



20 February 2026  
Lausanne, Switzerland

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

### World Rowing Circular No. 2 of 2026

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Circular covers the following items:

1. **Athletes' Commission election and appointments 2026 – Opening of the nomination process**
2. **2026 Development Programme at events**
3. **Identification of MF Sustainability Coordinator contact**
4. **Council decisions – Changes to the Rules of Racing Bye-Laws and Appendices for the 2026 season**
5. **2029 World Rowing Championships, and 2029 & 2030 World Rowing Masters Regatta – bids now open**

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#### 1. **Athletes' Commission Elections and Appointments 2026 Opening of the Nomination Process**

According to WR Statutes, elections and appointments of the World Rowing Athletes' Commission (AC) are held in the second year following the year of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

[Appendix S5 - World Rowing Athletes' Commission Regulations & Election Procedures of the Statutes](#) sets out the membership criteria, election and appointment procedures of the Athletes Commission (AC) members and the AC Chair.

From the ten members of the AC (Active Athletes - §2.b of Appendix S5 – or Recently Retired Athletes - §2.c of Appendix S5), five are elected at the respective World Rowing Championships for the relevant discipline by their peers and five are appointed by Council in accordance with Article 3 Election and Appointment of AC Members.

Of the five elected AC members, four shall represent Classic Rowing (including Para Rowing), and one shall represent Coastal Rowing. The eligibility criteria and the nomination process are outlined in Part II §2 of Appendix S5.

Please note that, following an analysis of the process in 2022, the Council approved on 17/02/2026 the following highlighted changes to appendix S5:

##### Part III – Athletes' Commission Election and Appointment Committee

1. An AC Election & Appointment Committee will be convened at the beginning of the AC Election Year.

2. The Committee shall be composed of one chair and at least two members, appointed by the Executive Committee. The Chair of the Election Committee will be a Council member; the other two members will be Council or Commission members. The Committee will be supported by the staff member responsible for AC election administration.
3. The role of the AC Election and Appointment Committee is to ensure compliance with the AC Election Procedure, and to supervise the entire election process and procedure and count ballots. The Committee will also recommend AC members to the Council for appointment, in accordance with Part I, Art. 3
3. Nomination Process
  - 3.1 At least six (6) months prior to the start of the Senior WRCh in the AC Election Year, World Rowing will notify MFs of the opening of the nomination process for the election(s) to the AC. The notice will include details of the elective position(s).
  - 3.2 MFs intending to nominate a candidate shall submit a completed nomination form, by the published deadline in the format communicated by World Rowing.
  - 3.3 MFs may nominate one candidate only in any AC Election Year.
  - 3.4 At least two (2) ~~three (3)~~ months before the opening of the relevant WRCh, all candidates meeting the criteria set out in Arts. 2 and 3.2 of the Election Procedures and having been duly validated will be declared admissible by the Executive Committee and the candidate list published.

MFs and candidates are reminded to refer the Purpose and Activities of the AC as outlined in [Appendix S8 – Bye-laws to Article 45 – Duties of the Commissions and Working Groups](#) and to [Article 54 – Ethical Principles and integrity](#).

***Please note that a MF may nominate one candidate only in the AC election year and shall send the completed [nomination form](#) by 10 May 2026 23:59 CET to [info@worldrowing.com](mailto:info@worldrowing.com).***

Full details can be found on the Athletes' Commission web page:  
<https://worldrowing.com/athletes/athletes-commission/>

## 2. 2026 Development Programme at Events

Member Federations are informed that the following opportunities have been released

For European Rowing Events

1. [2026 Development Bulletin ERCHs Varese, ITA](#)
2. [2026 Development Bulletin ERCHs Varese, ITA \(Female Crews Support\)](#)
3. [2026 Development Bulletin ERU23CHs Kruszwica, POL](#)
4. [2026 Development Bulletin ERU23CHs Kruszwica, POL \(Female Crews Support\)](#)
5. [2026 Development Bulletin ERU19CHs Brandenburg, GER](#)
6. [2026 Development Bulletin ERU19CHs Brandenburg, GER \(Female Crews Support\)](#)

For World Rowing Events

1. [2026 Development Bulletin WRU23CHs Duisburg, GER](#)

For any additional information, please contact [development@worldrowing.com](mailto:development@worldrowing.com)

### 3. Identification of MF Sustainability Coordinator contact

As part of our ongoing sustainability work, we kindly ask you to complete a short [questionnaire](#) to help us identify your National Sustainability Coordinator (or the relevant contact person within your MF).

The questionnaire is brief and will only take a few minutes to complete. Your response will help us improve coordination, communication, and support across our future joint sustainability initiatives.

For any additional information, please contact [sustainability@worldrowing.com](mailto:sustainability@worldrowing.com)

### 4. Council decisions – Changes to the Rules of Racing Bye-Laws and Appendices for the 2026 season

The World Rowing Council approved the following changes to the Rules of Racing Bye-Laws and Appendices for the 2026 season:

2. **Rule 65 Re-Rows Bye-Law:** Changes were made to allow a re-row between crews from different races in the same round when the re-row is required to determine the crew advancing to the next level of racing based on time.
3. **Appendix R2 Boats and Equipment:** Changes were made to prohibit the use of substances that leave residue on the boat or oars. Blood oxygenation was added to the list of data that rowers can see during a race.
4. **Appendix R3 Weight of Boats:** Changes were made to specify what equipment needs to be removed from the boat prior to boat weighing, and the inclusion of a table of weights to be subtracted from the boat weight for equipment that is fixed to the boat and cannot be removed from the boat before the boat is weighed.
5. **Appendix R5 Regatta Roles:** A change was made to specify that members of the Jury at a World Rowing event should not also have a role representing a Member Federation at the same event.
6. **Appendix R6 Commercial Publicity, Sponsorship, Advertising and Identifications:** The change clarifies that a manufacturer can include more than one identifying element within a manufacturer's space.
7. **Appendix R7 Progressions:** The change allows the Executive Committee to approve alternate progression systems for an event, and changes were made to provide for better distribution of crews qualifying to the quarterfinals and semifinals.
8. **Appendix R8 Time Trials:** Changes were made to reflect references to the progression system.
9. **Appendix R10 Anti-Doping:** Changes were made to clarify that the anti-doping regulations, including reporting requirements, apply to all athletes competing in World Rowing events.
10. **Appendix R12 World Rowing Championship Regulations and Appendix R13 World Rowing Cup Regulations:** Changes to these Appendices specify that athletes participating in mixed events at these events are required to also

compete in another medal event at the same regatta. Para rowing, Coastal Endurance and Beach Sprints mixed events are exempt from this requirement. A section of Appendix R13 that dealt with a specific situation under the former progression system was removed.

11. **Appendix R16 World Rowing Masters Regatta:** Changes were made to allow the World Rowing Masters Commission to establish additional awards and trophies.
12. **Appendix R17 World Rowing Tour Regulations:** This Appendix was eliminated to reflect World Rowing no longer selecting candidates for rowing tours.
13. **Coastal & Beach Sprint Rules – Endurance** Changes are made to the race courses to require turns marked by two buoys under certain conditions.
14. **Coastal & Beach Sprints – Beach Sprints** Changes to allow PR3-VI B3 and PR3-II Group 1 athletes to compete in the Inclusion Mix 2x. Provisions were added for the safety of an athlete who has suffered a potential head injury. Changes were made to the duties of the Jury. A provision was added to sanction a boat handler who does not comply with the Rules including possible removal from the field of play.

The complete three-columns marked up version of the approved change is available on the World Rowing website: [2026 RULES UPDATES](#)

#### **5. 2029 World Rowing Championships, 2029 & 2030 World Rowing Masters Regatta – bids now open**

World Rowing has launched a call for Expressions of Interest from cities, regions, and National Rowing Federations and Tourism agencies for the following events:

2029 World Rowing Championships  
2029 & 2030 World Rowing Masters Regatta

In addition, the following events are still open for bidding:

2027 & 2028 World Rowing Cups.

Please find the Event Hosting Expression of Interest Form [here](#). If you have questions, please contact Matt Draper at World Rowing: [matt.draper@worldrowing.com](mailto:matt.draper@worldrowing.com)

Sincerely,



Jean-Christophe Rolland  
President



Vincent Gaillard  
Executive Director