successful inclusion of coastal into the Olympic Games for LA28, the commission supported the creation of the technical information pack.
- A coastal development 13 point plan was established, ratified by Council and shared with Congress.
- The commission supported the successful inclusion of coastal rowing into two multi-sport championships, the 2023 ANOC World Beach Games and the 2026 Commonwealth Games in AUS. Sadly, due to political circumstances meant both events have been cancelled.
- Meetings were held with the coastal equipment manufacturers exploring ways to improve the growth of the sport.

2023 World Rowing Coastal Championships was successfully held in Barletta, ITA.

- The Regatta was held on the wide sandy beaches of the Adriatic Sea. The entry saw 231 crews, 531 seats and 32 nations. The entry was slightly up from 2022 and showed a steady gender split of women's to men's participation of 44% to 56%. The men's solo was the event with the highest entrants at 46 scullers, while the women's solo had 28 scullers.
- The Championship course had a mass beach start and a beach finish, with an exciting chicane in the closing 1km of the race.
- The medals in the seven events were spread across 12 different nations, with Spain and Ireland winning 4 gold medals. Spain won the Nations Trophy for the 4th time.

2023 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals was also successfully held in Barletta, ITA.

- The Regatta was also held on the wide sandy beaches of the Adriatic Sea. The 3-day regatta had 177 crews, from 40 member federations competition in 10 events. Women made up 47% of the seats.
- It was only the 4th edition of the format; entries continue to grow by 20% since 2022. The regatta is now part of a strategic pathway for teams as they prepare their U19 crews for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

- An invitation event for an inclusion PRG mixed 2x was trialled and was positively received by the athletes and the four teams that took part.

Rules of Racing - The Commission has worked closely with the Umpiring Commission and the Rules Working Group to review the endurance and beach sprint departures. To improve the rules in relation to fairness, event presentation and safety.

2023 ANOC World Beach Games

The ANOC World Beach Games was due to be held in Bali, for which a full global qualification process had taken place. Continental qualification regattas had been organised in all five continents, after all this preparation the teams and athletes were sad to hear news of its cancellation.

Meetings of the Commission

- World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals, Barletta, October 2023
- World Rowing Coastal Championships, Barletta, October 2023
- Joint Commission Meeting October 2023
- Coastal Futures Workshops London & Barletta 2023
- Commissions Meeting, x 8 virtual meetings throughout 2023

Focus for 2024

Future World Rowing events

- The 2024 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and World Rowing Coastal Championships will be held in Genoa (ITA).
- A Strategic Event Attribution Process for 2025 and 2026 will take place in 2024 for the WROC and WRBSF.

Appointment of 2024-2027 commission members

- The two-year term of the current commission members came to an end in December 2023 and in line with the statutes new members will be reappointed in 2024. As Chair, I want to thank the members for all their hard work, creativity and knowledge.

2024 – 2028 Coastal Development Plan

This plan will guide the work of the commission through to the end of their mandate.

1. Identify and announce the new Coastal Rowing Commission members.
2. Restructure the WR Rule book so coastal rules are not departures and to keep the 'agile' nature of the formats.
3. Establish within the rules, a Principal Race Officer with the mandate to oversee dynamic changes to racing due to weather conditions.
4. Establish an Olympic qualification system that attracts smaller nations to be part of the 'road to LA28'.
5. Support Continental Federations and MFs to have access to coastal rowing education (coach, event and water safety).
6. Work with equipment manufacturers to innovate boat design (performance, durability and safety) and establish the pool boat tender requirements to support participation of smaller athletes.
7. Publish new OC guides that allow for the reduction in cost and complexity.

8. Develop an open-source timing and results service software for continental federations and MF to use in their events.
9. Develop & fund a powerful marketing strategy that establishes the brand of coastal rowing.
10. Refresh the championships attribution process to attract OCs from a range of global destinations.
11. Establish broadcast production and event presentation philosophies that communicate the coastal rowing brand and differentiates it from classic rowing.
12. Develop commercial model and broadcast product portfolio, designed to attract investors and partners into the discipline.
13. Establish an international WR beach sprint rowing league with team franchises.

2023 Commission Members

Guin Batten (GBR), Chair
 Chen Chunxin (CHN)
 Sarah Cook (AUS) (GEDI representative)
 Katharina von Kodolitsch (GER)
 Libor Kubrycht (CZE)
 Richard Mouchel (FRA)
 Manuel Pita (POR)
 Marcelo Santos (BRA) (Coaching representative)
 Pasquale Triggiani (ITA)

INDOOR ROWING COMMISSION

Filip Ljubicic (SRB)

The purpose of the Indoor Rowing Commission is to promote indoor rowing and support the delivery of the Indoor Rowing Strategy in an expert and advisory capacity on a national and international basis.

The main activities of the Indoor Rowing Commission are:

- To develop indoor rowing through collaboration and knowledge transfer between member federations and other indoor rowing communities, and the creation of relevant frameworks to support local and national indoor rowing growth.
- To periodically review the World Rowing indoor rowing strategy to ensure alignment with the World Rowing strategic plan.
- To engage key technology and manufacturer stakeholders of indoor rowing to strengthen the discipline's ecosystem.
- To advise on the long term strategy of international competition opportunities and the corresponding rules for indoor rowing and explore the potential of alternative competition formats and methods.
- To support World Rowing staff in the organisation of the World Rowing Indoor Championships and other indoor rowing events owned and/or delivered by World Rowing.
- To guide the Coaching Cross Commission in the development of coaching materials, publications and workshops for indoor rowing.
- To provide guidance and support to member federations and athletes that are new to the sport of indoor rowing and create resources for them where they do not already exist.

Key Achievements and Activities in 2023

- First ever Versa Challenge at the 2023 World Championships
- First ever Hybrid Indoor World Championships in Toronto 2023
- Successful exhibition at the Olympic Esports Games in Singapore
- Calendar review completed and agreement to create a Virtual Series
- Initiation of a rowing machine seal of excellence program
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Japan Sport Council for a joint research project in Virtual Sports.

Focus for 2024

- Improve the Versa Challenge at the Prague 2024 World Rowing Indoor Championships
- Initiate work for the creation of a Virtual Series
- Create a concept for Esports
- Launch the rowing machine seal of excellence program
- Develop research projects with the Japan Sport Council
- Look at improvement for the World Rowing Indoor Championships - in-person and virtual
- Continue working with manufacturers to identify opportunities and promotion within the discipline

Summary

In 2023, we hosted the first Hybrid Indoor Rowing World Championships in Mississauga, Toronto, Canada. This was an extremely complex event with a number of challenges of bringing our 1400 competitors to compete both in-person and at home. I would like to thank the Organising Committee and World Rowing staff for helping to deliver this event.

The 2023 World Championships were also a first for our new event, the Versa Challenge. This new format is exciting, tactical, challenging and different for our sport. We saw athletes from different backgrounds attempt to qualify and in the end we had 10 Women and 10 Men competing to become the first Versa Challenge champion. In Toronto we saw the great potential of this event and are excited to work on developing it further for 2024 and beyond.

The Commission is aware that the Indoor season for many takes place throughout the year and therefore as part of our calendar review we are looking at ways to offer more racing opportunities. Currently we offer 3 events, the World Championships, the European Championships and the Virtual Sprint Challenge. All taking place in the space of 6 weeks. During our review of the calendar we believe there is an opportunity to develop a Virtual Series that runs for a period of 9 months, leading into the World Championships. Our goal is to start developing this series in 2024 and to launch in 2025.

As mentioned in last year's report we wanted to explore the possibilities of a certification or seal of excellence for the Indoor Rowing machine. In 2023 we conducted a number of market soundings with manufacturers to understand their requirements and expectations. Following this the Commercial and Marketing team are now developing a program to launch in 2024.

Virtual Sports and Esports are a fast moving area of which Indoor Rowing can become a significant part - and already is. In 2023 we made a number of initiatives in this area. Firstly with the IOC, we took part in the free-to-play area at the Olympic Esports Week Finals in Singapore. Here we showcased the capabilities of rowing in the virtual landscape with EXR and Rowcave. Over the 4 days we had approximately 5,000 people try rowing on the machine in an immersive experience. Secondly, we signed an MOU with the Japan Sport Council for a joint research project looking at the impact of virtual sport and high performance. This is one of the first research projects undertaken by an International Federation in this area. Finally we've begun work towards a concept for potential Esports Championships and Games that might take place in the future.

In 2023 we worked on an improved and extended partnership with Concept2 who are the presenting partner for the World Rowing Indoor Championships. We hope this future extended partnership will allow us to invest more in the growth and development of the discipline over the next 5 years.

As we go into 2024 we are excited by the initiatives that have been started and will be launched in the next 2 years. We also want to wish the OC and host city of our next World Rowing Indoor Championships, Prague (CZE) all the best for their World and European Indoor Championships in February 2024.

2023 Competition Numbers

World Rowing Indoor Championships = 1,400 competitors
Virtual Challenge = 6,250 competitors

2023 Commission Members

Kenny Baille (GBR)
Juliette Duchemin (FRA)
Filip Ljubicic (SRB), Chair
Linda Muri (USA)
Erik Murray (NZL)

SPORTS MEDICINE COMMISSION

Juergen Steinacker (GER)

The purpose of the Sports Medicine Commission (SMC) is to oversee and advise on all medical, health and safety aspects related to rowing. In 2023 the commission focused on safe return to rowing following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The activities of the Commission include:

Supervise and monitor medical, health and safety services at World Rowing Events utilizing Commission members or certified volunteer medical physicians;

Formulate and publish best practice guidelines for medical, health and safety services and environmental issues;

Promote research activity on rowing-related health and medical issues, exercise physiology, biomechanics, health, safety, environmental and other sports medicine related subjects;

Provide basic medical and health education;

Provide advice and recommendations upon request to the Council and member federations;

Advise WR on guidelines and policies for anti-doping activities;

Conduct and oversee WR research in elite rowing injury treatment and prevention

Provide input and advice to the WR Safeguarding advisory group

Key activities and achievements in the Season 2023

WR Event Doctors - Our commission members continued their service at regattas as the WR Doctor in accordance with the by-law to rule 37. The events in 2023 are attached.

The water safety rescue demonstration has been moved before the opening of the events course which has extended the WR Event Doctors commitment considerably (in terms of days per event)

Representation - The Chair represented WR at the following events:

IOC meeting on Transgender and DSD

ASOIF Medical Commission Chairpersons meeting

4 Council meetings (online and in presence)

Team doctors meeting in Belgrade

Hearing of MF's on rule 13 at WRCh in Belgrade

WR Congress in Belgrade

Byelaw to rule 13 – mens and womens events:

The revision of the byelaw proposed to the Council included:

the principle, that the gender assignment at birth determines the primary gender of an athlete and any changes in gender after the start of puberty need to be evaluated in respect of

eligibility of an athlete by the independent Gender Advisory panel. The true report is the duty of athlete and MF's.

Every athlete who is not female can start in the men's category, which means the protected gender is female

WR sees no need for a transgender category

Only MF's or the WR Executive Committee can challenge an athlete's gender if provided reliable information. The Executive Committee forwards this to the Gender Advisory panel, which, after due consideration of all facts, gives a recommendation to the Executive Committee

In a hearing at the WCh in Belgrade, the rule 13 and byelaw was presented to the MF's and was discussed. Attending MF's could express their opinions.

Development – No development activities due to COVID-19

The **heat guidelines** were updated. Publication with an IOC working group in British Journal of Sports Medicine (Racinais S et al., Br J Sports Med. 2023 Jan;57(1):8-25).

The cold water policy was updated (MW, LT)

The concussion policy was updated to incorporate the newly published SCAT / SCOAT 6 (MW, MH, LT)

Water safety review is a key issue of the next years. The existing guidelines are in a continuous revision. SMC members in the WR water safety panel are SMC Chair and Dr Wilkinson.

Injury study on coastal rowing (Dr. Fiona Wilson, Dr. Kate Ackerman) This was recently accepted for publication in BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine

SMC Report on Lightweight rowing submitted (Dr. Hiura)

Liability Insurance for WR doctor at WR events was now cleared by WR

Human Research Guideline was submitted to Council

SMC reviews scientific proposals for human studies for WR

Recommendations for registrations of studies

Management

SMC meetings in 2023: five online meetings and online meeting at the WR JMC 2022

COVID-19 pandemic

In 2023, the measures focused on **prevention, hygiene, and monitoring** possible infection outbreaks and promoting individual measures.

Local Organizing Committees should provide precautions for hygiene, cleaning, catering and sanitation

Published guidelines:

World Rowing COVID-19 Recommendation for 2023

Anti-Doping-Panel (ADP)

Members of the ADP in 2023: Sports Medicine Commission Chair Dr Jürgen Steinacker, WR Executive Director, Council Member Dr Lenka Dienstbach Wech, Sports Medicine Commission Member Dr Mike Wilkinson.

Rules

Gender Identification and Sex Assignment -

Rule 13 – Men's and Women's Events was revised taking into account fairness of racing for protected disciplines, inclusion, non-discrimination and societal acceptability. The effects are continuously monitored

The **Gender Advisory Panel** is a multidisciplinary group that includes specialists in the areas of gender identification, sex-reassignment, hyperandrogenism, transgender and differences of sexual development (DSD) with chair Prof. Dr. Juergen Steinacker.

Rule 14 – Health and Safety of rowers

The new rule highlights that health and safety of the participants in the sport of rowing are of paramount concern. This supplements the safety provisions in Rule 48 describing the duties of each member federation to their rowers:

The rule also requires that **Member Federations nominate to WR a Chief Medical Officer** and provide contact data

In 2023 all Physicians were required to register with World Rowing and their medical registration / license was reviewed and if approved, special accreditation was provided (JH, LT)

The by-law to Rule 35 now states that it is the responsibility of organizing committees to provide a Regatta Medical Officer who is a medical doctor and to support the World Rowing Doctor. It is now mandatory that the organizing committees appoint a safety coordinator who is responsible for oversight of rescue services and coordination with Medical services and the Regatta Medical Officer.

Work groups

Water Safety for Regattas and role of FISA-doctor the SMC-water safety group is Prof. Henning Bay Nielsen, Dr. Donia Koubaa, Dr. Michael Wilkinson, Dr. Petra Zupet, Prof. Konstantinos Ditsios, Prof. Juergen Steinacker

Coastal rowing (Dr. Michael Wilkinson, Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, Dr. Donia Koubaa, Dr. Larissa Trease, Prof. Juergen Steinacker)

Lightweight: Prof. Fiona Wilson, Prof. Mikio Hiura, Prof. Henning Bay-Nielsen, Dr. Kathryn Ackerman (and two nominees of athletes' commission).

Para Rowing and injury:

Physician registration: Prof Jo Hannafin, Dr Larissa Trease

Safeguarding advisory group: (Prof. Juergen Steinacker, Dr. Michael Wilkinson)

IOC - Risk management working group with David Zidemann - Dr. Michael Wilkinson

Publications

Heat guideline

Updates to the WR website

Update of SMC guidelines on cold, regatta health (Cook book), rescue, hygiene and hygienic hazards protocol, water safety.

Focus for 2024

The health and safety for participants at WR events will further remain a topic for 2024.

Water Safety Guidelines

Rescue rehearsal ahead of course opening

WR-Doctor at regatta

Newly nominated European Doctors (co-opted to WR SMC)

Safety and rescue provision also for continental events

WR doctor (European doctor) at all events

Education (IOC course)

Cold Water Guidelines

Accreditation of Member Federation doctors will result in a function at the badge "Team doctor". Will be for Physios in 2025

The guidelines on Event Safety, Medical and Rescue Plans, Injury and Serious Events Surveillance and Hygiene measures will be examined in detail. Proposals to improve rescue and safety equipment, such as inflatable devices attached to the wrist, will be analyzed.

A secondary analysis of pre-competition health screening will be performed.

Global Health and Development for the health and safety of rowers is on the agenda.

Educational programs and work with the development program of WR will also continue to be a priority for the SMC.

These activities ensure that the Sports Medicine Commission continues to collaborate with WR Commissions and international organizations to significantly improve the safety and health of athletes and teams, to secure successful outcomes of WR events, and to contribute to the standing of WR as an international sport organization.

2023 Events

Event	Location	Date	WR Doctor
WRC I	Zagreb, CRO	05-07 May	Dr. Petra Zupet
ERU19Ch	Brive, FRA	20-21 May	Dr. Alain Lacoste
ERCH	Bled, SLO	25-28 May	Prof. Konstantinos Ditsios
WRC II	Varese, ITA	16-18 June	Dr. Piero Poli
WRC III	Lucerne, SUI	07-09 July	Dr. Larissa Trease / Prof. Dr. Jürgen Steinacker
WRU23CH	Plovdiv, BUL	19-23 July	Dr. Donia Kouba
WRU19CH	Paris, FRA	02-06 August	Prof. Mikio Hiura / Prof. Dr. Jürgen Steinacker
ERU23Ch	Krefeld, GER	26-27 August	
WRCH	Belgrade, SRB	03-10 September	Dr. Donia Kouba / Prof. Mikio Hiura / Prof. Dr. Jürgen Steinacker
Team Doctors meeting	Belgrade, SRB	06. September	Prof. Mikio Hiura / Prof. Dr. Jürgen Steinacker / Dr. Mike Wilkinsor / Dr. Kate Ackerman
WRBSF	Barletta, ITA	29 Sept -1 Oct ober	Dr. Mike Wilkinson
WRCC	Barletta, ITA	6 -8th October	Dr. Mike Wilkinson

Publications

COVID-19:

- Matits, L., Munk, M., Bizjak, D.A., Kolassa, I.-T., Karrasch, S., Vollrath, S., Jorg, A., Steinacker, J.M., Inflammation and severity of depressive symptoms in physically active individuals after COVID-19 – An exploratory immunopsychological study investigating the effect of inflammation on depressive symptom severity. *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity - Health* (2023). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbih.2023.100614>.
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- ### 2023 Commission Members
- Dr. Henning Bay Nielsen (DEN)
 Prof. Dr. Konstantinos Ditsios (GRE)
 Prof Dr. Jo Hannafin (USA)
 Dr. Mikio Hiura (JPN)
 Dr. Donia Koubaa (TUN)
 Prof. Dr. Juergen Steinacker (GER), Chair
 Dr. Larissa Trease (AUS)
 Dr. Michael Wilkinson (CAN)
 Dr. Petra Zupet (SLO)
 Co-opted Specialist members:
 Prof. Dr. Kathryn Ackerman (USA)
 Joanne Harper (GB / USA)
 Dr. Piero Poli (ITA)
 Prof. Dr. Fiona Wilson (IRL)
- ### Former chair and permanent guest
- Dr. Alain Lacoste (FRA)

UMPIRING COMMISSION

Patrick Rombaut (BEL)

The purpose of the Umpiring Commission is to standardise umpiring and to continuously improve the quality of umpiring in general, in particular at World Rowing Championships, and at international events (regattas, sprints, para rowing, indoor, coastal, etc.) and to promote umpiring throughout the world.

The main activities of the Commission are to:

- Select juries for World Rowing events based on selection criteria as agreed by the Executive Committee;
- Supervise the work of the juries at World Rowing Championships;
- Develop, improve and standardise umpiring by conducting seminars and clinics, using the most modern educational techniques and methods;
- Conduct examinations for international umpire licences;
- Monitor the qualifications and quality of international umpires;
- Define the role of umpires in the development of new types of rowing events, in collaboration with the other World Rowing Commissions as appropriate;
- Continuously improve the standard of regatta organisation at all major events in co-operation with the other World Rowing Commissions as appropriate;
- Assist in the implementation of the Umpiring Development Programme; and
- Provide quality assurance for the Rules of Racing and associated Bye-Laws, in the official languages of World Rowing as appropriate.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

- Attendance at World Rowing Events:
 - World Rowing Indoor Championships, Toronto (CAN);
 - World Rowing Cup I, II and III in Zagreb (CRO), Varese (ITA) and Luzern (SUI);
 - World Rowing U19 Championships, Vaires-sur-Marne (FRA);
 - World Rowing U23 Championships, Plovdiv (BUL);
 - World Rowing Championships, Belgrade (SRB);
 - World Rowing Masters Regatta, Tshwane (RSA);
 - World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals & Coastal Championships, Barletta (ITA);
- Attendance Continental Rowing Events:
 - European Rowing Indoor Championships, Paris (FRA);
 - European Rowing Championships, Bled (SLO);
 - European Rowing U19 Championships, Brive-la-Gaillarde (FRA);
 - European Rowing U23 Championships, Krefeld (GER);
 - European Beach Sprint Finals & Coastal Championships, La Seyne-sur-Mer (FRA);
- Asian Games, Hangzhou (CHN);
- Panam Games, Concepcion (CHI);
- FISU Summer Universiade, Chengdu (CHN);
- Central American and Caribbean Games, San Salvador (ESA);
- African Beach Games, Hammamet (TUN);
- African Olympic and Paralympic qualification, Tunis (TUN)
- African Championships, Tunis (TUN)
- Attendance International Rowing Events:
 - International Wedau-Regatta, Duisburg (GER);
 - Bled International Regatta, Bled (SLO); Koninklijke Hollandbeker, Amsterdam (NED); International Regatta, Soro (DEN); Coupe de la Jeunesse, Amsterdam (NED);
 - Gent Spring regatta, Gent (BEL); Gent May regatta, Gent (BEL); Baltic Cup, Hamburg (GER); Head of the Charles, Boston (USA); Prince Albert II Coastal Challenge (MON); Trans-Tasman U21 Challenge, Lake Karapiro (NZL); Croatia Open, Zagreb (CRO); International Budapest Cup Regatta, Budapest (HUN); Tunis International Regatta, Tunis (TUN).
- New World Rowing umpires
 - 7 exam sessions were organised – Bled (SLO), Belgrade (SRB), Gent (BEL), Lake Karapiro (NZL), Tshwane (RSA), Tunis (TUN) and Shanghai (CHN) – with a total of 24 successful candidates – 10 female and 14 male (4 Africa, 6 Asia, 10 Europe and 4 Oceania).
- Retired World Rowing umpires
 - 7 WR umpires have reached in 2023 the 70 year age limit.
 - 4 WR umpires did not renew the license or decided to stop their WR umpiring activities.
- We remember Gerhard Meyboden (GER), who passed away, aged 67.
- Seminars & clinics - 15 seminars – 14 physical in Belgrade (SRB), Cambridge (USA), Chengdu (CHN), Concepcion (CHI), Gent (BEL), Hammamet (TUN), Hangzhou (CHN),
- Lake Karapiro (NZL), Mooloolaba (AUS), Plovdiv (BUL), Shanghai (CHN), Tshwane (RSA), Vaires-sur-Marne (FRA) and Vienna (AUT) and 1 virtual) with a total of 189 participants; a number of online 'educative' clinics (6 x 2hrs), attended by a huge number of potential candidates for future WR and regional exams. In person Clinic in Morocco;
- Other achievements of the Commission - participated actively in the Rules Working Group, the GED, Safeguarding and Water Safety working groups;
- Membership COPARE, ARF, ORCON, FASA and ER Board and/or commissions;

- Umpiring Commission meetings in 2023: Trieste (ITA) (in person) - February; World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting (virtual) - November; World and European Rowing Umpiring Commission level (virtual) - Monthly; During WR/ER events with the UC-members present.
- Some of the UC members were part of educational and development projects (as the online 6 session umpiring clinics), preparatory site visits or meetings (CAC Games and Panam Games).

Focus for 2024

- The 2024 season starts with:
 - 491 WR umpires from 68 national federations (+ 11 WR umpires/+ 1 MF vs. 2023);
 - 54 national federations having a total of 149 female WR-umpires (+8 vs.2022 or 30,34% of the total number);
 - 265 WR Umpires selected for the different 2024 World and European juries (incl. FISU).
- To continue the organisation of a number of (live or virtual) umpiring seminars and clinics to assure the renewal of the WR umpire licenses.
- Geographical representation - continue to expand the number of federations with WR and regional qualified umpires (via education, clinics and exams).
- Gender representation - further increase the number of female umpires in co-operation with the member federations and the continental rowing confederations.
- First steps towards gender equal juries by imposing nomination conditions to the member federations (step by step towards 2028).
- Umpiring newsletter via www.worldrowing.com.
- Learning resources – continue to develop new resources for umpiring development.
- Continued contribution to practical race preparation of development crews during training camps and at World Rowing events.
- World Rowing projects - further contribution to new and ongoing rowing formats and procedures, with particular focus on athletes lane selection, crews public introduction at the start, indoor, beach sprints and coastal rowing.

Conclusion

The World Rowing umpiring commission will continue to contribute to fair competitions in cooperation with all parties involved.

2023 Commission Members

Angela Alonso Fernandez (ESP)
Kristopher Grudt (USA)
Ines Hammami (TUN)
Morten Juel Hansen (DEN)
Nicholas Hunter (AUS)
Gabrielle Isenschmid Weber (SUI)
Vladimir Megic (SLO)
Jérôme Moully (FRA)
Stefanie Palfner (GER)
Patrick Rombaut (BEL), Chair
Takao Senda (JPN)

GENDER EQUALITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CROSS COMMISSION (GEDI CRC) Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED)

The purpose of the GEDI is to oversee and drive delivery of the GEDI Policy and Strategy as it applies to the Commissions. The main activities are Champion GEDI within the Commissions, raising awareness and understanding across rowing communities to drive cultural change, Support centrally driven GEDI initiatives, and disseminate at a Commission level as applicable, act as an advisor where relevant for certain central projects, suggest initiatives to the GEDI Management Group with respect to GEDI challenges and opportunities.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

The year 2023 was the second year of the Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion Cross Commission (GEDI CrC). With members of all other Commissions and in strong cooperation with the Development team we discussed, planned and took action to get a greater understanding of diversity, and the issues and barriers to participating in rowing.

Cross Commission and Management Group

As per Congress approval the following was foreseen

1. World Rowing GEDI Cross Commission composed of one member from each Commission who would dedicate themselves to implement the defined strategies within the work of each commission
2. World Rowing Management Group – members of staff have dedicated part time to the GEDI strategy within the office to ensure that the strategies are applied in the programmes operated by staff.

In 2023 GEDI had a rhythm of meetings: subsequently we had a chair-manager meeting, a management group meeting and the meeting of the GEDI Cross Commission (CrC).

The CrC had 6 meetings in 2023 which were meant to discuss the why and further on the what (to do) and how (to do it). Diversity can only be of impact if inclusion is well established. As exclusion is a systemic thing, it will take a systemic approach and a change of mindset to reach the World Rowing goals on the GEDI areas: - Race and ethnicity; - Gender equality; - Gender identity; - Physical and intellectual abilities; - Sexual orientation; - Economic status; - Religion or beliefs; and Refugees.

Topics that have been presented and discussed in the GEDI Cross Commission in 2023:

- Conclusions of the Unconscious Bias Workshop at JCM. Presented by Daniela Gomes.
- The possible improvements in facilities for athletes, in particular for para, LHBTQ and athletes with a specific religious background, with Events Commission and Management (and with their support the Organizing Committees). Presented by Victoria Aguirregomezcorta.
- Update on the WR adoption of rules relating to

transgender women. Presented by Donia Koubaa.

- CrC election and succession planning. Presented by Jacomine Ravensbergen.
- Annual report 2022, prep meeting for What's Next to Rowing conference. Jacomine Ravensbergen
- Female Leadership Capacity Development initiatives (WISH, WLS, WRLA). Presented by Anna Mguni.
- Identifications and expressions: 'The case of refusing athletes access to the victory ceremony podium because of wearing rainbow socks'. Presented by Jerome Mouly.

Conclusions of the Unconscious Bias Workshop

Educate the decision makers, senior influencers, and the sport by:

- changing the narrative of what rowing is and who enjoys it.
- showcasing all aspects of the sport
- raising the profile of the world rowing staff, showcasing the diversity of the staff through pictures, experience, educational background, and nationality
- continuing the discussion to explore the topic of unconscious bias and create an environment and culture where difference in all its forms is respected.
- developing and communicating out consistent messages around the topic

Identifications and expressions

The reason of the discussion was the case of refusing athletes access to the victory ceremony podium because of wearing rainbow socks. Jerome Mouly presented the case, the relevant World Rowing rules (prop. rule 4, adv. rule 50 and bye laws) and IOC rules (rule 50 Olympic charter), the different forms and colours of flags and clothing of the lhbtq+ community, other socks that have been wearing by athletes (women against breast cancer, peace logo's, etc) and distinctiveness and recognisability of those items.

The Cross Commission (CrC) supports the freedom of expression of athletes. The IOC is working on athlete perspectives, to help ascertain how and where they can demonstrate and express themselves in terms of their diversity. There are investigations to identify where best to broadcast these expressions relative to the event processes and procedures; to standardise practice, to be considerate of different contexts, while recognising that there are limits.

The CrC members do understand that in (tv) recordings or photo shoots, the combination with World Rowing expressions can be abused by others. The CrC emphasises that the symbols of expression differ between cultures, nations and individuals. What can be perfectly neutral in one case can be a political statement in the other.

The GEDI Cross Commission calls for further clarification of the rules by IOC and World Rowing. The chair highlights the role of the CrC in providing feedback that allows for informed decision making at Council or Executive Committee level. The CrC feedback is based on professional and lived experiences. Input of the CrC membership is welcomed. It was noted that expert advice would also be secured through consultation of the CSHR. The combination of input from the CrC and the experts would be collated to provide feedback to the Executive Committee and Council where appropriate.

What's Next 2 Rowing conference

The GEDI CrC organised the 3rd WN2R conference in Belgrade, Saturday September 9.

The purpose of this WN2R was to run an interactive session that provides an overview of developments in gender equality diversity and inclusion, inside information of GEDI actions and impact in the Sport Movement and to share the GEDI agenda's, plans and actions of several member federations. Annamarie Phelps gave the keynote lecture with an overview of gedi actions and their impact. A panel consisting of Sarah Cook, Gwenda Stevens, Victoria Aguirregomezcorta, Guylaine Marchand, Seada van den Herik and Mehdi Garidi presenting the member federation and continental GEDI plans and impact. The audience openly discussed the views and differences on topics relating to the gender equality, diversity and inclusion and on key questions relating to what World Rowing could do next to truly broaden out the sport and to strengthen the incorporation of the key GEDI principles into all strategies. The conference was well attended with over 100 participants from member federations and WR commissions.

Representation at the virtual Coaches Conference (2 presentations)

- WISH cohort 2
- D&I presentation

Gender Equality

We continued the work of the former Women's Cross Commission to sustain women's development projects with a specific focus in the areas of coaching and leadership while keeping the gender mainstream approach, promoting equal athlete/coach/coach educator representation at development training and education opportunities and world, continental and regional events.

Female leadership

On the leadership side two rowing candidates have completed the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) Women Lead Sports (WLS) programme, which supports the development and active participation of women in decision-making positions within Olympic sport organisations.

World Rowing has partnered with Association of Paralympic Sport Organisations (APSO), aiming to increase women's participation and leadership across all levels within the Paralympic Movement, and specifically within the rowing community. In 2023 we assigned 4 talented women to the Women Lead Sports (WLS) programme. This is a series of online leadership courses for women within the sphere of Paralympic Sports Organisations. The objective of the programme is to support their advancement as leaders on national and international levels and to enhance development of the necessary skill set required

to serve in elective positions. It also aims to build skills in communication, negotiation, and networking along with developing self-confidence and personal leadership styles.

In addition, World Rowing started the World Rowing Leadership Academy (WRLA) in 2023. An online Leadership training with webinars and workshops, e-learnings, assignments and the availability of leadership mentors. In October 12 participants have started. WRLA aims to increase the number of women in leadership roles within the member federations by:

1. Building confidence and competence in women leaders
2. Developing networks that support women leaders
3. Enabling women to lead with integrity and in line with WR principles and values
4. Embedding strong ethical principles across the organisation
5. Creating a sustainable legacy for the future of women in rowing

Female high performance coaches

World Rowing developed the Women in Coaching Toolkit. This toolkit aims to support member federations, coach educators and others responsible for female coaching pathways. This guide has been designed to give you the facts about the numbers of women coaching, the main barriers stopping them from coming into coaching and most importantly to give ideas to help you recruit, develop and retain more women coaches.

In 2023 World Rowing continued the high performance female coaches network (HPFCN) and support the network with an online platform and a meeting at the World Championships. The aim of the network is to create an opportunity for top female coaches to get to know each other across federations and create a space for shared learnings and support. The HPFCN, builds on the World Rowing Women in Coaching Toolkit, recognising the importance of supportive networks in the development and retention of female coaches at a high performance level.

After the successful pilot WSLA HPC program to support talented female coaches, the Women in Sport High Performance Pathway (WISH) has been developed and started in 2022. WISH aims to equip women coaches, who have the potential and ambition, to succeed in gaining roles at elite coaching levels within their sports.

WISH focus on developing sport-specific skills, enhancing career opportunities, as well as enhancing leadership competencies or behaviours. The programme is a joint venture between the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Sports Federations, including World Rowing, and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and is delivered over a period of 21-months.

WISH supports Recommendation 6 from the IOC Gender Equality Review Report to encourage "balanced gender representation for coaches selected to participate at the Games."

World Rowing is also working to support sport-specific learning opportunities for the coaches with high-performance coaches as mentors, coach educators and site visits. In 2023 World Rowing participated in two WISH cohorts with eight coaches. Graduation is expected in 2024 (April and July).

The following 2023 Primary Objectives were achieved

- Continuous rhythm of meetings: prep meeting, management group, cross commission
- Learnings from the presentations of several experts in our cross commission
- Experience with several improvements for athletes, in particular for para athletes and athletes with a specific religious or cultural background and LHBTQ+
- In collaboration with the Rules Working Group, improvements for participation of athletes with a specific religious background, in particular head and arms/legs coverings, female athletes weighing
- In collaboration with the Para, Masters and Coastal Rowing Commissions: improving inclusion of para rowing in masters and coastal rowing, by introducing 'mixed inclusion 2x'
- Ongoing support from the Events Commission and Management and the Organizing Committees, on possible improvements in facilities for athletes, in particular for para, LHBTQ and athletes with a specific religious background
- Discuss with the Equipment and Technology Commission on equipment innovations for female rowers in general and for para rowers for indoor and coastal rowing
- Data (WR Membership Survey to support and monitor GEDI objectives)

Special thanks to the World Rowing GEDI Cross Commission members:

Connie Draper, Donia Koubsa, Inga Daukantiene, Gaurav Dutta, Jerome Mouly, Linda Muri, Marcello Varriale, Mehdi Garidi, Sarah Cook, Emma Twigg, Victoria Aguirregomezcoarta; and WR staff support: Monika Briedyte, Maurici Summers, Pat Lambert, Matt Draper, Brian Orsini, Vincent Gaillard and in particular Daniela Gomes and Anna Mguni.

A final acknowledgement to all World Rowing Council members, continental representatives, commissions and member federations for their sustained support throughout 2023.

2023 Commission members

Victoria Aguirregomezcoarta (ARG)
Sarah Cook (AUS)
Inga Daukantiene (LTU)
Connie Draper (GER)
Gaurav Dutta (IND)
Mehdi Garidi (ALG)
Donia Koubsa (TUN)
Jerome Mouly (FRA)
Linda Muri (USA)
Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED), Chair
Emma Twigg (NZL)
Marcello Varriale (BRA)

YOUTH ROWING COMMISSION

Algirdas Raslanas (LTU)

The purpose of the Youth Rowing Commission is to oversee and promote all areas of youth and student rowing and increase participation across all disciplines, at all levels of performance and across nations fulfilling the goals of our principles defined in Article. 2 of our statutes.

The main objective of Youth Rowing is the development of individuals through the sport of rowing, acquiring experience in self-discipline, determination, commitment, respect, teamwork, integrity and fair play, among others, in competitive events of all kind. Furthermore rowing in youth ages promotes physical fitness and becomes a lifestyle sport.

The main activities of the Commission are:

- To assist and advise on the organisation of the World Rowing Under 19 and Under 23 Championships and other international level youth competitions, e.g. Youth Olympic Games, FISU competitions, etc.
- To represent the interests of youth rowing when decisions about the competition system are to be made.
- To monitor trends in youth rowing at national and international levels.
- To establish and maintain contact with coaches and stakeholders at major World Rowing events as WRU-19 and WRU23 e.g., by holding meetings at least once per year.
- To organise the annual World Rowing Youth Coaches Conference.
- To assist the Control Commission at the World Rowing Under 19 and Under 23 Championships.
- To analyse the organisation, entries and results of the World Rowing Under 19 and Under 23 Championships and to publish the results and use the information to inform future activities.
- To manage the Masters Fund for Youth Rowing development and the use of the resources of the Fund in consultation with the Masters Rowing Commission.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

- Event support and Management - the Commission fulfilled its functions at the Under 23 World Championships in Plovdiv (BUL) and Under 19 World Championships in Paris (FRA). Primarily this supported the new and young coaches, particularly those from development countries as well as Safeguarding and Fairness. At each event, a Coaches Meeting was organized, and statistics analyzed to provide future recommendations regarding trends to the Executive Committee and other Commissions.

- Fairness - Barbara Grudt, Ibtissem Trimech and Jaime Fernandez were part of the Fairness Committees at the Under 23 Championships in Plovdiv (BUL).
- Safeguarding - Barb Grudt was the FISA Event Safeguarding Officer at the Under 23 Championships in Plovdiv (BUL).
- Mehdi Garidi continued to fulfill his role as Continental Representative for Africa.
- Algirdas Raslanas participates in the Governance Working Group.

Focus for 2024

- Combined World Rowing Under 19 & Under 23 Championships, St. Catharines (CAN).
- FISU World University Championships, Rotterdam (NDL)
- Fairness and Safeguarding assistance at WR events
- World Rowing Youth Coaches Conference: TBA
- Promote Youth Indoor Rowing
- Masters Fund for Youth Rowing Project: selecting new coach.
- Provide YOG Dakar 2026 Qualification System advice and support.
- Youth Coastal Rowing Development, Promotion & Safety: U19 Beach Sprint Finals
- Monitor statistics and trends in Youth Rowing events, including Coastal Beach Sprints

Summary

All Youth Commission members are professionally involved in different areas of rowing and youth sport activities on all continents, displaying their wide experience for their tasks in the Commission.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Commission members, as well as the national federations, for their proposals and suggestions. Their active contribution is greatly appreciated and a necessary element of our work.

Last and not least my special recognition and gratitude to Algirdas Raslanas, whose leadership allowed us to cope and grow with the new tasks (YOG, U23, FISU) which were incorporated into our commission during his 20 years of chairmanship.

2023 Commission Members

Antonio Colamonici (ITA)
Jaime Fernandez (AUS)
Mehdi Garidi (ALG)
Berb Grudt (USA)
Zhongming Huang (CHN)
Axel Müller (GER)
Algirdas Raslanas (LTU), Chair
Olga Tarasova (BLR)
Ibtissem Trimech (TUN)

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFRICA

Mehdi Garidi (ALG)

The role of the World Rowing Continental Representative, is to:

- Represent World Rowing within their continent;
- Promote rowing and maintain close and regular contact with the member federations, continental rowing confederations and groupings of member federations, and regatta organisers in their continents;
- Promote and support World Rowing development initiatives and advise World Rowing on rowing development within their continent;
- Observe the major international regattas held within their continent;
- In case of non-observance of the Statutes and Rules of Racing in their continent, submit reports to the Executive Committee;
- Submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose, they may request reports from the member federations within their continent; and
- Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their World Rowing responsibilities.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

National Development Activities

- Benin - Development of National Sport System, working on boat donation shipment expected to end in October 2024
- Guinea - Development of National Sport System, confirmed, planned to start early 2024, working on boat shipment
- Namibia - Development of National Sport System, June 2022 to May 2024 ongoing
- Nigeria - Development of National Sport System, Confirmed, working on boat shipment
- Lesotho - Development of National Sport System - boat donation has been made last year, expected to end in sept 2024
- L1 Coaching Course Coastal, Morocco, December 2023

Continental and regional activities

- Training Camp, Classification and Classifier Training Course & Tunis lake International Regatta March, Tunisia 6 NF participated EGY, KEN, LBA, NAM, SUD, TUN, 5 athletes (3 M, 1 F) 5 Coaches, 11 trainee classifiers
- African Beach Games, Hammamet, Tunis Tunisia, 17-26 June 2023, Coastal Rowing Coaching course and training camp during the 15 NOC participated, 24 athletes (12 M, 12 F) 11 coaches (8 M, 3 F)

- African Championships and African Olympic Paralympic Qualification Regatta and African Championship 23-26th October 2023, 19 NF participated, 163 Athletes, 10 NOC qualified for Olympic and 3 for Paralympic Games

World activities

- Memorial Paolo d'Aloja, Piediluco – 27-30 Mars 2023, a training camp for African nations was organized: 5 countries participated CIV, LBA, SUD, TOG, ZIM 4 athletes Male and 1 Female
- Development Training Camp and World U23 Championships - Plovdiv, BUL 15-24 July 2023. 5 NFs participated ALG, MAR, EGY, TUN, LBA
- Development support to MF World U19 Championships – Paris, France 31 July – 6 August 2023. 2 NFs participated EGY, TUN, 10 athletes (6 M, 4 F) 2F Coaches
- Development Training Camp - World Rowing Championships - Belgrade, Serbia 14-25 September 2023 6 NFs participated ANG, CIV, EGY, LBA, RSA, SUD, TOG, TUN, ZIM, 24 athletes (18 M, 6 F) 7 Coaches (5 M, 2 F)
- World BS Championships - Barletta, ITA 26 Sept – 02 Oct 2023 4 NFs participated EGY, CPV, MAR, TUN, 11 athletes (7 M, 4 F), 5 Coaches (2 M, 3 F)
- WISH Program, Great Britain, Caitlyn Dace from RSA started on 30 November

Focus for 2024

- Organize successfully the different Continental events
 - The African Rowing Championships Egypt November 2024
 - The African Beach Sprint championships Egypt November 2024
 - The African Indoor rowing Virtual championships, TBC
 - The 16th Tunis lake International regatta, November 2024
 - The Regional African championships
 - Assist the African NFs, Athletes and coaches to participate in the international and continental championships (via SO)
- Assist the qualified athletes in their preparation at the to OG/PG Paris 2024
- Assist and cooperate with the OCs of the future major Games to be held in Africa to ensure the inclusion and delivery of successful rowing events
- Development, training and education (coaches, umpires – face to face / virtually)

- Support important initiatives for continental education and information dissemination, ensuring members have access to best practice on safeguarding, anti-doping, prevention of manipulation of competition
- Promote coaching support to new nations through the continental coach educators
- Work with the WR and FISA Umpiring commission to deliver umpiring education
- Assist on the Review process of the FASA Statutes
- Assist on the Organisation of the FASA Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assembly 2024, date and location TBC
- Encourage FASA and the African MFs to take action towards equality in their governance structures
- Encourage and assist the MFs to sustainably develop classic, indoor, coastal and para rowing where possible

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE AMERICAS

Victoria Aguirregomezcorta (ARG)

The role of the World Rowing Continental Representative, is to:

- Represent World Rowing within their continent;
- Promote rowing and maintain close and regular contact with the member federations, continental rowing confederations and groupings of member federations, and regatta organisers in their continent;
- Promote and support World Rowing development initiatives and advise World Rowing on rowing development within their continent;
- Observe the major international regattas held within their continent;
- In case of non-observance of the Statutes and Rules of Racing in their continent, submit reports to the Executive Committee;
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- Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their World Rowing responsibilities.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

1. Sustained calendars: classic rowing activities and events presence in Continental and Regional Games and Championships were sustained during 2023, with the inclusion of Para Rowing International Regatta to culminate a para rowing development camp and workshop for classifiers and classification. Coastal Rowing debut in Central America with the staging of Americas Cup in CRC.
2. Sustained national rowing programmes and international participation saw improved performances of North and South America with participation of 24 member federations, namely ARG, BAH, BAR, BER, BOL, BRA, CAN, CHI, COL, CRC, CUB, DOM, ECU, ESA, GUA, HON, MEX, NCA, PAR, PER, PUR, URU, USA and VEN.
3. Readiness to progress with the development and activities featuring Coastal and Beach Sprint TDs, Coaches and Umpires as well as education and training opportunities for classic rowing.
4. Connections with Member Federations, National Olympic Committees and Governments was stronger and communications were more fruitful towards the development of all forms of rowing and the staging/delivery of new events.

Focus for 2024

1. Encourage updates and inclusion of new policies in all Member Federations.
2. Deliver good standard of Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta: water safety, technical requirements, race issues.
3. Continue towards 2026 YOG/ 2028 OG&PG to encourage development of training, education and race opportunities for all disciplines, targeting best approach for each national context.
4. Safeguarding: continue to raise awareness and provide instruments for inclusion of policies.
5. Provide support to Development Team for delivery of education programmes, training camps and mentoring.

Summary

Highlights of improved performance at World Rowing and Continental events:

BRA PR1W1x Qualified Paris PG
 CHI W4- silver WRU23 Plovdiv
 CHI W2- Qualified Paris OG
 MEX LM2x Qualified Paris OG
 URU W1x bronze WRU19 Paris
 2023 Santiago PanAm Games: 9 countries in medal table

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ASIA

Kim Fai Ho (HKG)

The role of the World Rowing Continental Representative, is to:

- Represent World Rowing within their continent;
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- Submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose, they may request reports from the member federations within their continent; and
- Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their World Rowing responsibilities.

Introduction

- As the World Rowing (WR) Continental Representative for Asia and ARF Senior Vice President, I have continued to coordinate between the WR Council and ARF Executive Committee to explore all possible competition and training opportunities for teams in the Asian region.
- I have also attended meetings and other related activities in both capacities.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

- A Level One Classic Coaching Course was held from 29 March - 3 April in Hanoi, Vietnam led by Rosie Mayglothing, Chair of Competitive Commission, and Chris Perry, World Rowing Development Lead Expert for Asia. Sixteen Coaches from Vietnam participated in the Course with support from Olympic Solidarity.
- A Coach Education Coastal Race Module (CRM) was run from 21-24 April in Pattaya, Thailand by Chris Perry, Larissa Beisenthal and myself - with 21 participants from 12 MFs (CHN, HKG, INA, IRQ, JPN, KOR, KSA, MAS, PHI, SRI, THA and UAE).
- The World Beach Games Qualifier and Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Championships were held from 25-30 April in Jomtien Beach, Pattaya, Thailand with participation of 69 crews from 12 MFs (HKG, INA, IRQ, JPN, KOR, KSA, MAS, PHI, SRI, THA, UAE and KUW)

- Japan won its first-ever open category medal in M1x at World Cup II in Varese.
- China won medals at both the World Cup and the World Rowing U19 Championships.
- The FISU World University Summer Games were successfully held from 28 July - 8 August in Chengdu (CHN) including participation by university crews from 7 Asian Countries (CHN, INA, IRI, JPN, KOR, SGP and TPE). CHN topped the medal table and JPN won a silver medal in the lightweight women's double sculls.
- The ANOC World Beach Games scheduled to be held at Bali, Indonesia in August, was cancelled at short notice. Nevertheless, a planned World Rowing Coastal Race Module and NTO training was still conducted in Bali with 21 coaches and 10 NTOs from 4 MFs (INA, TPE, MAS and PHI) participating. The course was conducted by WR Expert Chris Perry and Nick Hunter from the Umpiring Commission.
- Participation of 11 MFs (BRN, CHN, IND, IRQ, JPN, KAZ, KOR, KUW, LBA, PLE and UZB) at WR Championships in Belgrade (SRB). Six Asian MFs (CHN, IND, JPN, KAZ, KOR, UZB) included Para Teams.
- The 19th Asian Games were successfully held from 20-25 September in Hangzhou (CHN) with 21 NOCs participating in the rowing events (BRN, CHN, HKG, INA, IND, IRI, IRQ, JPN, KAZ, KOR, KSA, KUW, PAK, PHI, SGP, SRI, THA, TPE, UAE, UZB and VIE). A total of 119 boats and 251 athletes raced.
- The 4th Asian Para Games were held in October in Hangzhou (CHN) with 9 NPCs participating in the rowing events (CHN, HKG, IND, IRI, JPN, KOR, KSA, SRI and THA).
- The Asian Rowing Junior and Senior Championships, scheduled to be held on 12-15 October in Samarkand was cancelled. Thailand however took up the responsibility to host the event in Pattaya from 14-17 December. Some 300 rowers participated from 17 countries and regions, including CHN, HKG, INA, IRI, JPN, KAZ, KOR, KSA, KUW, MAS, PHI, SRI, THA, TPE, UAE, UZB, and VIE. A number of Masters events were also included in the regatta.
- The 2023 WR Congress approved ARF to become a recognized Continental Confederation under the WR Statutes.

Meeting and Events Attended in 2023

- ARF Executive virtual meetings in January, March, May and July.
- World Rowing Council Meetings in January, May, July, September.

- A site visit to Saudi Arabia from 10-20 January to attend the Saudi Indoor Rowing Championships and to visit possible future coastal rowing venues.
- A visit to the International Olympic Committee Headquarters in Lausanne on 3 February.
- Individual meetings and communication with Asian MFs on development support including discussion on possibilities to host future events.
- A site visit to the Thai Para Training Base in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand in April.
- 6th Shenyang International Open Regatta 2-3 September at Hun River, Shenyang (CHN)
- World Rowing Championships in Belgrade (SRB) 8-10 September.
- World Rowing Congress and Strategic Event & Calendar Re-assessment (SECR) project Meeting on 11-12 September.
- Asian Rowing Federation Congress in Hangzhou (CHN) on 24 September.
- WR Joint Commissions Virtual Meeting in November.
- I would also like to express thanks to the ARF President Chen Chunxin, the
- ARF Executive Committee, the Secretariat and the Chairs of the specialist committees for their support and cooperation with World Rowing over the past year.
- Thank you also to everyone at World Rowing and in particular the WR Development team for coordinating all possible support for our continent.
- Last but not least, thank you to all our Asian MFs for their long-term contribution and active participation in promoting the development of rowing in Asia and in the world.

Focus for 2024

- Continue regular communication through emails, face-to-face, virtual meetings and the ARF website.
- Continue the roll-out of World Rowing Coach Education modules in Classic, Coastal and Para Rowing during 2024 – including the training of more regional coach educators to support the growing demand.
- Continue to review ARF event bidding procedures and arrange further Event Organizer, NTO and TD training opportunities.
- Explore coordination of calendars between Asia and Oceania and possibilities to open up National Championships and Asia Cups as international regattas, and promote more competition opportunities for rowers at different levels within Asia and Oceania.
- Improve the coordination of the annual calendars between ARF and WR.
- Reinforce the use of Olympic Solidarity resources by working closely with NOCs in the development programme to support committed MFs in all forms of rowing.
- Find ways to encourage Para Rowing development in Asia by identifying a hub for an annual para rowing event and training camps. Organise workshops and classification in line with competitions.

Acknowledgements:

- Sincere thanks to China for hosting an outstanding Asian Games and Asian Para Games. Thanks also to the Rowing and Canoeing Association of Thailand for stepping in to host the World Rowing Qualification for World Beach Games, Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Championships and the Asian Rowing U19 & U23 Championships. Both overcame different challenges to offer these valuable racing opportunities for our rowers in the continent.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EUROPE

Dušan Macháček (CZE)

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- Submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose, they may request reports from the member federations within their continent; and
- Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their World Rowing responsibilities.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

- **European Rowing Indoor Championships, Paris, FRA, 27-28 January 2023.**
After the Covid brake French rowing federation delivered very successful European indoor championships. ERIC 2023 was organized together with French national champs at the same venue like in 2020 WRIC.
- **European Presidents meeting 2023, Copenhagen, 31-March - 2-April 2023**
The Danish Rowing Federation hosted a very well attended traditional meeting of presidents and representatives of European rowing federations in Copenhagen. We discussed important and strategic issues with representatives of the European Rowing Federations. Many of them were then presented for approval at the ERC Congress in Bled. Delegates also had the opportunity to discuss with the FISA President and Secretary General.
- **European Rowing U19 Championships, Brive-la Gaillarde, FRA, 20-21 May 2023**
The European U19 Rowing Championships 2023 took place in France. 129 crews representing 26 MFs. A big congratulations to the French Rowing Federation for hosting a total of 3 European Championships in 2023 (+ one World Championship) on their territory!
- **European Rowing Championships, Bled, SLO, 25-28 May 2023**
The European Rowing Championships 2023 took place in Bled. The experienced team of organizers from Slovenia once again confirmed their many years of experience in organizing top rowing events and the European elite once again measured their strength at the iconic location on Lake Bled. In terms of media coverage and spectator interest, it was again successful European Championships. 229 crews representing 34 MFs.
- **General Assembly of the European Rowing Confederation (ERC) - It took place on 27 May 2023, Bled, SLO.**
Delegates re-elected a ERB member, Eva Szantó (HUN). GA approved some European Rowing Rules and Event Regulation changes and took note of the strategic plan presented by the ERB.
- **European Rowing U23 Championships, Krefeld, GER, 26-27 August 2023**
140 crews from 26 countries + AIN athletes competed on the traditional rowing course in Krefeld.
- **Ordinary WR General Assembly - it took place in person on 11 September 2023 in Belgrade, SRB.**
- **European Coastal and Beach sprint Championships 2023**
The French Rowing Federation and local rowing officials organized the second edition of the European Beach Sprint and Coastal Championships. The whole program was concentrated in three days of racing. Media broadcasting coverage helped to show attractiveness new rowing disciplines. 268 crews in Coastal and 77 crews in Beach sprints from 26 MFs.
- **World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting, virtual, 2, 7 November 2023**
ExCo and chairs the commissions had an opportunity to meet again at JCM. Informal continental representatives' consultation group, where all involved share their experience on different fields, like their cooperation with continental rowing umbrellas bodies, needs, ideas and challenges of their MFs, development program activities, etc.
- **European Rowing Indoor Championships, Prague, CZE, 23-24 February 2024.**
The European Indoor Champs was held together with the World Championships in Prague. Unlike the World Championships, which were held virtually at the same time, the European medals had to be won only in person in Prague. In many ways, the innovative championship showed the rowing community a viable model for the future.

- Events and meetings attended in 2023
 - European Rowing Indoor Championships, Paris, FRA, January 2023
 - European Presidents meeting 2023, Copenhagen, March 2023.
 - Site visit La Seyne-Sur-Mer, FRA, April 2023
 - European Rowing Championships, Bled, SLO, May 2023
 - General Assembly of the European Rowing Confederation (ERC) - Bled, SLO, May 2023
 - European Rowing U23 Championships, Krefeld, GER, August 2023
 - Ordinary WR General Assembly - September 2023 in Belgrade, SRB.
 - European Coastal and Beach sprint Championships was held in La Seyne-Sur-Mer, FRA, September 2023
 - World Rowing Joint Commissions Meeting, virtual, November 2023
 - WR Strategic Event & Calendar Review working group In person meeting led by Eva Szantó held in Belgrade, SRB on 11-12 September 2023. In discussing strategic plans for the format of the world's top regattas, my aim is to defend the interests of European rowing federations of all sizes, especially the smaller and developing ones.
- Council meetings 2023
 - 3-5 February 2023, Lausanne, SUI
 - 27 April 2023, virtual
 - 9-10 July 2023, Luzern, SUI
 - 8, 10 September, Belgrade, SRB
 - 13 December 2023, virtual

Focus for 2024

- Preparation on the organization of the Presidents Meeting in Basel in March 2024 as part of regular consultation with MFs
- Continuation to improvement of safeguarding and environmental policies aligned with, and in support of World Rowing.
- Together with ERB and WR Development commission to continue exploring the Erasmus + funding programs.
- Cooperation with other continental representatives on common themes and development programs.
- I would like to intensify my cooperation with the WR development team, especially where I can use my relationships with representatives of rowing federations and with the organizers of European championships. A big thank you to Daniela Gomez and Maïke Diekmann and other colleagues for their activity in Europe.

Summary

The year 2023 was the first regular, but successful racing season after the covid years.

In the Olympic year 2024 we will have 5 European Championships, European Continental Qualification for the Olympic Games and many other challenges.

We would like to focus on the further development of our non-commercial sport. Both by focusing on the sustainability of hosting the European Championships on the water and by looking for new innovative competitions in indoor rowing. Supporting developing rowing federations in collaboration with the WR development team can work well with the above.

As a Continental representative, I am grateful for the excellent cooperation with my ERB colleagues led by Annamarie Phelps, as well as for the enriching communication with other Continental Representatives.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OCEANIA

Sarah Cook (AUS)

The role of the World Rowing Continental Representative, is to:

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Key activities and achievements in 2023

Oceania is comprised of nine World Rowing member federations (MFs) – Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, and Papua New Guinea. However, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, and Kiribati are currently inactive. The region is incredibly unique, in that every nation in Oceania is an island. This creates challenges relating to travel and access to equipment, which is expensive and difficult to transport. Therefore, seeding new programs and developing Member Federations (MF) through the provision of equipment takes time, funding, and planning. Following the impacts from Covid, the Oceania region has been significantly impacted, but travel is starting to return to pre-Covid levels and costs are finally starting to decrease. In 2023, OROCON became a member of the Organisation of Sports Federations of Oceania (OSFO).

In 2023, Duncan Free replaced Lee Spear as the Chair of the Oceania Rowing Confederation (ORCON). We welcome Duncan to this role and look forward to leveraging his significant experience and network throughout the Oceania region, his understanding of the sport of Rowing as an Olympic Champion and also a decorated coach, and his experience with sport for development through programs such as GAPS. We thank Lee for his extraordinary contribution to World Rowing and particularly the Oceania region over many years.

The ten-year runway into the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games will provide an unprecedented opportunity for Oceania, as this is a Games not just for Australia but the region. Sport

development throughout the Pacific region is a key focus, and we will look to leverage the major events across the decade to ensure that Oceania Rowing continues to grow and thrive. There is no doubt that Coastal Rowing is a gamechanger for the sport, particularly in the Pacific Islands. The lower barriers to entry and greater accessibility will provide a discipline of the sport that will deliver on genuine universality outcomes and engage a whole new and diverse demographic of participants. We are experiencing ongoing interest from a number of inactive MFs wishing to engage in the discipline, including Fiji, Tonga, Samoa. In 2023 we were delighted to welcome Papua New Guinea as one of the newest MFs of World Rowing.

Laryssa Biesenthal has been working as the World Rowing Development Expert in Oceania and well supported by Inas Hussein as the Development Manager for Oceania. Laryssa has been coordinating virtual training and competitions through indoor rowing to help drive engagement, collaboration, and cooperation throughout the region. Most of the MFs have access to rowing machines, which has created the capability to start programming and providing technical direction. A key issue for the region is still access to equipment and will be a priority for 2024.

In June 2023, Sarah Cook and Duncan Free conducted site visits to Vanuatu and Fiji, which were well received by the local community. Both MFs have enthusiastic NOC's and we look forward to continuing to grow the program in Vanuatu, with a key priority being to fund and attract a coach and program lead. Fiji is an inactive MF with significant potential, and we are working with interested parties there to establish a sustainable program.

Key achievements through 2023;

- PNG new MF of World Rowing. Several online meetings and good engagement, including PNGOC Games & Programs Manager Asiani Vagi visiting the World Rowing office in Lausanne.
- Developing relationships with Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa, and recent contact with French Polynesia.
- Continental Representative site visit to Vanuatu and Fiji.
- DNSS proposal for Papua New Guinea to start a rowing development and talent identification program for 2023/24, with the first WR Development Expert Visit planned for 2024.
- Conducted the first ever Oceania Beach Sprint Championships, in July 2023 in Australia.
- Athlete Career Transition proposal for Vanuatu for Rillio Rii to transition to coaching (proposal to be activated for 2024).
- Participation of Vanuatu (development support) & American Samoa (logistical support) in the Development Program at the 2023 WRCC/WRBSF.

Focus for 2024

- At least 6 active MFs in Oceania by end of 2024.
- Continue the communication and outreach to activate dormant MFs.
- Youth Athlete Development (YAD) training camp in Australia in November 2024 focused on 2026 Youth Olympic Games.
- Development in Papua New Guinea through DNSS program support by PNGOC and Olympic Solidarity.
- Development in Fiji through a DNSS program support by FASANOC and Olympic Solidarity
- Regional Coastal Level 1 Coaches Course for Oceania MFs to be held in New Zealand.

Summary

Oceania has many significant challenges for World Rowing to overcome as we look to grow and develop the sport in the region in collaboration with ORCON and the MFs. The Brisbane Olympic Games will provide an unprecedented opportunity for the region, as we leverage the event and funding runway over the next two Olympic cycles. The growth of Coastal and Indoor Rowing are gamechangers for the sport in Oceania, and we look forward to working with our partners in the region to reengage inactive MFs and continue development and growth in the active MFs across all disciplines of the sport.

CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

Masakuni Hosobuchi (JPN)

World Rowing may appoint up to two Co-opted Members to complement the skills of the Council. The Co-opted members shall be appointed by the Council, upon proposal by the Executive Committee.

The Co-Opted member of Council is described in Article 42 and the role of the Co-Opted Council Member is defined by the FISA Rule Book, Appendix 5, Bye-Law to Article 47. "The President may assign specific duties to the Co-opted members as required."

Key activities and achievements in 2023

As Co-Opted Council Member, my mission is to contribute to the value and presence of rowing, through the activities of the Council and by participating in all World Rowing initiatives.

In 2023, the priority was to move forward as a united sports community towards the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games and specifically to create the best possible environment for athletes to pursue their Olympic aspirations; I worked together with many World Rowing members and NOCs. It has been a year of great experiences as I strive to promote the presence and value of sports in society.

The world is still experiencing military invasions and political upheavals. Under these circumstances, I became acutely aware of the importance of world peace and wondered if there was anything I could continue to do to contribute to world peace through sports, including Rowing.

For the Council of World Rowing, I believe that the most important thing is to prepare an environment in which athletes can give their best performance. Athletes act as ambassadors of their countries through sport. I wanted to provide a place where these ambassadors could be fully active, and demonstrate their best abilities.

In addition to activities related to World Rowing and sports in general, I actively learned and exchanged information on research in various fields to contribute to World Rowing.

It is very meaningful to use the influence of sports on society and for the world of sports to make social contributions toward peace. In this context, I always kept in mind the activities that could enhance Rowing's presence throughout the year.

Cooperation with various parties (institutions)

I actively collaborated and exchanged information with World Rowing, the IOC, NOCs, MFs, and regional members, as well as with governments, embassy officials and the Japan Sport Council (JSC) to enhance the presence of the sport and World Rowing in society while also sharing the challenges and the future of Rowing.

Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy

Before the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, I made as much progress as possible on our legacy plan during 2023.

- Acceleration of the realisation of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy
- Planning and review of Sea Forest Waterway revitalization
- Continued and strengthened cooperation with World Rowing, IOC, IPC, NOCs and MFs
- Continued collaboration with related organizations in Japan, the Japanese government, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, JSA, JSC, NOC, and other sports (NFs)
- Collection of information on the 2026 Asian Games

Launch of indoor rowing and virtual rowing research study

I started a specific study of the virtual sports initiatives described in Recommendation 9 of the International Olympic Committee's "Agenda 2020 +5," a set of guidelines for reforming the future Olympic Games.

- MOU concluded between WR and JSC (Japan Sport Council)
- Consideration of revitalization of Indoor Rowing and Indoor Rowing World Championships
- Started research and study for the future of virtual rowing
- Started research and study for the promotion and dissemination of virtual rowing

Organize and examine the challenges to achieve World Rowing's goals

- World Rowing marketing program
- Governance and sports integrity
- Support of the Director for Continental Affairs and promotion and activation of rowing in the Asian continent
- Importance of DEI+B in sports and Rowing

Focus for 2024

The social environment surrounding sports and the Olympic and Paralympic Games is changing dramatically. And the pace of change and evolution is getting faster every year.

We need to urgently aim to create a society where everyone in the world can live safely and securely, and if we can make even a small contribution to world peace through sports, that would be wonderful.

The sight of athletes giving their best efforts in competition, and deepening mutual respect and friendship has the power to transmit the unchanging appeal and excellence of sports. It is very important to utilize the significance and advantages of sports in society and to communicate the value and necessity of sport.

The diversity, fairness, and integrity of sports are useful to human society. Our gratitude to the "water" that nurtured Rowing and our response to environmental concerns will contribute not only to society but also to Rowing's future.

This is the year of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, and it will be a year to showcase the best performances from people involved in sports including rowing. The courage, hope, inspiration, rivalry and friendship shown by athletes, and their determination to strive for their goals and never give up, will be an inspiration to the world through the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I hope to make this year such an inspiring one through sports and Rowing.

The IOC and the sporting world continue to evolve and change.

We also need to further promote and develop Coastal Rowing worldwide and develop venues as we head into 2026. Coastal Rowing has moved from a phase in which the goal is to be adopted for the Olympics to a phase in which it is being developed into a higher level of quality and appealing sport and category.

Moreover, I believe that indoor rowing and virtual rowing can be further developed. Virtual rowing with physical exercise would be a very important part of the sport.

2020 Tokyo Legacy

In 2024, while continuing the 2020 Tokyo Legacy, the 2024 Paris Legacy will begin. I believe that Japan and Tokyo have also entered the next phase of the project. Each year is a passing point in the continuation of the legacy and a path forward into the future.

All the infrastructure and systems that are part of 2020 Tokyo's legacy are valuable assets to the future of World Rowing as well. We must examine the problems and issues we have encountered so far and apply solutions to the future operation of World Rowing and the revitalization of rowing, while further improving the attractiveness of the event. In addition, the relationship with the IOC should continue to be even better and stronger.

- Promotion of world peace through Rowing
- Success of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Start with the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy
- Consider a comprehensive and category-specific strategic approach
- Promote urban and virtual sports
- Research and promotion of indoor rowing and virtual rowing
- Evolve from 2020 Tokyo Legacy to the next phase called Future
- Strengthen relationships with World Rowing, IOC, IPC, ASDIF, IFs, NOC, ARF, OCA, etc.
- Strengthen relationships with MFs
- Develop and foster Rowing in the Asian region, strengthen relationships with MFs

Keeping in mind our ultimate goal of contributing to world peace through sport, I will continue to work toward enhancing Rowing's presence, promoting environmental initiatives, and working towards the development of a more attractive Rowing.

Summary

The year 2024 will be a year in which the Olympic and Paralympic Games can be held on a full scale, and all those involved in sports must work together to move forward toward the success of the Games.

We need to create an environment where athletes from all over the world can do their best "faster, higher, stronger - together" with courage in their respective fields, aiming for the 2024 Paris Olympics. To this end, it is important to align the eyes and vectors of all parties involved in supporting the sport. The unity of sports people working toward the same goal will surely have the power to contribute to world peace. To achieve our goals, the first step is to start working on improving the value associated with the sport.

I hope that the courage, dreams, and hopes that the athletes bring to people around the world will be a light that illuminates the path to peace.

In Rowing, it is important to enhance the value of the sport through cooperation among World Rowing member federations and others involved. Through rowing, I hope to educate society about Olympism and contribute to the creation of a society where people can enjoy peace, well-being, and the joy of living through sports.

I believe that the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games will bring a new ray of hope to humanity. I strongly hope that the Rowing family around the world will work "TOGETHER" and become more united for the sake of world peace, sports, and the future of Rowing.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the World Rowing Staff, Council, Executive, all Commission members, stakeholders, and member federations for their support of World Rowing.

CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

Lenka Dienstbach-Wech (GER)

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Key activities and achievements in 2023

- ASOIF research cooperation on the prevalence of harassment and abuse in high performance sport
- Reappointment to the Athletes Rights Steering Committee
- Board member of the German Olympic Academy
- Participation at DOSB consensus meeting around Sport and Human Rights
- Safeguarding World Rowing
- Anti Doping Panel
- Member of the IOC Medical Commission
- Member of the WADA Health, medical and research Committee

In 2023 after intensive preparation and planning, we ran the research study on the prevalence of harassment and abuse in sport as one of the pilot sports with ASOIF.

The aim of the study was to develop a standard tool to assess the status quo in the sport, measure changes in the type of harassment prevalent and to measure the efficiency of anti-harassment measures.

The extensive questionnaire was online. We provided athletes with an access code to the questionnaire. Information, support and the opportunity to ask questions in person were provided by our safeguarding lead.

The results of the survey will be shared once the data collection and interpretation for the other pilot sports has been finished.

I was reappointed to the IOC Medical Commission. Main topics were the run up preparation for the medical services in Paris 2024.

Human rights and sport are an ongoing concern in the sporting world. In the medical commission it also led to a revised medical code which has a strong human rights base.

[Olympic Movement Medical Code - March 2016 - eng \(olympics.com\)](https://olympics.com/en/olympic-movement-medical-code-march-2016)

As I have been a member of the Athletes Rights steering Committee from the beginning I reapplied and was reappointed to the committee. We had a meeting at the IOC Athletes forum in Lausanne.

From this meeting the IOC released the Athletes Rights implementation guide which is a great tool to help stakeholders with the implementation of the Athletes Rights.

[2024-01-Droits-Athletes-EN-11.pdf \(olympics.com\)](https://olympics.com/en/2024-01-droits-athletes-en-11.pdf)

I attended the annual in person meeting with the WADA HMR committee. Here we discussed the new prohibited list, appointed research grants and initiated a new grant application strategy forward to allow researchers timely access to funds.

Focus for 2024

The safeguarding advisory group is currently under revision to clarify its role and responsibility. Once the new safeguarding advisory group is appointed we will reinitiate our

Meetings and will resume training and education programs.

Together with the Athletes Commission, I plan to review the implementation of athletes Rights in World Rowing using the implementation guidelines.

With the IOC medical Commission, I will be present in Paris to monitor the medical services and look forward to healthy and happy athletes.

I am pleased to continue to be a part of the World Rowing Council and I am looking forward to assist and help with projects, drawing from my experience both as an athlete but also as a physician to continue to keep Rowing strong and fit for the future.

Thank you

AFRICAN ROWING FEDERATION (FASA)

Mehdi Garidi (ALG)

Key activities and achievements in 2023

As part of the 2023 Africa Rowing achievements, our continent hosted significant number of activities, thanks to the unwavering support of World Rowing Development team and Olympic Solidarity

The highlight of the season was the Beach African Games, in Tunisia, the Olympic Paralympic Qualification regatta, and the African Championship where a record number of participants attended the event.

2023 was also the first and very challenging year for the newly elected FASA board, as our organization underwent a deep reconstruction and reorganization phase, especially on the governance aspects. Among many other, our main objectives were to enhance the governance standards, review the statutes, structure the commissions, address the financial situation.

In summary, the key activities held in our continent are as follows:

National Development Activities

- Benin - Development of National Sport System, working on boat donation shipment expected to end in October 2024
- Guinea - Development of National Sport System, confirmed, planned to start early 2024, working on boat shipment
- Namibia - Development of National Sport System, June 2022 to May 2024 ongoing
- Nigeria - Development of National Sport System. Confirmed, working on boat shipment
- Lesotho - Development of National Sport System - boat donation has been made last year, expected to end in sept 2024
- L1 Coaching Course Coastal, Morocco, December 2023

Continental and regional activities

- Training Camp, Classification and Classifier Training Course & Tunis lake International Regatta March, Tunisia 6 NF participated EGY, KEN, LBA, NAM, SUD, TUN, 5 athletes (3 M, 1 F) 5 Coaches, 11 trainee classifiers
- African Beach Games, Hammamet, Tunis Tunisia, 17-26 June 2023, Coastal Rowing Coaching course and training camp during the 15 NOC participated, 24 athletes (12 M, 12 F) 11 coaches (8 M, 3 F)
- African Championships and African Olympic Paralympic Qualification Regatta and African Championship 23-26th October 2023, 19 NF participated, 163 Athletes, 10 NOC qualified for Olympic and 3 for Paralympic Games

World activities

- Memorial Paolo d'Aloja, Piediluco – 27-30 Mars 2023, a training camp for African nations was organized: 5 countries participated CIV, LBA, SUD, TOG, ZIM 4 athletes Male and 1 Female
- Development Training Camp and World U23 Championships - Plovdiv, BUL 15-24 July 2023. 5 NFs participated ALG, MAR, EGY, TUN, LBA
- Development support to MF World U19 Championships – Paris, France 31 July – 6 August 2023. 2 NFs participated EGY, TUN, 10 athletes (6 M, 4 F) 2F Coaches
- Development Training Camp - World Rowing Championships - Belgrade, Serbia 14-25 September 2023 6 NFs participated ANG, CIV, EGY, LBA, RSA, SUD, TOG, TUN, ZIM, 24 athletes (18 M, 6 F) 7 Coaches (5 M, 2 F)
- World BS Championships - Barletta, ITA 26 Sept – 02 Oct 2023 4 NFs participated EGY, CPV, MAR, TUN, 11 athletes (7 M, 4 F), 5 Coaches (2 M, 3 F)
- WISH Program, Great Britain, Caitlyn Dace from RSA started on 30 November

Focus for 2024

- Organize successfully the different Continental events
 - The African Rowing Championships Egypt November 2024
 - The African Beach Sprint championships Egypt November 2024
 - The African Indoor rowing Virtual championships, TBC
 - The 16th Tunis lake International regatta, November 2024
 - Deliver a sustainable Regional African championship in the 3 regions, East, West and South
- Assist, in collaboration with World Rowing, the African NFs, Athletes and coaches to participate in the international and continental championships (via SO)
- Assist the qualified athletes in their preparation at the to OG/PG Paris 2024
- Assist and cooperate with the OCs of the future major Games to be held in Africa to ensure the inclusion and delivery of successful rowing events
- Work in collaboration with ANOCA on development projects and secure new sources of funding
- Development, training and education (coaches, umpires – face to face / virtually)

- Implement and support continental education and information dissemination, ensuring members have access to best practice on safeguarding, anti-doping, prevention of manipulation of competition
- Promote coaching support to new nations through the continental coach educators
- Work with the WR Umpiring commission to deliver umpiring education
- Finalize the review of the FASA Statutes
- Organise the FASA Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assembly 2024, date and location TBC
- Encourage the African MFs to take action towards equality in their governance structures
- Encourage and assist the MFs to sustainably develop classic, indoor, coastal and para rowing where possible

Despite the challenges, FASA remained committed to advancing rowing in Africa. The year 2023 marked a pivotal transition, setting the stage for a stronger and more resilient organization.

AMERICAS ROWING CONFEDERATION (COPARE) Fernando Ucha Martinez (URU)

During the year 2023 we were participants in extremely important events for our continent that normally do not take place within the same year, so it was very a intense year for everyone.

In April, the Pan American Games Qualifier was held in Concepción, Chile in which almost all participating countries managed to qualify at least one boat and had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the venue where the Pan American Games would be held. Following the Prepanam Qualification, the South American U23 Championship were held.

In May, the first Americas Cup of coastal rowing and the Qualifier for the World Beach Games were held in Lima, Peru. In the same month, the first Americas Rowing Beach Sprint Championships took place in Costa Rica.

The Central American and Caribbean Sports Games were held in June, in San Salvador, El Salvador with the participation of 12 countries. The first assembly of the Central American and Caribbean Rowing Confederation (CCCR) was held during these Games with its first Board of Directors democratically elected and will be chaired by Mr. Luis Ángel García Fidalgo, President of the Cuban Rowing Federation.

To close the year, in October the Pan American Games were held in Concepción, Chile, with the participation of 20 countries. The Ordinary General Assembly of COPARE took place during the Games. Mrs. María Arge Díez González from Mexico was elected as COPARE President and will surely seek to promote and grow our sport in the continent.

In the year 2024 we will have as the first event the Qualifying Regatta for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. This event will be hosted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Also this year, several continental Coastal events in Peru and Costa Rica will be important for the development of this modality in our region.

I am grateful for all the support received this year and I hope we will continue to work with World Rowing as always, for the benefit of our sport in America

ASIA ROWING FEDERATION (ARF) Chen Chunxin (CHN)

Established in 1982, the Asian Rowing Federation (ARF) serves as the governing body for rowing in Asia to promote the sport within the region while preserving its integrity and independence. Over the past four decades, ARF has been striving for the objects enshrined in its Statutes: to ensure fairness, equal opportunity, and gender equality in the sport; to collaborate with World Rowing (WR) and its Member Federations (MFs); to enhance rowing standards and conduct competitions and to develop rowing across Asia by organizing regattas, supporting the establishment of national federations, and fostering friendships within the rowing community.

Today, ARF continues its mission with a membership comprising 36 MFs, and they are:

AFG, BAN, BRN, CAM, CHN, HKG, INA, IND, IRI, IRQ, JPN, KAZ, KGZ, KOR, KSA, KUW, LBN, MAC, MAS, MDV, MGL, MYA, NEP, PAK, PHI, PLE, PRK, QAT, SGP, SRI, THA, TKM, TPE, UAE, UZB, VIE.

This diverse group of nations collaborates under ARF to promote rowing excellence in Asia.

Our emblem, featuring a rising sun and crossed oars, symbolizes unity and progress. It truly resembles the spirit of ARF – an organization that has been more vibrant than ever – as this year marked a significant milestone as ARF was recognized under the WR Statutes as the Continental Confederation for Asia at the WR Ordinary Congress in 2023. Additionally, much else has been achieved in 2023.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

1. Election

At the ARF Ordinary Congress held in December 2022 in Rayong, Thailand, Mr. Chen Chunxin was elected as the President for a four-year term. Meanwhile, four Vice Presidents were also elected, and a fifth Vice President was appointed. They are:

- Fay Ho Kim Fai (HKG)
- Semun Oh (KOR)
- Vehid Moradi (IRI)
- Praparnongs Pochanasomburana (THA)
- Masakuni Hosobuchi (JPN) (appointed)

Mr. Liu Dehai (CHN) was appointed as the Secretary General. The ARF Executive Committee was thus formed. Throughout 2023, the Executive Committee conducted multiple meetings and made numerous key decisions in accordance with the ARF Statutes and Bye-Laws.

Soon after the establishment of the new administrative team, eight Specialized Committee Chairs were elected in accordance with Article 26 of the ARF Statutes and Bye-Laws.

The eight Specialized Committees and their chairs are:

- Competitive Rowing Committee – Wu Jining (HKG)
- Development, Women, and Youth Committee – Katayoun Ashraf (IRI)
- Event Committee – Edy Suyono (INA)
- Marketing and Promotion Committee – Wang Yan (CHN)
- Para-Rowing Committee – Seung Hoon Han (KOR)
- Rowing for All Committee (includes Coastal and Masters Rowing) – Fang Ling (CHN)
- Sports Medicine Committee – Mikio Hiura (JPN)
- Umpiring Committee – Takao Senda (JPN)

These specialized committees are integral to the ARF, effectively managing eight areas including market development, competition projects, and officiating duties.

2. Events and Regattas

Since 2022, the world has been gradually recovering from the impact of COVID-19, and rowing events have been gradually resuming. In 2023, the ARF MFs showcased their great activeness and potential in numerous regional and international events, achieving excellent results.

2.1 Asian Events

2.1.1 The 19th Asian Games

The 19th Asian Games was held at the Fuyang Water Sports Centre from September 20 to 25 in Hangzhou, China. A total of 119 boats comprising 251 competitors from 21 countries and regions participated in events including M1x, W1x, M2-, W2-, M2x, W2x, LM2x, LW2x, M4-, W4-, M4X, W4X, M8+, W8+. After 5 days of intense competition, a total of 42 medals were awarded.

Among them, CHN won 11 gold and 2 silver medals; UZB won 2 gold, 4 silver, and 1 bronze medals; HKG won 1 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze medal; JPN won 3 silver and 1 bronze medals; IND won 2 silver and 3 bronze medals; IRI won 2 silver medals; INA won 3 bronze medals; VIE won 3 bronze medals; KOR won 1 bronze medal; THA won 1 bronze medal.

The event showcased remarkable skill and determination from athletes across Asia. It was a platform where diverse rowing talents converged, demonstrating exceptional prowess and sportsmanship. The competition witnessed thrilling races, with athletes exhibiting their best form and determination to clinch medals for their respective countries and regions.

2.1.2 The 4th Asian Para Games

The rowing events at the 4th Hangzhou Asian Para Games were held at the Fuyang Water Sports Centre on October 26 and 28, 2023. The events included PR1 M1x, PR1 W1x, PR2 Mix2x, PR3 Mix2x and PR3 Mix4+. Participants from 9 Asian countries and regions – CHN, HKG, IND, JPN, KAZ, KOR, SRI, THA and UZB (in alphabetical order) – competed with 24 boats and 50 para-athletes, resulting in awarding a total of 5 gold medals. CHN demonstrated exceptional performance, securing 4 gold medals and 1 silver medal. UZB won 1 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze medals; KOR 2 silver medals; IND 1 silver medal; Thailand 2 bronze medals, and Japan 1 bronze medal.

This was not only a platform where para athletes displayed determination, courage and resilience, but also a moment when differences were embraced. In the face of adversity, the para athletes showed strength in diversity. The dynamic display of talent exhibited by these para-athletes further emphasized the spirit of unity and competitive sportsmanship.

2.1.3 2023 Asian Rowing U19 & U23 Championships and 2023 Asian Rowing Masters Regatta

From December 14 to 17, 2023, the Asian Rowing U19 & U23 Championships and Asian Rowing Masters Regatta were held in Pattaya - Rayong, Thailand. The event attracted over 300 athletes from 17 countries and regions, showcasing exceptional skills and fierce competition.

The Asian Rowing U19 & U23 Championships featured various events. For junior categories, there were JM1x, JW1x, JM2-, JW2-, JM2x, JW2x, JM4-, JW4-, JM4x, and JW4x. For U23 categories, there were LM1x, LW1x, LM2-, LW2-, LM2x, LW2x, LM4x, LW4x, M1x, W1x, M2-, W2-, M2x, W2x, M4-, W4-, M4x, and W4x.

In the U19 Championships, CHN, HKG, JPN, KOR, THA, TPE, UZB, and VIE (in alphabetical order) all obtained medals, with CHN and UZB leading the medal standings.

In the U23 Championships, HKG, IRI, KAZ, the PHI, THA, TPE, UZB, and VIE (in alphabetical order) were among the medalists, with VIE and IRI emerging as the top performers.

The competitions not only demonstrated intense rivalry and thrilling rowing abilities but also served as a pivotal opportunity for sports exchanges within the Asian regions, fostering a platform for interaction and collaboration among all participants. Besides, such championships also promoted the spirit of unity and sportsmanship in the Asian rowing community.

2.1.4 World Rowing Beach Sprint Qualifiers for World Beach Games 2023 and 2023 Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Championships

The 2023 Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Championships, including the World Rowing Beach Sprint Qualifications for the World Beach Games, were conducted from April 25 to 30, 2023, at Jomtien Beach, Pattaya, Thailand. It featured 12 countries and regions, with 68 crews and 114 athletes competing across 10 events.

The 2023 Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Championships consisted of the following events: CM2x, CW2x, CJM1x, CJW1x, CJM2x, CJW2x and CJM2x.

Of all the 7 categories, THA won 3 Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze medals in the Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Championships, demonstrating their dominance in the competition. INA secured 2 Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze, while the PHI and SRI each won 1 Gold and 1 Bronze medal. HKG won 3 Silver medals, KOR 1 Silver medal, and the UAE 2 Bronze medals.

In the Asian Qualifiers for the World Beach Games, events were CM1x, CW1x and CMix2x. In the CMix2x qualification places were won by PHI and THA. In the CM1xTHA and UAE took the qualification places, while in the CW1x, JPN, INA, and THA earned qualifications.

Before the championships, the World Rowing Coach Education Course was conducted from April 22 to 24. This course aimed to enhance coaching standards in the region, with 21 coaches from 12 MFs participating.

2.1.5 The 1st Asian Rowing Masters Coastal Regatta

The 1st Asian Rowing Masters Coastal Regatta was held in the West Coast New District of Qingdao, China from November 11th to 12th. Welcoming 30 teams from countries and regions, including CHN, HKG, INA, KUW, MAS, MYA, TPE, THA, UAE, VIE (in alphabetical order), this Regatta witnessed over 200 athletes paddling through the waves of Tangdaowan Park and the crowning of champions across 4 categories and 23 events.

The successful conclusion of this competition not only signifies the end of a thrilling competition but also marks the beginning of a new chapter in the expansion and enrichment of coastal rowing in Asia.

2.2 Asian Rowing on the World Stage

In addition to the vibrant Asian events, Asian rowing teams achieved good performances and results on the world stage in 2023.

Many ARF MFs have participated in this competition season. In the 2023 World Rowing Championships and Olympic and Paralympic Qualification, 10 Asian MFs participated with 44 boats, among which, China obtained 8 quotas, including M2x, W2x, LW2x, W4-, W4x, PR1 W1x, PR2 Mix2x, and PR3 Mix4+. Japan obtained 1 quota place in M1x, and Uzbekistan one quota place in PR1 M1x. At the World Rowing U19 & U23 Championships, China took the bronze medal in JM4x. At the World Cup (WC), four Asian MFs have competed in the WC1, eight MFs in WC2 and seven MFs in WC3. Six MFs attended the 2023 World U19 Championships while four MFs participated in the 2023 World U23 Championships. Some MFs have achieved notable results. In the 2023 WC series, China secured gold medals, and Japan and Uzbekistan had crews progressing to the Final A and obtained medals.

These accomplishments reflect our commitment to nurturing talent and promoting athleticism in the region.

3. Congress

2023 ARF Congress was held on September 24, 2023 at Zhejiang South China Hotel, Hangzhou, China. Forty-one delegates from 24 Member Federations (MFs) registered in the Congress. Apart from the ordinary reports and approvals,

discussions and voting on the ARF Statutes alterations and Bye-Laws & Regulations changes were conducted. There were abundant updates of the previous version which was completed five years ago.

4. Other Developments

In 2023, ARF made efforts to diversify its sources of funding and actively sought support from various entities. Currently, ARF has signed provisional cooperation agreements with three companies to increase sponsorship and financial support.

ARF continues to seek partnerships to better support events and training initiatives, promote rowing in Asia, and contribute to the growth of the Asian sports industry.

Focus for 2024

1. More Events

Due to the economic challenges faced by countries in the aftermath of the pandemic, organizing rowing events in the Asian region has become quite challenging. While the situation has improved, it remains a test for ARF and its MFs. To overcome these challenges, ARF will try to implement multiple measures to encourage member federations to host and organize events. ARF is gearing up to host a series of events in 2024 and the 2025 ARF regattas are currently open for bidding.

2. Establishing an Athletes Committee and a Coastal Rowing Committee

With beach sprints included in the 2028 LA Olympics, the influence of coastal rowing is on the rise. To better promote these projects, ARF will establish a specialized committee for coastal rowing. This committee will facilitate better coordination with WR, catch up with the trend, enable a more flexible response to opportunities, and thereby promote the prosperity of the new discipline in Asia.

In addition, to focus more on athletes, ARF will establish an Athletes Committee. This will allow athletes who have participated in the Asian Games, Asian Para Games, and Asian Championships to have a say. The election and appointment process will also be mindful of factors such as knowledge, skills, and gender balance. ARF is committed to protecting the rights and interests of athletes, advocating for their welfare, and opposing all forms of harassment. Through these initiatives, ARF aims to establish a solid foundation for its sustainable development.

3. 2024 Congress

ARF will organize the 2024 Annual Congress in accordance with the ARF Statutes and By-laws. A detailed agenda will be formulated to ensure that each topic receives full attention and discussion. Through pre-congress surveys and specialized seminars, ARF will gather early insights into the issues concerning its members, making the congress more targeted and effective. Timely dissemination of relevant information and addressing queries will enhance the congress's participation. Emphasizing the importance of member engagement, ARF will encourage members to actively participate in all ARF affairs, fostering closer cooperation to promote the development of rowing projects together.

4. Other Focuses

In 2024, one of our focuses is on Asian rowing safeguarding. It is acknowledged that all individuals involved with Asian rowing events should be able to enjoy a non-violent, safe and respectful environment. The year 2024 will also see a focus on responsibility to secure youth development, give momentum in rowing for all and protect the sport environment for all participants. These are crucial to the sustainability of rowing and align with the social responsibility and core objectives of the ARF as an international community, where we promote "all for rowing" and "rowing for all".

5. Cooperation with Other Organizations

On the one hand, we will continue to work close with the World Rowing both technically and financially. The growth of Asian rowing is closely intertwined with the global rowing community. ARF attaches great importance in building a close relationship with World Rowing. In 2025, the World Rowing Championships will take place in Shanghai, which we believe will greatly encourage and help participation of the teams from Asian countries and regions. In the future, we are planning to collaborate with World Rowing to host more related events in Asia, thereby fostering the development of Asian rowing.

On the other hand, we will enhance the communication with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and Asian Paralympic Committee (APC). We have proposed to the OCA the inclusion

EUROPEAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (ERC) Annamarie Phelps (GBR)

European Rowing is the confederation of national rowing federations of Europe affiliated to World Rowing. It comprises 46 member federations, including Israel and Gibraltar and also has the capacity to add Member Groupings. European Rowing is managed by the European Rowing Board (ERB) comprising seven elected members, three of whom are nominated by World Rowing.

European Rowing's stated mission is to be a leading continental confederation, adding value to rowing globally and supporting delivery of World Rowing's strategic objectives; to make rowing a successful and sustainable sport, by supporting its member federations to work together for the sustainable future of our sport.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

The European Rowing General Assembly, 2023 was held at the Rikli Balance Hotel, Bled during the European Championships. Following the discussions at the 2023 Presidents Meeting, held in April and hosted generously by the Danish Rowing Federation, it was proposed that the rules of European Rowing regarding the Event Programme should be changed to allow for increased flexibility and a more innovative approach to new events. This proposal was approved by the General Assembly and in addition the age groups for Masters' events at the European Indoor Rowing Championships were brought more closely in line with those of the revised World Rowing Indoor age groups. The ERC Constitution was amended to allow Members Federations to review decisions made by the European Rowing Board during the year, at the following General Assembly.

There was one election to the Board in line with the Constitution and Eva Szanto (HUN) was re-elected unanimously. Neville Tanzer, the President of the Swiss Rowing Federation, who had been elected at the 2022 General Assembly in Munich, formally joined the ERB from 1 January 2023. Nebjosa Jevremovic (SRB) having served on the ERB since its inception in 2007, was appointed an Honorary Vice President of European Rowing.

In line with the constitution the ERB appointed an inaugural Umpires Commission to support its events and provide experience for future senior umpires.

Our flagship event, the European Rowing Championships were hosted by the Slovenian Rowing Federation. Lake Bled provided the perfect backdrop for great racing and excellent media coverage including a stunning photo finish in the men's eight final. 34 Member Federations and 228 crews competed for European Championship titles, including a record 11 nations in the 5 para-rowing events, and athletes from 17 member federations took home medals.

The European Rowing Indoor Championships were the first of three events hosted by the French Organising Committees in 2023. The ERICH in January, held in conjunction with the French Federation's National Championships, and live streamed over two days, were sanctioned by World Rowing as a qualification event for the World Indoors in Toronto, Canada in February. The home team were very strong in numbers and in results in both open, lightweight, and Para-rowing events.

The European Rowing U19 Championships was held in May 2023 on the Lac du Causse, Brive-la-Gaillard, Correze. This small, natural lake which has been coined "le petit Lucerne" also held the 2009 World Rowing Junior Championships. Athlete numbers were slightly higher than last year but still significantly down from the high of Trakai in 2016. The much-improved gender representation, compared with 2022, appears to be largely due to an increase in JW 4+ entries.

Later in the year the second European Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships were hosted in La Seyne-sur-Mer. This compact coastal city near Toulon on the French Riviera was a perfect venue and the Organising Committee made sure that the town's people and visitors to the beach were engaged and able to watch the racing. A temporary retail village near the beach provided food and drinks during the day, promoting sustainability and the EU funded, Water Wardens by Rowing Project. In the evening crowds were entertained by local music bands. The event was all well-attended in all boat classes with 27 MFs represented in the Coastal boat classes and 22 in Beach sprints. Perhaps not surprisingly, the largest number of entries were from the home nation France, with 40 entries, followed closely by Spain on 38 entries. In all crews from across 28 nations took part, the largest entry yet.

The European Rowing U23 Championships were held on the Elfrather See, Krefeld, the home of Crefelder Rowing Club, who were celebrating their 140th Anniversary. Crews from 27 nations competed at Krefeld, with 18 nations taking home medals. Romania finished as the top nation on the medal table for the third year running. The standard of racing was very high with medallists from the 2023 World Rowing U23 Championships competing alongside others going on to the Senior World Championships to try and qualify for Paris.

In general, total entries at our age group events have fallen and the ERB are tracking this carefully to ensure we adjust our programme and provide appropriate competition opportunities for the future. Few gains were made in gender representation overall during 2023, except at U19 where 56%/44% men/women was the second most equal balance since the event began [the most balanced was Trakai in 2016]. Female athlete representation at ERICH Bled dropped to 42% [from 47% 2022] and at U23 the entries returned to similar historic levels with only 38% of crew entries in the women's events.

Coastal endurance championships again provided equal number of gender representation in the Federation event for solos. Including the European Rowing Club Championships the endurance entries were 55% /45% men/women and the Beach Sprints for Member Federations only were 53% 47% men/women.

Focus for 2024

In an Olympic and Paralympic year and with the Games on our continent the ER focus for 2024 is very much on Paris and our European Championships, for the first time combined with the European Olympic & Paralympic Qualification Regatta.

Delivering competitive and relevant events for our Members Federations to support their success at World, Olympic and Paralympic competition continues to be a priority. We are committed to consulting with and listening to our members, so that we can work together to build a strong European Rowing community that is sustainable in every sense of the word and to ensure the long-term success of rowing across the continent. Using members' feedback from the 2024 President's Meeting the ERB will revise and update the ERC Strategic Priorities for the next four years, review our events programme, help our members to access funding for development programmes for community and participation projects, and encourage collaborative working. As always European Rowing will continue to work with World Rowing to support rowing to thrive globally.

Summary

The ERB would like to thank all our Member Federations for their open engagement and commitment to European events this year; our members and Organising Committees who have hosted events have been exceptional, providing excellent opportunities for our athletes and teams to compete, and for families and fans who travelled to spectate. We also thank Jean Christophe Rolland, Vincent Gaillard and the Executive Committee for their continued support, the staff at World Rowing and especially Jodie Cameron for helping coordinate our communications and administration.

As President I would like to thank each member of the ERB for their immense contribution, their time, energy, and commitment to building a stronger rowing community.

Asuncion Lorient (ESP)
Dušan Macháček (CZE)
Annamarie Phelps (GBR), President
Algirdas Raslanas (LTU)
Patrick Rombaut (BEL), Vice President
Eva Szanto (HUN), Secretary
Neville Tanzer (SUI)

OCEANIA ROWING CONFEDERATION (ORCON)

Lee Spear (NZL)

The Oceania Rowing Confederation (ORCON) was formed in 2010 by the three active rowing federations in Oceania at the time - Rowing Australia, Rowing New Zealand and the Vanuatu Rowing Association. ORCON was formally recognised by World Rowing as the Continental Confederation for Oceania at the World Rowing Congress in 2018 – the first continental confederation to be so recognised pursuant to the Bye-laws to Article 18 of the World Rowing Statutes.

Membership of ORCON is open to all national rowing federations in Oceania that are members of World Rowing, that are members of their respective National Olympic association and who otherwise meet the terms of membership.

Membership of ORCON currently consists of the following four members of World Rowing: Rowing Australia (RA), Rowing New Zealand (RNZ), the Vanuatu Rowing Association (VRA), and the American Samoa Rowing Association (ASRA). The rowing associations of Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati and Fiji are not currently active.

The first and primary objective of ORCON is to, *“Develop and promote rowing within the Oceania region in cooperation with (World Rowing)”*

ORCON continues to work closely with World Rowing to promote and develop the sport of rowing in the smaller Pacific Island countries. The travel restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic hampered the development work. However, the acceptance of Beach Sprints as a sport for the 2028 LA Olympic Games provides a timely and welcome opportunity to rekindle enthusiasm for rowing in the Pacific Island nations.

ORCON has undertaken a review of its strategic goals to ensure that it is relevant to the needs of the member federations in Oceania and that the structure is also supportive of the objectives of ORCON.

In December 2023, I retired as President of ORCON. It was time for ORCON to be refreshed particularly given the significant changes at Rowing Australia, Rowing New Zealand and the Vanuatu Rowing Association. Duncan Free of Australia, and a former Olympic Rowing Champion, was subsequently elected as President. I wish Duncan and his team all the best with this important work.

ARAB ROWING FEDERATION (FAA)

Khaled Zein Eldin

Key activities and achievements in 2023

We regret that we were not able to carry out any activities during 2023 due to the problems of the current situation from the Arab Unions Federation against the Arab Rowing Federation; this incites Arab federations not to organize or participate in any activities of FAA with the help of the president of the Egyptian Rowing Federation, who wanted to create a parallel federation with the help of some ineffective federations that are not active in rowing.

These problems are on the way to being solved after all the Arab federations rejected this failed attempt to divide the Arab ranks and the attempt to destroy a federation that was established more than 30 years ago, and also after the change of the president of the Egyptian Olympic Committee, which supports the FAA and all things will be good ASAP.

Focus for 2024

We are going to organize the Arab rowing champions hip for rowing and for beach sprint in Tunisia next Oct.

Challenges for the future

Our greatest challenge in the coming years will be to further promote and develop Arabian rowing.

Our goals are to:

- Work hard to implement the Agenda and the realization of World Rowing's strategy
- Try to help the Arab National Federations to participate in the international championships as we must provide assistance with accommodation and boats; attend World Rowing's congress to have an effective role in the decisions that are taken.
- Encourage indoor rowing and beach sprint rowing in the Arab Countries who don't have a regatta course.

I would like to thank World Rowing who has been supportive to promote and develop rowing in the Arab countries.

BALKAN ROWING ASSOCIATION (BRA)

Dorin Alupei

The Balkan Rowing Association (BRA) is a European regional association for rowing in the Balkan Peninsula founded in 1973 in Athens, Greece. Member federations: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Croatia (admitted in 2022). The Balkan Rowing Association aims to develop and promote all forms of rowing sport, to improve relations between Member Federations and Balkan countries, and to organise the Balkan Rowing Championships each year. Each member federation hosts the Balkan Rowing Championships by rotation and holds the presidency of the association for the following year. The Balkan Rowing Association is a non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers. Balkan Rowing Championships are generally held on the second weekend of September each year. An Ordinary Congress of the Association is held every year during the Balkan Championships.

BRA Statutes and rules of racing are based on World Rowing rules and all Member Federations shall be Member of World Rowing.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

After 40 years, the 2023 Balkan Rowing Championships have returned to Pantelimon Romania on an entirely new regatta course. With the support of the mayor of Pantelimon city, Romanian Rowing Federation set up this regatta course in a very short time. There are 10 lines on 2000m. They host over 350 guests. All facilities, venues, and accommodations has been provided by the organizers. The 2023 Balkan Rowing Championships was a real success and local authorities played an important role. All teams have shared the medals.

During the 2023 Ordinary Congress of Balkan Rowing Association, the following decisions were made:

- The 2024 Balkan Rowing Championships will take place on the brand-new regatta venue in Edirne, Turkey.
- For one year until the 2024 Balkan Rowing Championships, Turkey Rowing Federation is taking the leading of Balkan Rowing Federation and Mr Erhan ERTURK, the president of the Turkey Rowing Federation, will be the president of the Balkan Rowing Association for this period.

Administration

BRA consists of:

- The Congress;
- The BRA Board
- The President
- The Secretary General

Commissions:

1. A Coaches' Commission consists of seven members, one from each country Member Federation. The Coordinator of Coaches' Commission is appointed by the Congress
2. The Umpires' Commission consists of no less than 5 members, international umpires, no more than one representative per country. The Coordinator of Umpires' Commission is appointed by the Congress.

COMMONWEALTH ROWING ASSOCIATION (CRA) Peter Cookson (CAN)

The Commonwealth Rowing Association (CRA) was recognised as a Member Grouping of World Rowing in 2019. The objectives of the CRA are to foster cordial relations between its members and to encourage partnerships between the national rowing federations of the Commonwealth, for the benefit of Commonwealth athletes, citizens and communities.

The CRA is a non-funded volunteer organization with a total of 36 member federations: Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, England, Fiji, Ghana, Gibraltar, India, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Kiribati, Malta, Mauritius, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Samoa, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Vanuatu, Wales, Zambia.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

In 2023, it was announced that the State of Victoria, Australia withdrew from their commitment to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games (CG). Rowing in the form of coastal beach sprints was selected to be on the program for the 2026 CG, the first time rowing has been included in the CG since 1986. At the time of the writing of this report, there has been no indication from the Commonwealth Games Federation regarding the confirmation of where and when the 2026 Commonwealth Games will be held and if rowing will still be included.

The CRA held a successful virtual Annual General Meeting in January 2024. At that meeting, the membership confirmed support for a 2025 Commonwealth Rowing Association Championship in Barbados currently planned for November 2025. Similar to the 2022 CRA Championships, an educational component is being planned that will include technical official training, technical delegate training, coach training and a development training camp prior to the start of the competition.

COUPE DE LA JEUNESSE

Garry Harris (GBR)

The Coupe de la Jeunesse is an organisation that has as its main goal the annual organisation of the Coupe de la Jeunesse regatta. This is an international junior regatta for European rowing federations by invitation. The Coupe de la Jeunesse provides friendly competition whilst respecting others and offers an environment which enables all to perform to their highest potential. For many rowers, attendance at the Coupe de la Jeunesse is the start of their international rowing careers. The regatta offers an event programme with two separate days of racing with event prizes and a team competition for the annual award of the Coupe de la Jeunesse trophy.

The membership consists of the following federations:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

Executive Committee:

President, Gary Harris (GBR)
 Secretary General, Gwenda Stevens (BEL)
 Technical Advisor, Judit Mezsáros (HUN)
 Technical Advisor, Michael Zwahlen (SUI)

Coupe de la Jeunesse 2023

The Coupe de la Jeunesse 2023 was held at the Bosbaan course, Amstelveen, Amsterdam in the Netherlands 28th to 30th July. The conditions were a constant worry for the Organising Committee. Strong winds were forecast throughout the weekend and much time was spent preparing alternative race schedules in anticipation. In the event, the wind was manageable, the racing fair, and the sun shone most of the time. The Organising Committee delivered an excellent introduction to international rowing for the young rowers, who enjoyed racing on this famous rowing lake.

There were 210 entries for the two days of racing from all of the 16 member federations. Great Britain won the overall team competition and retained the Coupe de la Jeunesse Trophy for a second year.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Members of the Coupe de la Jeunesse I congratulate the Koninklijke Nederlandse Roeibond and the Organising Committee on their successful hosting of the Coupe in 2023. The support from the Amsterdamse Roei Bond, Stichting Roeien Topsport and Roeigoed was generous and I thank them for their support on behalf of the Executive Committee and the member federations of the Coupe

Ordinary Delegate Assembly 2023

28th July, 2023 at the Bosbaan, Amsterdam.

Election

Gwenda Stevens (BEL) was re-elected to serve another term as Secretary General.

Attribution of events

2025 – Vienna (AUT) was the choice of the Delegates. The Coupe will take place from 1st to 3rd August.

2026 – Lucerne (SUI) was the choice of the Delegates. The Coupe will take place from 24th to 26th July.

Bids to host events

2027 – Hazewinkel (BEL). The Koninklijke Belgische Roeibond submitted a bid to host this edition of the Coupe as part of the celebrations of the 140th anniversary of its foundation.

Coupe Beach Sprint Match

The Federazione Italiana Canottaggio generously hosted the inaugural Coupe Beach Sprint Match which took place at Marina di Castagneto Carducci, Livorno, Italy, from 20th to 23rd September, 2023. There were 46 entries from 10 members; Czech Republic, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Hungary, Poland, Spain and Switzerland.

Adverse conditions resulted in the postponement of racing from 22nd to 23rd September, when a modified and compressed race programme was adopted. All races were completed due to the great efforts of the Organising Committee and the crucial support of Filippi Boats, who sponsored the event, supplied all the boats and workforce which enabled the regatta to be completed.

The rowers and their coaches threw themselves into the racing in difficult conditions, showing enthusiasm and great competitive spirit. The media presentation of the racing was superb and displayed the excitement and drama of Beach Sprints beautifully.

The support of David Filippi, the Comune di Castagneto Carducci and the Circolo Nautico Donoratico was generous and very much appreciated by the Executive Committee and Members of the Coupe.

Future Events

- a. **Coupe de la Jeunesse**
 1. 2024 Racice (CZE) 9-11.8.24
 2. 2025 Vienna (AUT) 1-3.8.25
 3. 2026 Lucerne (SUI) 24-26.7.26

SOUTH AMERICAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (CSAR)

Raul Poletti

Key activities and achievements in 2023

In March, together with the Continental Qualifying Regatta for the 2023 Pan American Games in Laguna La Paz in Concepción, Chile, the 78th South American Championships were held for the Under 19, Under 23 and Para Rowing categories, with the Chile Federation booking the largest number of wins.

It is worth highlighting the importance of combining these events, allowing shared use of infrastructure and logistics and therefore reducing costs.

In Santa Marta Colombia, in July, the VI South American Beach Games were held where rowing beach sprints were featured; the discipline was the one which attracted the highest number of entries, showing strong support for this new element of rowing in this region.

Focus for 2024

This year, the South American Senior Lightweight Rowing Championships and special Youth events are scheduled to be held alongside the Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification Regatta in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The First South American Club Championships for Under 16 will later be held in Asunción, Paraguay where classic rowing will be combined with indoor and coastal rowing, adding cultural activities.

This is a totally new experience within our championships and is intended to promote the initial categories.

Summary

In addition to the sporting events, the Ordinary Congress was held; gender equality was confirmed in all our events and the future of lightweights, the formation of mixed crews and the situation of the masters were discussed.

PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, 2023

Financial Result

The overall result for 2023 – i.e. the operational result +/- financial income/expenses – was a loss of - CHF 532'162 due to a negative operational result of - CHF 736'854, however compensated by a positive evolution of our securities portfolio at 31 December 2023.

With the stock and bond markets facing strong corrections throughout 2022 following economic uncertainty, high inflation and increasing interest rates, our investment portfolio recovered positively throughout 2023, with a time-weighted rate of return of +2.62%.

The 2023 negative operational result of - CHF 736'854, itself following a 2022 positive operational result (+ CHF 385'893) is in great part driven by an expected exceptionally-low revenue year, projected income not realized, in addition to varying accounting treatments and attributions of income and expenses across the three corresponding years.

Expenses

Total expenditures for the year 2023 of CHF 7'096'155 are in line with expenses for the previous year (CHF 7'062'340), reflecting a stable and controlled operating environment, however impacted by the ever-growing cost of modern sports governance (anti-doping, safeguarding, compliance, financial reporting, etc) and proactive decisions of investment across our disciplines.

Income

The overall income for the year 2023 of CHF 6'359'301 is considerably lower than the previous year (CHF 7'448'233), driven by an expected exceptionally-low revenue (e.g. fewer event attributions) in addition to projected income not realized (e.g. no attribution of the ECM / multisport 2026 European Championships), in addition to varying accounting treatments and attributions of income and expenses across the three corresponding years.

Balance sheet

At the end of the 2023 accounting period, the total Assets and Liabilities/Funds balance at a level of CHF 9'603'411, with 'total funds' (including permanent reserves, deferred IOC contribution and general loss) amounting to CHF 8'588'315, of which the permanent reserve amounts to CHF 3'625'485.

Conclusion

As anticipated at the conclusion of the 2022 accounting period, the coming years will require careful management of financial resources given increased requirements on governance and events, and the uncertain economic environment which might negatively affect the investment portfolio. Particular efforts are being made on choosing the right investments to grow our three disciplines and on generating additional revenue wherever possible. All relevant initiatives are discussed in other sections of this 2023 Congress report and will be discussed further at the 2024 Congress.

Financials quadrennial 2021-2024 + 2025 budget

Financials Quadrennial 2021-2024 + 2025 budget						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	2025
	Actual 31.12.2021	Actual 31.12.2022	Actual 31.12.2023	Year-end Forecast as of 1.2.2024	Year-end Forecast as of 01.11.2024	Year-end Forecast as of 1.11.2024
Income						
Events Management	910'048	1'493'774	1'086'970	1'575'900	1'243'450	1'180'950
Olympic games			42'681	181'751	150'826	0
Events Marketing and TV	896'561	1'259'686	524'647	674'510	148'194	897'000
Development Programme	162'311	329'691	306'122	174'953	174'908	128'355
Marketing	130'955	180'539	143'775	447'500	892'267	548'000
Governance	510'114	144'743	255'108	112'000	251'053	360'800
Contribution from reserves	4'000'000	4'000'000	4'000'000	4'000'000	4'000'000	4'000'000
Finance/Interest				0	564	40'000
Total Income	6'609'968	7'448'233	6'359'301	7'166'614	6'861'262	7'153'105
Expenditures						
	Actual 31.12.2021	Actual 31.12.2022	Actual 31.12.2023	Year-end Forecast as of 1.2.2024	Year-end Forecast as of 01.11.2024	Year-end Forecast as of 1.11.2024
Events Management	1'066'494	979'442	524'780	936'063	704'416	451'000
Events Logistics	484'762	592'611	993'322	234'500	495'424	317'900
Events Marketing and TV	814'327	859'850	846'395	1'234'625	1'175'000	1'322'000
Events Communications	45'150	60'976	94'392	95'400	49'742	120'750
Development Programme	347'679	509'413	608'800	552'604	549'738	512'514
Communications	176'268	154'225	162'524	188'489	152'979	186'050
Marketing	42'641	117'477	80'734	20'500	20'183	35'000
Governance	674'749	875'539	1'009'752	1'034'815	712'378	1'084'800
Administration	2'759'897	2'912'807	2'773'956	2'918'117	3'000'000	3'184'521
Total Expenditures	6'412'168	7'062'340	7'096'155	7'215'112	6'859'858	7'214'535
1st Result	197'800	385'893	-736'854	-48'498	1'404	-61'430
2024	Our latest estimates, based on actuals at the end of September 2024 and our predictions for the remainder of the year, show a balanced operational budget , (operational income less expenditure = CHF 1'404), an improvement from our early 2024 forecast (shown above) and a positive financial result from portfolio investments (+CHF 200'000) at end September 2024, not shown above . All incremental commercial revenues (vs. previous years e.g. Concept2 and Andaluca sponsorships + Enhanced Commercial Rights from various event attributions) are being re-invested into development of the sport, including human resources and various initiatives highlighted in the Executive Director report recently circulated.					
2025	Our initial budget shows a slightly negative operational result primarily due to the extraordinary impact of the 2025 Quadrennial Congress & Joint Commissions Meeting in Seville and lower event attributions revenues (standard fees + enhanced commercial rights) vs. 2024. All incremental revenue (Concept2 and Andaluca partnerships + Enhanced Commercial Rights from various event attributions + increased membership fees pending formal approval at Ordinary Congress 2024) are being re-invested into the development of the sport, including human resources and various initiatives highlighted in the Executive Director report recently circulated. New events are also being planned and budgeted for the year, notably a participation at the first edition of the Olympic Esports Games pending IOC approval and a new Indoor Rowing Virtual Series. 2025 marks the beginning of a new cycle (2025-2028) funded in great part by the IOC distributions from Paris 2024 which have now been confirmed. A more definitive version of the 2024 budget and a full 2025-2028 quadrennial budget will be shared prior to the 2025 Quadrennial Congress.					