



AGENDA PAPERS

2026 World Rowing Ordinary Congress





Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Monday, 31 August 2026
08:30 – 16:30hrs CEST

Agenda

2026 World Rowing Ordinary Congress

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Monday, 31 August 2026

8:30 – 16:30 (local time)

- 1. Opening of the session**
- 2. Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority**
- 3. Appointment of scrutineers for the period of Congress**
- 4. Approval of the minutes of the 2025 Ordinary Congress**
- 5. President's report and reports from the Vice President, Treasurer and Executive Director**
- 6. Reports of the Chairs of the specialist commissions**
- 7. Reports of the Continental Representatives and Co-opted Council Members**
- 8. Presentation of the financial statements**
- 9. Auditors' report**
- 10. Approval of the financial statements**
- 11. Determination of entrance fee and annual subscription**
- 12. Budget for the following years**
- 13. Appointment of the external auditors**
- 14. Council and Executive Committee elections in accordance with Articles 35 and 47**
- 15. Reports of Continental Rowing Confederations and other Member Groupings**
- 16. Reports on applications for affiliation and voting consequent thereon**
- 17. Reports on future World Rowing events and Olympic & Paralympic regattas**
- 18. Attribution of future World Rowing Championships in accordance with Rule 5**
- 19. Reconsideration or confirmation of decisions (ref. Article 28) taken by the Council, in accordance with the provisions of Article 21.4, 41.3.2 and 41.3.3, or by the Executive Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Article 49.3.4**
- 20. Specific proposals to an existing agenda item from the Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee**
- 21. Other additional agenda items proposed by the Member Federations, the Council, or the Executive Committee.**
 - a. Strategic Events & Calendar Review (SECR) - general update
 - b. Other Strategic Projects updates
- 22. Place and date of the next Congress**
- 23. Any other business**

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REPORT OF PRESIDENT

Jean-Christophe Rolland (FRA)

1. General Context

The international context in which sport operates remains complex and uncertain. While the acute phase of the Covid-19 crisis is behind us, its long-term consequences are still visible in societies, economies, and sporting systems. At the same time, conflicts and wars continue to affect many regions of the world, creating human tragedies, geopolitical tensions, and further divisions. Economic instability, inflationary pressure, and increasing constraints on public resources also continue to impact the capacity of governments, cities, organisers, partners and families to support sport.

The world of sport is not immune to these realities. On the contrary, it is directly affected by them, while at the same time facing its own rapidly evolving and extremely competitive environment. International Federations must compete for attention, relevance, resources, audiences, event hosts and their place within the Olympic Movement. In such a context, adaptation is not optional; it is simply crucial. For World Rowing, this means continuing the necessary journey of evolution and improvement, while remaining faithful to the fundamentals and values of our sport.

This 2025 report outlines how this approach has guided our work during the year, in particular when it comes to the future of Rowing in the world of sport and within the Olympic Movement, which is itself entering a period of important and critical reforms.

2. Olympic Movement

The year 2025 was a key year for the Olympic Movement, with the election of Kirsty Coventry as President of the International Olympic Committee opening a new era.

One of the first major initiatives of President Coventry has been the Fit for the Future reform, a broad review of the IOC and the Olympic Movement to assess whether the Olympic system remains relevant, sustainable, credible and resilient for the years ahead.

It started with a 'pause and reflect' phase built around extensive consultation with all stakeholders of the Olympic Movement, including IOC Members, International Federations, athletes, partners, media and other stakeholders contributing to the direction of the Movement. This phase focused on the challenges and opportunities around five areas: (1) Athletes, (2) Olympic Games, (3) Olympic Movement, (4) Better World through Sport and (5) Reach, Engagement and Revenue Generation.

It has since moved into a consolidation phase through nine dedicated working groups: (1) the protection of the female category, (2) the Youth Olympic Games, (3) the Olympic Games Programme, (4) Olympic Games delivery, (5) Olympic

Qualifier Series, (6) Protection of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, (7) Autonomy, Ethics and Good Governance, (8) Better World through Sport and (9) Commercial Partnerships and Marketing.

The key objectives are to make the Olympic Games more athlete-centred, less costly and complex, more sustainable, more attractive to young people and new audiences, and more robust in a politically polarised world.

The process is not yet completed, but several important milestones have already been reached. It confirms that the Olympic Movement is entering a period of critical reform, and that every sport must be ready to demonstrate its relevance, its contribution and its capacity to adapt.

There is no doubt that the outcomes of the reform will shape the direction of the Olympic Movement and, to a certain extent, of the International Federations as well, in particular when it comes to future Olympic Programme, discipline and event evaluation, Games delivery models, venue requirements, legacy, universality, and commercial and relevance criteria.

For World Rowing, this context is essential.

Our position within the Olympic ecosystem remains one of our greatest strengths, but it cannot be taken for granted. The inclusion of Coastal Rowing Beach Sprints in the Programme of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games is a historic achievement, and one that we must now deliver to the highest standard. At the same time, Brisbane 2032 already raises important questions in relation to venues, Programme evolution, athlete experience, sustainability and legacy. Dakar 2026 will also be an important milestone, particularly for Coastal Rowing, while the future of the Youth Olympic Games beyond Dakar requires careful reflection. Their purpose, objectives and actual impact must be clarified if they are to continue to play a meaningful role for young athletes and for the development of sports.

Another important development concerns the IOC policy on the protection of the female category and women in sport. This is a sensitive but essential area, and World Rowing will need to carefully assess its consequences and implementation within our own regulatory framework, always guided by fairness, inclusion, respect for athletes and the integrity of competition.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly for all International Federations, the Olympic Programme evaluation process will be one of the most sensitive and crucial areas of reform. Clearer principles, criteria and timelines are needed to provide greater transparency and predictability around the inclusion, evolution or possible exclusion of sports, disciplines and events from the Olympic Programme. For Rowing, as for all sports, remaining relevant, attractive, fair, universal and aligned with the expectations of the Olympic Movement is not simply desirable; it is essential for our future.

3. Sport

World Rowing's strategy is built around a clear principle: one sport, three disciplines, one ecosystem which continues to evolve.

Classic Rowing remains our Olympic flagship and historical foundation; Coastal Rowing, and in particular the Beach Sprints format, is reaching maturity and opening new pathways for growth; Indoor and Connected Rowing is a major engine for participation, innovation and new audiences. Together, these three disciplines allow us to protect the heritage of Rowing while adapting to the expectations of a fast-changing world of sport. The ongoing transformation is essential to address our challenges and, at the same time, to leverage the opportunities ahead.

In **Classic Rowing**, the Strategic Event and Calendar Review continues to be a central project. The objective is not to change the fundamentals of our sport, but to modernise the way we organise, present and promote our competitions. The reforms already adopted regarding the World Championships Programme, the progression system and the introduction of mixed events represent important milestones. The international debut of the Mixed Eight in Shanghai was particularly significant and demonstrated the potential of this format, including with Olympic ambitions in mind. Further work is continuing on the reshaping of the World Cup Series, the development of rankings, and the creation of new event assets, including the Shanghai Sprints from 2026 as an important legacy and promotional asset.

Coastal Rowing is entering a decisive phase. The confirmation of Beach Sprints in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Programme is a historic achievement, but also a major responsibility. Our task is now to raise the discipline to Olympic standards in every respect: rules, event delivery, qualification pathway, presentation, athlete experience and international calendar. The work undertaken through the Olympic plan and the Beach Sprints 360 strategy is designed precisely for this purpose. Dakar 2026 and LA28 are key milestones, but the ambition goes beyond the Olympic Games: Beach Sprints can help Rowing reach new territories, new communities and new audiences. This should not diminish the importance of the endurance format, the historic expression of Coastal Rowing, which continues to attract growing interest and deserves our full attention.

Indoor and Connected Rowing also continues to show remarkable potential. Its accessibility, scalability and digital dimension make it highly relevant for the future of our sport. The development of virtual formats, the World Rowing Virtual Series, mass-participation concepts and elite formats such as Versa all demonstrate that Indoor and Connected Rowing can connect Rowing to a much wider community, from fitness and participation to high-performance competition. The Olympic Esports pathway remains an important opportunity, and we must continue to position Rowing strongly in this emerging space.

Across all disciplines, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Organising Committees of our international events. Delivering high-quality events in today's environment is increasingly demanding. It requires commitment, resources, creativity and resilience. Thanks to their dedication, our athletes have been able to compete in excellent conditions and our sport has continued to be showcased with professionalism and ambition. On behalf of World Rowing, I warmly thank all Organising Committees, their teams, volunteers, officials, partners and local authorities for their essential contribution to the success and development of rowing.

4. Governance

The year 2025 was an important one in the governance life of World Rowing, marked by both continuity and renewal.

I would first like to express my sincere gratitude to the Member Federations for the trust they placed in me at the 2025 Ordinary Congress in Shanghai. Being the only candidate, the outcome of the election was of course not a surprise in itself. However, receiving 100% of the votes cast was both a great honour and, I must admit, a significant and humbling surprise. Such unanimous support carries with it a profound responsibility. I do not take this trust for granted. On the contrary, it strengthens my determination to continue serving World Rowing to the very best of my capacity. As I said in Shanghai, I have the energy, the motivation and the commitment to pursue the work ahead on behalf of, and in the interests of, the athletes, the Member Federations, and the Rowing community all over the world.

The 2025 Congress also brought important changes to the composition of the Executive Committee. I warmly congratulate Annamarie Phelps on her election as Vice President. I very much look forward to building, together with her, an effective and constructive President-Vice President team, based on trust, transparency and a shared commitment to the best interests of our sport.

At the same time, I wish to reiterate my deepest gratitude to Tricia Smith, who concluded an extraordinary period of service to World Rowing. Her contribution to our organisation and to the sport of Rowing has been exceptional. As an athlete, a leader, a lawyer and a lifelong advocate for sport and for women in sport, Tricia has left a remarkable legacy. On a personal level, it has been a true privilege to work alongside her as Vice President. Our cooperation was marked by loyalty, professionalism, openness and friendship. On behalf of World Rowing, I once again express my profound appreciation and wish her all the very best for the next chapter.

I also congratulate Gerritjan Eggenkamp on his re-election as Treasurer, as well as Eva Szanto and Mathias Binder on their re-election to the Executive Committee. Their continued contribution will be invaluable as we move into the next phase of our work.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Guin Batten, who will leave the Executive Committee but will continue to serve World Rowing through her role on the Council as Chair of the Coastal Rowing Commission. Her leadership and contribution have been central to the development of Coastal Rowing, particularly at such a significant time for the discipline.

I warmly welcome Lenka Wech as a newly elected member of the Executive Committee. In addition, in accordance with the new Article 47 of the Statutes and in light of the composition of the Executive Committee, Ronald Chen of the United States of America has been appointed to the Executive Committee. With three new members joining the Executive Committee, we are entering a new phase. I very much look forward to working with all members as an efficient, united, and forward-looking team.

Lastly, I would like to welcome Mike Wilkinson to the Council. He was elected at the Congress in Shanghai, to fill the vacancy in the Sports Medicine Commission following the retirement of Juergen Steinacker upon reaching the statutory age limit.

Another major governance milestone in 2025 was the Quadrennial Congress held in person in Lausanne in March. I would like to commend the excellent organisation of this Congress and express our gratitude to Lausanne Olympic Capital and to the International Olympic Committee for their support.

The Quadrennial Congress was the outcome of a long and demanding journey. Considerable work was undertaken over many months to prepare the proposals submitted to the Member Federations. I wish to thank the Governance Working Group and the Rules Working Group for the huge amount of work carried out with seriousness, expertise, and dedication. Their contribution was essential in anticipating the issues, preparing the discussions and ensuring that the Congress could take informed decisions.

I also wish to thank the Member Federations and all delegates for their engagement and for the decisions taken. The Quadrennial Congress is an essential moment in the life of our organisation. It enables us to review, adapt and improve our governance framework and our Rules of Racing in light of the evolution of our sport and of the environment in which we operate.

World Rowing is, and must remain, in a mode of continuous improvement. This is not change for the sake of change. It is the responsibility of any well-governed organisation to adapt when necessary, to anticipate future challenges, and to ensure that its structures, rules and decision-making processes remain fit for purpose. This is an essential part of our collective duty to protect the integrity, credibility and future of Rowing.

World Rowing also continues to strongly benefit from the expertise, commitment and dedication of the many volunteers serving on our specialist Commissions. Their work is essential to the quality of our decision-making and to the development of our sport across all areas: athletes, events, equipment and technology, competitive and coaching, umpiring, medical, para rowing, coastal, indoor, masters and youth, diversity and sustainability and many others. The Commissions bring together experience, technical knowledge and a deep understanding of the realities of our sport.

In January 2026, we organised an in-person Joint Commission Meeting in Lausanne. This gathering was a valuable opportunity to bring our Commissions together, to advance key projects, to share reflections across areas of expertise, and to strengthen coordination. At a time when our sport must continue to evolve, the contribution of the Commissions is more important than ever. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all Commission Chairs and members for the time, energy and competence they bring to World Rowing.

Another important governance and development project concerns the collaboration with our Continental Confederations. The objective is to better leverage the role of the Confederations, strengthen alignment across the global Rowing ecosystem, and support priorities that respond to the specific needs of each region. This work is intended to enhance collaboration between World Rowing, the Confederations and Member Federations, while respecting the diversity of contexts and challenges around the world.

As part of this process, a framework for Continental Confederation grants has been developed. The principle is to support concrete projects, based on clear applications, objectives, timelines, KPIs, financing plans, risk assessments and reporting obligations. Each request will be assessed in relation to the agreed short- and medium-term priorities of the

Continental Confederation project, with appropriate oversight and accountability. This is an important step to ensure that support is targeted, transparent and effective, and that it contributes directly to the development of Rowing in the regions.

Finally, I am pleased to report that I was elected to the ASOIF Council at the 49th ASOIF General Assembly held in Lausanne in June 2025. This appointment provides an opportunity to contribute more directly to the work of ASOIF and to support collaboration among the Summer Olympic International Federations.

Governance and judicial matters

The growing judicialisation of sport is becoming a matter of real concern. World Rowing has faced two appeals before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in two years, each requiring a significant amount of time, attention and legal resources. This is not only a financial issue; it also raises a broader question about the capacity of sports organisations to apply their own rules effectively, particularly in the field of play and under the immediate pressures of competition.

The case arising from the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games deserves mention. Following the PR1 Men's Single Sculls final, a mobile phone was found in an athlete's boat. The applicable Rules of Racing prohibit communication with a crew from outside the boat and restrict the data that may be received, measured, recorded or stored during racing. Under the implementation consistently communicated and applied by World Rowing, mobile phones are not authorised devices. The Race Umpire therefore excluded the athlete, and this decision was subsequently confirmed by the Board of the Jury and by the Executive Committee. The athlete and his team did not dispute that the phone was in the boat; the argument advanced was essentially that the phone had not been used for communication and had not provided a performance advantage.

For World Rowing, this was not the relevant question. The rule exists to protect fairness and integrity by preventing the presence and use of unauthorised communication devices during racing. Once such a device is found in a boat, and once the rule is known and understood, the officials have the responsibility to apply the rules. The Race Umpire, the Board of the Jury and the Executive Committee had no reasonable alternative but to do so. To require World Rowing to prove that an actual communication took place, and then further prove that this communication created a performance advantage, would place an impossible burden on the organisation. With modern technologies, such a requirement would be unrealistic and would undermine the enforceability of the rule. We cannot place an official behind every rower, nor can we conduct forensic investigations after each race to determine whether a device was used and with what effect.

The decision of CAS to overturn the Executive Committee's decision was therefore deeply disappointing and raises serious practical concerns. World Rowing fully respects the role and independence of CAS as the ultimate appeal body in international sport. However, this decision has significant consequences. It risks weakening the authority of field-of-play decisions and creates uncertainty around the ability of International Federations to enforce rules that are essential to fair competition. This is particularly difficult to understand in light of the well-established principle that field-of-play decisions should normally not be reviewed unless exceptional circumstances, such as bad faith, arbitrariness or procedural violations, are demonstrated.

World Rowing will of course draw the necessary lessons from this case and will review the wording of the relevant rules to ensure that they are as clear and robust as possible in light of technological developments. But this should not be understood as an acknowledgement that the decisions taken by our officials and our internal bodies were wrong. On the contrary, they acted in good faith, in accordance with the rules as they were understood and applied, and in defence of the integrity of competition. This case is a reminder that the balance between legal review and the autonomy of sport must be carefully preserved. If every field-of-play decision can be challenged after the event, with disproportionate resources required to defend it, the functioning of sport itself is placed at risk.

5. Finance

A detailed financial report will be submitted by the Treasurer, together with the auditors' report, as part of the Congress agenda papers. I will therefore not enter into the technical detail of our accounts here. However, I would like to reflect on the broader financial context in which World Rowing is operating.

Resources are essential if we are to fulfil our mission: to govern, develop and promote Rowing in all its forms, to support our athletes and Member Federations, and to ensure that our sport remains relevant, attractive and competitive in the international sporting landscape. At the same time, we must recognise that our resources remain limited, while expectations, compliance requirements, event delivery standards and development needs continue to grow.

Olympic revenues remain our main income stream. This is both a strength and a vulnerability. The revenues from Paris 2024 have confirmed the level received after Tokyo 2020, which is positive. However, the more unfavourable US dollar exchange rate has reduced their real value for World Rowing. Looking ahead, we must be realistic: there is no guarantee that Olympic revenues will increase; on the contrary, the broader outlook suggests that pressure on this source of income may continue. This reinforces the need to reduce our structural dependency on one principal source of revenue.

This is why we have had extensive discussions with our Member Federations on the necessity to diversify our income. One important decision was the increase in membership fees. I am fully aware that this was a sensitive matter, especially in a challenging economic context for many Federations. I would therefore like once again to thank the Congress and the Member Federations for their support and sense of responsibility. This decision contributes directly to strengthening the capacity of World Rowing to serve and support the Rowing community.

At the same time, financial resilience cannot be achieved only through cost control or existing income streams. We also need to invest. Investment is essential to develop our sport, improve our events, strengthen promotion, reach wider audiences, support innovation and create new opportunities across our three disciplines. This is a condition for remaining competitive in the world of sport and for securing the future of rowing.

In this respect, the Executive Committee has taken a number of decisions to support projects that are expected to contribute to our future development. This includes the creation of new assets, the expansion of commercial partnerships, the development of rights and distribution opportunities, community-

based platforms, philanthropy initiatives and other avenues for diversified revenues. These initiatives require discipline and careful management, but they are necessary if we want to move from financial resilience to sustainable growth.

6. Organisation

The evolution of World Rowing's activities over recent years has naturally required an evolution of the organisation itself. World Rowing has grown, not for the sake of growth, but to reflect the increasing scope, complexity and expectations of our operations. Governance, finance, human resources, communications, sport and event delivery, development, marketing, integrity, sustainability and stakeholder relations all require greater capacity, expertise and coordination than in the past.

Under the leadership of the Executive Director, the organisation has continued to be reshaped in order to better reflect this evolution and the scale of the responsibilities now carried by World Rowing. This is an ongoing process. As a relatively small organisation with more and more on its plate, we must constantly seek the right balance between ambition, efficiency, professionalism and available resources.

From my perspective, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Executive Director for his genuine commitment and dedication to Rowing and to World Rowing. His work, together with the senior management team and the staff, is essential to the delivery of our mission and to the implementation of the strategic direction set by the Congress, Council and Executive Committee.

I also wish to warmly thank all members of the World Rowing staff for their engagement, professionalism and resilience. They deliver a very broad range of activities, often under significant time pressure and with limited resources. It is extremely valuable for our organisation to be able to rely on motivated people who care deeply about the sport and about the quality of what we deliver.

As an organisation, we continue to learn, adapt and improve. This applies to our structures, our processes, our internal collaboration and the way we support the Rowing community. Together - elected officials, volunteers, Commissions, Member Federations, Confederations and staff - we continue to build an organisation capable of meeting today's demands and preparing for the future of rowing.

7. Conclusion / Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, we must remain lucid. The context in which our sport operates is demanding, uncertain and increasingly competitive. The challenges are numerous: financial pressure, rising expectations, the need for greater visibility, the evolution of the Olympic Movement, the changing habits of audiences, and the growing complexity of delivering sport at international level.

Yet, I remain deeply optimistic about the future of rowing. This optimism is not based on complacency, nor on the belief that our history alone will protect us. It is based on the strength of our values, the quality of our athletes, the commitment of our Member Federations, the expertise of our volunteers, the dedication of our staff, and the passion of the Rowing community around the world.

Rowing has strong foundations. It is a sport of effort, fairness, respect, resilience, teamwork and excellence. These values are not outdated; on the contrary, they are more relevant than ever in today's world. Our responsibility is to ensure that they continue to inspire new generations and that they are expressed through a sport that remains visible, accessible, attractive and credible.

This is why adaptation is essential. The reforms and changes we are undertaking are not intended to weaken our identity or compromise our values. They are designed to protect them, to make them meaningful in the future, and to ensure that Rowing continues to occupy the place it deserves in the world of sport and in the Olympic Movement.

The road ahead will require courage, discipline and unity. It will require choices and, at times, difficult decisions. But if we remain guided by our values, if we keep the athletes at the centre of our mission, and if we are ready to engage the necessary reforms with clarity and determination, then World Rowing has every reason to look to the future with confidence.

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 President or the Executive Committee
- Work on special assignments and working groups when requested to do so by the Executive Committee or the Council.
- Oversee the work of the World Rowing Development Programme
- Submit a report to the Ordinary Congress each year

Key activities and achievements in 2025

2025 has been a significant year from a governance perspective, culminating in the Quadrennial Congress. In my role as Vice President, I supported the Executive Committee and the Executive Director in the preparation and delivery of the Congress.

The Executive Committee continued to meet twice monthly and remained focused on promoting our sport in all its forms, identifying additional funding opportunities, developing partnerships and sponsorships, and maintaining oversight of existing Programmes, revenues, and the overall budget. I also contributed to discussions and decisions regarding the participation of athletes holding Russian (RUS) or Belarusian (BLR) passports.

As a member of the Governance Working Group, I dedicated considerable attention to the preparation of the Quadrennial Congress and the finalisation of proposed amendments to the Statutes, the Code of Ethics, and other relevant policies. I also chaired a dedicated working group tasked with reviewing Member Federation membership fees. The proposed amendments to the Statutes and the revised membership fee structure were well received by Congress and were largely approved.

Another important initiative was the review of Article 47. I co-chaired a working group established to examine concerns raised by several Member Federations regarding the need for greater geographical diversity within the Executive Committee. Following consultations with key stakeholders and the Member Federations concerned, the working group developed a recommendation that was subsequently approved by the Ordinary Congress in Shanghai, CHN.

As this concludes my final year of service as Vice President, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the World Rowing community for the trust and support I have received throughout my many years of involvement in the sport. From my beginnings as an athlete to serving on the Women's Commission, the Executive Committee, and ultimately as Vice President, I have been privileged to contribute to a period of significant development for Rowing. I am particularly proud of the progress achieved in advancing gender equality, strengthening opportunities for women in leadership, preserving the history of women in Rowing, and promoting values-based governance centred on integrity, fairness, and athletes. It has been an honour to serve our sport, and I remain confident that World Rowing is well positioned for the future.

I would also like to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the newly elected Vice President, Annamarie Phelps. I wish her every success in this important role and look forward to seeing World Rowing continue to grow and thrive under the leadership of the Executive Committee.

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 report to the Executive Committee on the activities of the Finance Committee;
- Act as member of the Internal Audit Committee and be 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 2025

Apart from participation in Executive Committee Meetings, my principal activities in 2025 continued to be oversight of World Rowing's financial activities in coordination with the Executive Director Vincent Gaillard and the Head of Corporate Services and Administration Prateek Gumber and chairing the Finance Committee and Audit Committee meetings. The report on the 2025 accounts appears elsewhere in the agenda papers.

World Rowing's operational result was CHF 92'795, versus a budgeted deficit of CHF 273'661 thanks to strict cost control. With global markets and especially gold performing strongly throughout 2025 the result on our investment portfolio was CHF 2'315'281, resulting in an overall result for the year of CHF 2'117'813.

Focus for 2026

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.

In 2025 the Executive Director and his team have made further steps into diversifying revenue streams with realising the Shanghai Sprints, launching the 'Philanthropy Lite' initiative, developing the Masters Membership Programme and strengthening our sponsorship sales capacity with the recruitment of Havas Play. The team also secured critical media rights revenue until 2028 with the renewal of our agreement with the European Broadcast Union and made initial steps towards strengthening our Premium Supplier Programme. Given all initiatives currently being developed we expect additional revenue to offset the original CHF 250'000 deficit over the 2025-2028 to be compensated, whilst also being able to make further investments into our sport.

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 2025

The Internal Audit Committee met virtually in May and September with the Executive Director and Finance director. The scheduled Q4 meeting was postponed to the JCM in January, where the Audit Committee joined all the ExCo / Commissions sessions. 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, IT risks and the water safety review. In addition, the audit committee had a session with the manager at Dynawealth responsible for managing World Rowing's investment portfolio. Finally, the audit committee oversaw the RFP for a potential change of auditor, out of which it was concluded to stay with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC).

Focus for 2026

For 2026 the Audit Committee identified the following topics to focus on: audit review with PWC, diversification of the commercial revenue, risk assessment review.

Summary

The review of the risk assessment, financial audit, 4-year financial planning, water safety and IT risks 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 where the Audit Committee has continued to stress to intensify efforts to identify other sources of income. The Audit Committee is pleased to further steps in diversification were realised in 2025 and expects that over the next years more of the initiatives World Rowing is working on will result in further diversification.

2025 Commission Members

Hans-Jorgen Aversen
 Germaine Bauer
 Gerritjan Eggenkamp, Chair

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vincent Gaillard

2025 In Summary

2025 marked the fourth year of implementation of our strategic plan to *transform the Reach, Image and Revenues of Rowing: 15 years to engage new generations with rowing, in all its forms*. As members will recall from our previous report ahead of the last Ordinary Congress, we identified 10 priority objectives beyond 'business as usual'. Tangible progress was achieved across all of them throughout the year, as highlighted in the first section of this report.

1. CLASSIC ROWING

The most significant achievement of the year was undoubtedly the successful delivery of the World Rowing Championships in Shanghai, China. This marked a remarkable operational success for World Rowing and the global rowing community, with a strong legacy driven by the announcement of the World Rowing Shanghai Sprints—an annual 500m sprint event added to the global calendar and set to launch in 2026.

2025 also saw substantial progress in our Strategic Event & Calendar Review project, resulting in an enhanced World Championship Programme, revised progression systems, and the introduction of mixed events, including the international debut of the Mixed 8+. Work on a global Teams & Athletes Ranking system and the development of the future calendar—including a reshaped World Cup Series from 2029 onward—will continue into 2026, with conclusions expected during that year.

In addition to a successful World Masters event in Banyoles, Spain, 2025 marked the first full year of World Rowing's new Masters Membership Programme, a key initiative designed to strengthen support and services for the Masters community. It will also generate recurring revenue to be reinvested into the development and promotion of the sport.

A more detailed report follows in the [Classic rowing delivery](#) section.

2. COASTAL & BEACH SPRINT ROWING

The primary focus in 2025 was accelerating the development of a '13-point Olympic plan' to elevate the discipline to Olympic standards. Details of this plan have been presented at previous Congresses. Other key highlights included the delivery of a benchmark 2025 World Coastal Championships and Beach Sprint Finals in Antalya, Türkiye, and the award of the 2027 and 2028 editions to Oeiras, Portugal, and Antalya, Türkiye, respectively.

Overall, 2025 was another highly productive year for the continued development of Coastal Rowing and the Beach Sprint format, as well as for the advancement of our Beach Sprints 360 strategy, including a future Beach Sprint Series to be presented at the 2026 Congress. Importantly, 2025 also

marked the arrival of our new discipline lead, Senior Event Manager Marcello Varriale, succeeding Matt Evans following his move to LA28.

A more detailed report follows in the [Coastal rowing and Beach Sprints](#) section.

3. INDOOR ROWING

2025 was a dynamic year for the continued growth of this fast-developing discipline, beginning with the appointment of our first full-time Indoor Rowing Manager, Juliette Duchemin.

The year was marked by several major firsts: the first fully virtual World Championships, featuring 1'600 competitors from 74 nations competing across four rounds of racing; the launch of the World Rowing Virtual Series, an inclusive competition open to athletes of all levels; the delivery in Singapore of the inaugural World Rowing Super60; and the first standalone Versa Challenge.

The year also saw continued growth in our partnership with the Japan Sport Council, including co-hosting the second Virtual Sports Forum in Tokyo and planning the third edition in Lausanne in 2026. Progress also continued across partnerships with Ergatta, ErgZone, EXR, Refract and TimeTeam.

Overall, 2025 was another productive year for the development of our Indoor Rowing strategy, in close collaboration with the Indoor Rowing Commission.

A more detailed report is followed in the [Indoor Rowing](#) section.

4. WORLD ROWING TRANSFORMATION

As presented at the 2025 Quadrennial and Ordinary Congresses, early 2025 provided an opportunity to assess progress made during the first three years (2022–2024) of our transformation strategy and to map priority projects for the 2025–2028 cycle. Many 2025-related projects are reflected throughout this report; others will be covered in future reports.

5. REVENUES

Following several major commercial initiatives launched in 2024 with mid- to long-term revenue expectations, 2025 delivered substantial incremental revenue. This was driven by partnerships with Concept2 and Andalucía, as well as the 'Enhanced Commercial Rights' initiative linked to recently awarded events. These outcomes positively impacted 2025 financial results (following a positive 2024) and will remain critical for the remainder of the quadrennial.

In parallel, the new 2025–2028 EBU Media Rights and Distribution agreement was finalised, securing essential funding

for the full cycle. Additional initiatives included the launch of 'Philanthropy Lite' and the Masters Licensing Programme, alongside an approved increase in membership fees—all aimed at diversifying revenue streams and strengthening financial sustainability.

A key milestone was the appointment of Havas Play as World Rowing's global sponsorship agency, positioning World Rowing, Member Federations and Organising Committees to secure increased commercial revenue from 2026 onward. The launch of the World Rowing Shanghai Sprints will also contribute significant revenue opportunities.

Further details are included in the [Sponsorship sales and business development](#) section of this report.

6. GLOBAL CONTENT & RIGHTS DISTRIBUTION

2025 marked a highly positive first season under the renewed (2025–2028) EBU agreement, with many European public broadcasters continuing to deliver strong coverage of World Rowing and European Rowing events.

Outside Europe, rights distribution efforts accelerated through new and renewed partnerships, notably increasing visibility in China via CCTV.

Progress also continued toward the creation—subject to funding—of a future 'Rowing Media House' and a global digital asset management platform, anticipated for late 2026 or early 2027.

Further details are provided in the [Broadcast, Commercial & Marketing](#)

GOVERNANCE

Progress continued across multiple governance areas, including gender equity, diversity and inclusion, with a major milestone achieved through the approval of important rule changes at the Quadrennial Congress (statutes and Rules of Racing) for the 2025–2028 cycle.

These changes address key areas such as competition formats and membership fees, reflecting evolving governance standards and cost pressures. The 'Confederations Collaboration Project' has also advanced, aiming to strengthen cooperation and align governance standards across all five Confederations.

Tangible outcomes are expected in 2026, including the allocation of financial grants to selected projects. Further details are included in the **Governance & Integrity** section.

7. WWF HEALTHY WATERS ALLIANCE

Following its launch in 2024, 2025 marked the first full year of activation of the Healthy Waters Alliance, enabling water conservation initiatives at local and national levels and empowering Member Federations and Organising Committees in partnership with WWF offices worldwide.

worldrowing.com/responsibility/sustainability/wwf-alliance/

worldrowing.com/responsibility/sustainability/healthy-waters-alliance-projects/

Additional progress was made on climate action, biodiversity protection and related initiatives, as detailed in the dedicated Development & Sustainability report - [Biodiversity and Healthy Waters Alliance](#) - which follows.

8. SHANGHAI HOUSE OF ROWING

Building on the success of the Shanghai World Championships, a key legacy initiative was announced: the World Rowing Shanghai Sprints, an annual 500m event integrated into the Shanghai Head of River Regatta. The event will bring together the top eight teams globally—including an innovative 'world team'—and offer an attractive financial package, including prize money.

worldrowing.com/2026/04/08/world-rowing-announces-teams-for-the-inaugural-2026-world-rowing-shanghai-sprints/

worldrowing.com/2025/10/02/world-rowing-launches-annual-shanghai-based-sprint-rowing-event/

Discussions also progressed with Shanghai authorities regarding the potential establishment of a satellite office and public showcase in downtown Shanghai.

9. ADMINISTRATION

2025 marked an important transition in World Rowing's accounting and financial administration processes, including a new accounting system and chart of accounts, alongside efforts to achieve greater consistency in budget and forecast presentations. The year is expected to close with both operational profit and positive investment performance.

Importantly, the end of 2025 saw the setting of a new set of objectives, above and beyond 'business as usual', for the year 2026:

1. **Classic Rowing:** SECR conclusion; Ranking development; Benchmark WRCH; Masters growth; 1st edition WRSS delivery; LA28 planning;
2. **Coastal Rowing:** Benchmark WBSF; LA28 planning; Dakar 2026 delivery; Beach Sprints 360 & Series development;
3. **Indoor Rowing:** OEG inclusion; Gaming collaboration; Elevated WRICH; Virtual Series & Versa Finals delivery; Versa & S60 developments;
4. **World Rowing transformation:** SEAP 360 review; Hospitality strategy; World Rowing Satellite operations; CRM growth; Sponsorship sales;
5. **New Revenues:** Sponsorship sales; New events creation; Philanthropy; Masters; Hospitality; Suppliers Programme;
6. **Global content and rights distribution:** international media rights sales; OTT & Media House development;
7. **Governance:** JCM delivery; Confederations Collaboration; CSHR Human Rights 101 rollout; Athletes Commission transition;
8. **Sustainability:** Healthy Waters Alliance evolution; Climate Action planning;
9. **China 360:** enhanced collaboration incl. tech support; events; Shanghai House of Rowing; commercial, content & social media activations;
10. **EU Satellite Office:** explore opportunities for permanent office and funding of incremental EU-based initiatives;

We closed 2025 having made strong progress across a number of critical areas, successfully addressing challenges through close collaboration with the World Rowing President, Executive Committee, Council and Commissions.

In what was another demanding and productive year, I extend my sincere and warmest thanks to the World Rowing team and all staff members for their outstanding commitment and dedication to advancing the reach, image and revenues of rowing worldwide.

Departmental reports follow:

Broadcast, Commercial & Marketing

2025 In Summary

2025 was a demanding and productive year for the Broadcast, Commercial & Marketing department, as World Rowing continued to operate in a fast-changing media, sponsorship and commercial environment. Against the backdrop of structural shifts in global broadcasting, rising commercial expectations, and the federation's ambition to strengthen its long-term revenue, visibility and brand proposition, the department balanced a substantial operational workload with a number of important strategic initiatives.

The year was marked by strong delivery across broadcast, event presentation, rights distribution, sponsorship development and legal-commercial support, while also laying foundations for future growth in areas such as rankings, digital content, supplier partnerships and the Shanghai strategy. Key achievements are outlined below.

1. Broadcast delivery and production

One of the department's most important priorities in 2025 was the continued safeguarding and enhancement of World Rowing's broadcast delivery across its key events. Despite a media landscape characterised by declining linear television audiences, tighter broadcaster budgets and the continued migration toward digital consumption, World Rowing fulfilled all contractual obligations to its international broadcast partners and maintained strong global coverage across key markets.

Host broadcast services were successfully delivered and coordinated across all applicable World Rowing and European Rowing events, including under challenging local conditions in some cases. A benchmark host broadcast production was delivered for the 2025 World Rowing Championships in Shanghai in close collaboration with World Rowing Productions and the local Chinese service provider, while important safety improvements were also introduced through the standardisation and provision of safety kits for on-water camera operations.

The department also strengthened central oversight of live streaming, particularly for the Under 23 and Under 19 Championships, helping ensure greater consistency in quality, delivery and distribution across World Rowing platforms.

2. Broadcast innovation and rights distribution

Beyond core delivery, 2025 also brought continued progress in the innovation and modernisation of World Rowing's broadcast environment. The department implemented enhanced operational standards, including a more advanced and cost-efficient system for the transmission of live broadcast signals from regatta venues to digital platforms as an alternative to traditional satellite delivery.

Additional work included the design and implementation of an optimised Victory Ceremony format, the selection of a preferred service provider for the modernisation of World Rowing's on-screen graphics, and the launch of a review of the federation's wider broadcast product portfolio to ensure continued relevance in the evolving media ecosystem. The department also contributed to a joint analysis, with World Rowing leadership, of the rowing coverage delivered at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, helping lay the groundwork for future broadcast improvements.

Rights distribution also advanced positively. Broadcast agreements were renewed or expanded with a number of partners, while sublicensing arrangements for the 2025 World Rowing Championships contributed to particularly strong international media visibility for the event.

3. Commercial delivery and legal support

The department continued to ensure reliable commercial delivery across all World Rowing and European Rowing events, including branding, partner visibility, licensing and merchandising execution. Ongoing account management and partner activation were maintained across a broad network of commercial partners and strategic service providers, helping support both operational excellence and longer-term commercial value.

Licensing and merchandising revenues increased again compared with previous years, demonstrating the continued robustness of this Programme. The department also contributed to strengthening World Rowing's insurance coverage, advancing international trademark registrations, and supporting the implementation of a refreshed chart of accounts framework to improve financial tracking and reporting.

Importantly, in the absence of dedicated in-house legal counsel, the department also absorbed a significant legal and contractual workload. This additional contribution played an essential role in maintaining continuity, protecting the federation's interests and supporting wider organisational stability.

4. Sponsorship sales and business development

A major commercial milestone in 2025 was the appointment of Havas Play as World Rowing's lead sponsorship sales agency. This represented an important strengthening of the federation's commercial development capability and supported the creation of a more structured sponsorship architecture, including market intelligence, sales materials and target prospecting.

Further strategic business development work also continued across several important initiatives. The department advanced the World Rowing Rankings project, supporting the selection and onboarding of a preferred service provider for the first phase. This initiative has the potential to become both a governance tool and a storytelling asset, while also supporting event categorisation, participation incentives and talent identification.

Progress was also made in the continued development of the World Rowing Supplier Programme and in a range of broader partnership and investment discussions, including concepts linked to a future direct-to-consumer "Home of Rowing" digital environment.

5. Event innovation and Shanghai strategy

The department played an active role in supporting the implementation of the integrated Indoor Rowing event concept combining mass participation and elite competition. This was

successfully adapted and delivered in Singapore as the World Rowing Super-60 Singapore, demonstrating the potential of innovative event formats to broaden reach and engagement.

Another major area of progress was the continued development of the Shanghai strategy. The department contributed to advancing the concept of a permanent World Rowing presence in Shanghai and played a vital role in supporting the launch of a recurring World Rowing-sanctioned sprint regatta linked to the annual Head of the Shanghai River event.

These developments were strategically important not only from a sporting and promotional perspective, but also in relation to long-term commercial growth, market expansion and the strengthening of World Rowing's presence in a key international growth market.

6. Market engagement and team

In parallel with its commercial and broadcast responsibilities, the department remained active in wider market engagement. Participation in leading international sports industry events supported relationship development, market intelligence and the continued monitoring of trends relevant to broadcast, commercial and marketing strategy.

Internally, the department also continued to strengthen its structure and operational effectiveness. Kevin Fulgham was promoted to the role of Project Manager, Broadcast & Marketing, reflecting his valuable contributions to the department and to the wider rowing family.

Taken together, the work delivered in 2025 helped ensure that World Rowing remained well positioned to respond to current challenges while also preparing for future opportunities in an increasingly competitive and fragmented sports and media landscape.

Communications, Media & Social Media

2025 In Summary

2025 was a strong and productive year for Communications, Media & Social Media, with the department continuing to strengthen World Rowing's global profile across events, governance activity and all disciplines of the sport. Building on the momentum generated during the Olympic and Paralympic year in 2024, the department focused on sustaining audience growth, improving the consistency of storytelling, and supporting the federation's wider strategic objectives through coordinated digital, editorial and media activity.

Particular emphasis was placed on preparations for the World Rowing Championships in Shanghai, the communication of key governance developments around the Quadrennial Congress, and the continued expansion of visibility for indoor, coastal and masters Rowing. Good progress was achieved across the priority areas highlighted below.

1. Event communications and media delivery

Event communications and media operations remained one of the central pillars of departmental activity in 2025. The team supported all World Rowing and European Rowing events through media planning, editorial delivery, quote services and onsite coordination, helping to ensure consistent and professional communications output across the full event calendar.

A stronger emphasis was placed on athlete-centred storytelling and the creation of recognisable narratives around events and performances. This approach helped strengthen the appeal

of World Rowing content and improve the federation's ability to connect with both specialist audiences and broader sports fans.

Close collaboration with Member Federations also continued, with discussions aimed at improving content-sharing workflows and creating a more connected communications ecosystem around international events.

2. Digital and social media growth

World Rowing's digital and social media ecosystem continued its steady expansion throughout 2025. By the end of the year, World Rowing's social media channels had surpassed 600,000 followers across platforms, excluding Chinese social media, reflecting continued growth in the federation's direct digital reach.

This progress was supported by stronger cross-platform alignment and more consistent storytelling across Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and X. Major milestones and flagship events continued to act as key drivers of engagement, while improvements in content planning and channel coordination helped the department maintain a more coherent year-round digital presence.

An important additional development in 2025 was the relaunch of Chinese social media channels, including WeChat, Weibo and Douyin, ahead of the World Rowing Championships in Shanghai. This laid the foundations for a stronger and more structured digital presence in one of World Rowing's key growth markets.

3. Video, editorial output and website performance

Video content remained central to World Rowing's communications strategy in 2025. During the year, the YouTube channel recorded 4.3 million video views, supported by 387 uploads across long-form videos, shorts and livestreams.

This output helped drive visibility for events, disciplines and athlete stories, while also supporting the channel's monetisation model and contributing to the diversification of digital revenue streams. In parallel, editorial production remained strong and consistent across the year, with 245 web stories published on WorldRowing.com and 51 press releases distributed to the international media.

Monthly newsletters were delivered according to a pre-set editorial calendar, while event coverage included daily digests, race reports and athlete features, particularly at European and World Championships. The World Rowing website also remained a central information and storytelling platform in 2025, recording 4.4 million page views and 9.1 million event interaction counts, with particularly strong traffic linked to Congress-related content, rule updates and major event hubs.

4. Media relations and reputational support

Media relations work throughout 2025 continued to benefit from a more structured and increasingly data-informed approach. The department made full use of the Meltwater media monitoring platform to track coverage, sentiment and reach, helping support more informed reporting and a better understanding of the impact of communications activity.

While full-year earned media figures were still being consolidated at the time of reporting, early-year results confirmed the positive impact of coordinated public relations activity, particularly around governance milestones and major competitions. This underlined the value of proactive communications planning in protecting and enhancing World Rowing's reputation.

More broadly, the department continued to play an important role in helping communicate institutional developments clearly and consistently, supporting the wider organisation's visibility and credibility.

5. Cross-functional support

Beyond its core communications delivery, the department played a significant cross-functional role within the organisation. Communications support was delivered to development initiatives, including the promotion of the Healthy Waters campaign, as well as to Indoor Rowing through the promotion of the Virtual Series and related regulatory storytelling.

Additional support was provided to Masters and Coastal Rowing through the creation of promotional assets and targeted content. At the same time, close collaboration with the Marketing and Commercial teams helped ensure strong alignment between communications activity, partner objectives and broader organisational priorities.

This cross-functional contribution remained important in 2025, as World Rowing continued to strengthen the consistency of its image, the visibility of its strategic projects, and the reach of its storytelling across all areas of the sport.

6. Outlook

Taken together, the year's results confirmed continued progress in the department's ability to support World Rowing's strategic goals through integrated communications, media and digital activity. The department helped sustain audience growth, strengthen event visibility, support governance communication, and improve alignment across the federation's channels and content streams.

As World Rowing moves further into the 2025–2028 cycle, the continued development of digital platforms, audience engagement, content planning and international media support will remain important priorities. The work delivered in 2025 provided a strong platform for that next phase.

Corporate Services & Administration

2025 In Summary

2025 was a productive and important year for the Corporate Services & Administration department, with the team continuing to support World Rowing's operational backbone across finance, human resources, technology, office management, event services and a range of strategic internal projects. Alongside the day-to-day management of key corporate functions, the department contributed to several initiatives designed to improve efficiency, reporting, service delivery and organisational support.

The year combined major internal systems progress with strong delivery across event services, community-facing platforms and commission support. Key achievements are outlined below.

1. Administration and internal systems

A major focus in 2025 was the continued strengthening of internal systems and administrative processes. One of the most significant achievements was the implementation and successful transition to a new ERP system, Odoo, covering finance, accounting and human resources.

This transition included the move to a new chart of accounts and the introduction of improved processes designed to strengthen reporting, efficiency and decision-making transparency. Taken together, these developments represented an important step in modernising World Rowing's internal administrative infrastructure.

Beyond the ERP project, the department also oversaw a number of organisational improvements, including the refresh of the World Rowing headquarters in Lausanne to create a more modern and health-focused working environment.

2. Technology and digital tools

The department also played a central role in delivering practical technology solutions that support both internal operations and the wider Rowing community. Following the approval of the rules at the Quadrennial Congress, a new progressive web-based Rules App was developed and launched.

The application includes AI-supported search and query functionality, as well as offline access and navigation, helping make the rules framework more accessible and easier to use. This represented an important step in improving the user experience around one of World Rowing's core regulatory tools.

In parallel, the department contributed to the development of the GEDI Dashboard in Power BI, providing a clearer and more effective way to display participation and representation data across World Rowing activities and to support strategic direction for future initiatives.

3. Event services delivery

Event Services remained a major pillar of the department's work in 2025. The team managed delivery across important event-service providers, including timing and data, sports presentation and accreditation, while also overseeing procurement for event clothing, medals, trophies and other key supplies through a diverse supplier network.

The department also continued to manage sport entries and accreditation for all World Rowing events and many continental events, acting as the first point of contact for team queries. To improve internal efficiency and responsiveness, automated follow-ups were introduced to help collect key registration items from Member Federations more effectively.

In parallel, the department produced event Programmes for the World Rowing and European Rowing Championships and, in coordination with the Competition Commission, helped define and secure approval for a new Programme concept and core principles for LA28.

4. Progression systems and event innovation

Following approval by the Quadrennial Congress in mid-March, the new progression system was implemented with timing providers, including the necessary updates to outputs and systems. This required close alignment of technical requirements and contributed to a smooth transition into the new framework.

The department also supported important enhancements for the Beach Sprints discipline. At the 2025 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals in Antalya, additional data streams such as split times were captured to enhance statistics and analysis, while a video review system was introduced to support umpiring decisions.

Alongside the IOC, substantial work was also undertaken on Olympic Results and Information Systems documentation for Rowing Coastal Beach Sprints for LA2028 and Dakar 2026. This underlined the department's growing contribution to innovation and technical readiness in emerging event formats.

5. Masters and community support

2025 also saw more structured and consistent delivery of Masters and community initiatives. The World Rowing Masters Portal grew to nearly 4,000 members and expanded its functionality through Athlete Connect, multilingual capability in seven languages, improved profile pages and new tools aimed at positioning the portal as the central hub of the global Masters community.

A related promotion plan supported Masters events and initiatives, including World Rowing presence at events and a new monthly Masters newsletter. The portal's direct-to-consumer approach also contributed to the development of a rowing consumer database and stronger direct engagement with participants.

The World Rowing Masters Regatta in Banyoles was a particular highlight. The department supported both preparation and delivery of the event, while also introducing a streamlined accreditation process through ID verification via the Masters Portal and adding a networking dinner in support of the Philanthropy Light project.

6. Commission support and team

The department continued to provide important liaison support to several Commissions and Working Groups. Prateek Gumber remained the point of contact for the Rules Working Group and the Equipment & Technology Commission, Monika Briedyte for the Competitive Rowing Commission, Ela Zuvanic for the Umpiring Commission, and Milda Valciukaite for the Masters Rowing Commission.

In addition, the department contributed to the logistical organisation of the Quadrennial Congress in Lausanne, including the delivery of a special soirée at the Maison du Sport International for delegates. This reflected the team's broad operational role across both internal and external organisational priorities.

The Corporate Services & Administration team was led by Prateek Gumber and supported by Monika Briedyte, Ngoc-Bich Pham, Ela Zuvanic and, from the second half of the year, Milda Valciukaite. Their collective work ensured a year of strong operational support, meaningful internal progress and important contributions to the wider objectives of World Rowing.

Development & Sustainability

2025 In Summary

Development & Sustainability remained central to World Rowing's mandate in 2025, with both areas continuing to evolve from Programme-based activity into strategic tools for capacity building, education, environmental responsibility and long-term federation support. Throughout the year, World Rowing focused on strengthening Member Federations, reinforcing pathways for athletes and entourages, and translating sustainability commitments into practical implementation across the organisation and its events.

The year delivered good progress across a broad range of activities, from education and development support to climate accountability, biodiversity initiatives and the continued expansion of the Healthy Waters Alliance. Key achievements are highlighted below.

1. Global development reach

In 2025, the World Rowing Development Programme delivered more than 50 targeted development activities worldwide, supporting 86 Member Federations across all continents. These activities benefited more than 600 participants, with female participation reaching 33 percent, reflecting continued progress in widening access and improving representation.

Importantly, the Programme continued to serve all roles and levels of the sport. It supported athletes and youth pathways, coaches and coach educators, umpires and technical delegates, classifiers, managers and sport leaders, thereby helping ensure that technical, organisational and leadership capacity can develop in parallel.

This broad, system-wide approach remained essential in strengthening the sustainability of national rowing systems and in ensuring that development investment translates into lasting impact beyond individual activities.

2. Education Academy and educator network

The World Rowing Education Academy continued to serve as the backbone of global education delivery in 2025. By providing a single, structured digital entry point for education across roles and disciplines, the Academy helped ensure greater consistency, accessibility and quality assurance across the federation's educational offer.

More than 220 learners completed Academy courses during the year. In parallel, the Academy also continued to function as a knowledge-sharing platform, using articles and educational content to communicate development activities and widen access to information throughout the global rowing community.

A major strategic milestone in 2025 was the consolidation of a global network of World Rowing educators. This network comprised 48 active educators across all continents, with 35 percent female representation, and positioned World Rowing to deliver education Programmes more consistently and effectively at international scale.

3. Member Federation capacity building

World Rowing worked with 39 Member Federations that benefited directly from its Education Programme in 2025, spanning different disciplines, communities and functional roles. At the same time, the World Rowing Coach Development Programme was updated to align with the rule changes approved at the 2025 Quadrennial Congress, helping ensure that educational frameworks remain fully consistent with the sport's evolving regulatory environment.

Development support linked to World Rowing and Continental events also remained a core pillar of the Programme, with 18 annual opportunities made available. These interventions helped connect education and mentoring with international competition exposure, giving athletes and coaches access not only to events themselves, but also to the wider learning environment around them.

This integrated approach remained important in helping Member Federations convert development support into practical sporting progression and stronger long-term performance pathways.

4. Targeted development support

In addition to education-based support, World Rowing continued to use targeted interventions where they could have particularly high impact. In 2025, the Equipment Donation Programme supported six Member Federations: Angola, Argentina, Benin, Morocco, Uganda and Zambia.

Although selective in scope, this support remained highly meaningful, especially for emerging rowing nations or disciplines where equipment constraints continue to limit growth and participation. By addressing practical barriers to access, the Programme contributed to broader development goals and supported more inclusive growth across the sport.

This type of targeted enabling support remains an important complement to broader education and capacity-building initiatives.

5. Climate accountability and implementation

In 2025, Sustainability became increasingly embedded across World Rowing's operations and departments. Protecting water ecosystems, responding to climate impacts and supporting biodiversity were recognised not only as environmental priorities, but also as fundamental conditions for the future of rowing as a water-based sport.

World Rowing continued to strengthen its climate governance through the measurement, analysis and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions using a recognised carbon accounting platform. Building on earlier assessments undertaken in 2022 and 2023, the publication of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2024 in November 2025 marked an important step in organisational accountability and provided a stronger evidence base for future decision-making.

The quality and maturity of this work were reflected in an upgrade of World Rowing's climate performance from Bronze to Silver. This represented tangible progress in both data quality and governance processes, while supporting the credibility of future emissions-reduction planning across operations, events, travel and procurement.

6. Biodiversity and Healthy Waters Alliance

Building on the Climate Action Plan developed in partnership with Deloitte, 2025 marked the transition from strategy into operational roll-out. Priority implementation focused on testing a new sustainability model for Event Organising Committees, including a pilot partnership with bloomUp at the World Rowing Under 19 Championships in Trakai.

This work resulted in World Rowing's first Biodiversity Impact Report and also contributed to the organisation being shortlisted in the Sport Positive Awards 2025 in the Biodiversity Project category. Together, these developments reflected growing external recognition of World Rowing's leadership in integrating biodiversity considerations into the delivery of international sport events.

At the same time, the Healthy Waters Alliance completed its first full year of implementation following its 2024 launch. A Best Practices Toolkit was released, activations were delivered at major rowing events, and World Rowing participated actively in the global Sports for Nature campaign "It's in our Nature," helping highlight nature-positive actions delivered by Member Federations, event organisers and the wider rowing community.

7. Acknowledgements and outlook

The achievements of 2025 were made possible through the collective commitment of a wide network of partners and contributors. These included World Rowing staff, Commissions and Continental Representatives, the IOC Olympic Solidarity and Sports Department, the International Paralympic Committee and its Membership Engagement Team, Member Federations, World Rowing Event Organising Committees, National Olympic and Paralympic Committees, and equipment manufacturers.

The work delivered during the year reinforced the role of Development & Sustainability as a strategic pillar of World Rowing's long-term future. As the organisation moves further into the current quadrennial, continued focus will be placed on strengthening education pathways, expanding capacity-building support, and embedding climate and biodiversity action more deeply across rowing's global ecosystem.

Governance & Integrity

2025 In Summary

2025 was a significant and active year for Governance & Integrity, shaped by two Congresses, important statutory and regulatory decisions, continued engagement with Member Federations, and the further reinforcement of World Rowing's commitment to integrity and good governance. In line with the wider priorities of the 2025–2028 cycle, the department focused on strengthening governance standards, supporting accountability, and ensuring that key institutional processes were delivered effectively and credibly.

Good progress was achieved across the main priority areas set out below.

1. Congress and statutory matters

The most important governance milestones of the year were delivered through the Quadrennial Congress in Lausanne and the Ordinary Congress held in September. Together, these meetings enabled World Rowing to adopt important amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Racing, while also confirming decisions necessary to support the federation's sustainability and continued governance development.

A key outcome was the approval of an increase in annual membership fees. This decision reflected the increasing demands placed on international Federations, the cost of modern governance requirements, and the broader inflationary environment in which World Rowing continues to operate.

The year also saw a significant amendment to Article 47. Following the authority granted by the Quadrennial Congress, the Ordinary Congress approved a Council proposal aimed at strengthening geographical diversity at Executive Committee level, representing an important step in aligning governance structures more closely with the global character of the Rowing community.

2. Leadership and representation

The Ordinary Congress also marked an important moment for leadership continuity and institutional renewal. Jean-Christophe Rolland (FRA) was reappointed as President for his final mandate, Annamarie Phelps (GBR) was elected as Vice-President, and Gerritjan Eggenkamp (NED) continued in his role as Treasurer.

In addition, Eva Szanto (HUN), Lenka Wech (GER), and Mathias Binder (SUI) were elected to the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 47. Following the approved statutory changes relating to geographical diversity, Ronald Chen (USA) was also appointed to the Executive Committee as an appointed member.

These developments ensured appropriate continuity while also renewing leadership capacity and strengthening the representative character of World Rowing's governance structures.

3. Member Federation governance and oversight

Throughout 2025, the Governance Department continued to monitor, support, and engage with Member Federations in order to strengthen alignment with World Rowing governance standards. This work remained central to the department's mandate and an essential condition for maintaining the integrity and credibility of the international membership structure.

Where necessary, formal governance action was also required. Following a decision of the Ordinary Congress, the Bahamas Rowing Federation was expelled from membership due to non-compliance with the World Rowing Statutes. The Serbian Rowing Federation remained suspended until February 2026, while the Oman Rowing Federation, having failed to meet the criteria for provisional membership, is no longer a member of World Rowing.

These decisions formed part of the wider effort to ensure that membership within World Rowing is matched by clear responsibilities, minimum governance standards, and ongoing accountability.

4. Confederations collaboration and Member Federation engagement

The Confederations Collaboration Project also continued to progress in 2025. This remains an important medium-term initiative aimed at strengthening cooperation between World Rowing and its five Continental Confederations.

During the year, the project advanced through a series of online meetings and an in-person workshop following the Quadrennial Congress. Further discussions focused on the comparative analysis of Confederation statutes and relevant ASOIF recommendations, helping identify areas for stronger alignment and cooperation.

More broadly, engagement with Member Federations continued throughout the year through online meetings and in-person conferences held alongside events. This regular dialogue remained essential in supporting understanding, implementation and ownership of governance priorities across the rowing community.

5. Integrity and good governance

World Rowing's commitment to integrity was further reinforced in 2025 through the renewal of the four-year agreement with the International Testing Agency (ITA). This renewal underlined the federation's continued commitment to clean sport and to maintaining high standards in anti-doping and related integrity matters.

A number of awareness and education activities were also delivered during the year, including the Integrity Booth at the World Rowing Under 19 Championships in Trakai and webinars organised in collaboration with the ITA. Together, these initiatives helped raise awareness of anti-doping, competition

manipulation and safeguarding, while further embedding integrity considerations within the event environment and the wider Rowing community.

At the same time, World Rowing continued to position itself positively within the wider international governance landscape. The launch of the ASOIF Sixth Review of IF Governance at the end of 2025, with results expected in summer 2026, provided a further opportunity to demonstrate ongoing commitment to good governance and continuous improvement.

6. Governance Working Group and team

The conclusion of the mandate of the Governance Working Group represented another important transition point in 2025. New members were appointed by Council, with Annamarie Phelps continuing as Chair alongside Ronald Chen and new members Andreanne Morin and Stephen Netzele.

This refreshed composition positions the group to continue supporting governance development in the next phase of the quadrennial. It also reflects the importance attached to maintaining an informed and active support structure around World Rowing's institutional reform agenda.

Ludovica Caprino continued in her role as Governance & Integrity Manager, while Patricia Lambert, World Rowing Strategic Consultant, supported the department on an ad hoc basis. Their work contributed to the delivery of a year marked by high governance activity, important institutional decisions, and meaningful progress across the integrity agenda.

Indoor Rowing

2025 In Summary

2025 was a landmark year for Indoor Rowing and a period of meaningful progress in the continued development of the discipline. Building on the transformational partnership between World Rowing and Concept2, the year delivered several important firsts, strengthened the event portfolio, expanded engagement across the wider indoor rowing ecosystem, and reinforced the strategic relevance of Indoor Rowing within World Rowing's broader growth ambitions.

The year was characterised by innovation, experimentation and partnership-based delivery, with several new formats introduced successfully and further foundations laid for growth in 2026 and beyond. Key achievements are outlined below.

1. Virtual World Championships

One of the most significant milestones of 2025 was the delivery of the first fully virtual World Rowing Indoor Championships, presented by Concept2. This inaugural format brought together 1,600 competitors from 74 nations across four rounds of racing, representing a major operational and sporting achievement for the discipline.

The multi-round structure had not previously been attempted at this level and proved effective in creating competitive, high-quality racing across the full event. The success of this format demonstrated both the technical viability and the sporting potential of a fully virtual championship environment.

This achievement marked an important step forward in expanding access to elite indoor competition while positioning World Rowing as an active innovator within digitally enabled sport.

2. Virtual Series, Super60 and Versa

2025 also saw the successful launch of the first World Rowing Virtual Series, an open and inclusive competition designed to welcome athletes of all levels. The series attracted 400 participants and, while still in an early growth phase, represented an important new entry point for broader participation and ecosystem engagement.

Another major first was the launch of the Super60 in Singapore, a new activation and competition format designed to increase excitement and accessibility in a specific geography. With more than 6,000 participants ranging from school children to Masters athletes, the event demonstrated the potential of short-format, high-engagement competition models to reach new audiences.

The Versa Challenge also took an important step forward in 2025 by being delivered for the first time as a standalone event in Singapore. Featuring 16 top athletes qualified through the Virtual Series and incorporating new challenges and game-based elements, the event helped build a stronger and more distinctive identity for Versa within the wider Indoor Rowing portfolio.

3. Partnerships and ecosystem development

Partnership development remained a central enabler of progress in 2025. Alongside the continued importance of Concept2, the year saw active collaboration with Ergatta, ErgZone, EXR, Refract and TimeTeam across event delivery, platform support, promotion and activation.

The department also maintained or initiated discussions with a wider range of ecosystem stakeholders, reflecting the increasingly interconnected nature of Indoor Rowing across sport, gaming, fitness and digital participation environments. These partnerships are strategically important not only for event delivery, but also for strengthening the discipline's visibility, innovation capacity and long-term development potential.

Taken together, this work continued to broaden the discipline's reach and position Indoor Rowing more clearly within a wider international ecosystem.

4. Rules and discipline development

Indoor Rowing continued to evolve in 2025 through ongoing adaptation of its rules and competition structures. New rules relating to age categories were applied during the year, while further changes for 2026 were prepared on a trial basis, including developments relating to Para and Adaptive categories, classification processes and nationality eligibility.

This work reflects the fact that Indoor Rowing remains a fast-developing discipline requiring regular regulatory refinement in order to ensure that competition structures remain fair, effective and attractive. The progress achieved in 2025 should therefore be seen as part of a broader process of long-term discipline development rather than as a finished endpoint.

The department also continued to assess a number of opportunities that required management attention despite being postponed or cancelled, including projects linked to esports, certification, website refresh, education, membership and future event attribution. While not all of these progressed on schedule, they remain relevant to the discipline's future roadmap.

5. Team and strategic positioning

The Indoor Rowing team itself also grew in 2025, notably with the addition of Charlotte Vandeloo in the Communications

department as content creator and social media consultant. This contribution made an important difference to the image, visibility and reach of the discipline's activities.

More broadly, the results of 2025 reinforced the strategic position of Indoor Rowing as an area of innovation and growth within World Rowing. The discipline continued to explore how competitive rowing, community participation, gaming, fitness and digital sport can connect in ways that broaden reach and engage new audiences.

The year therefore represented not only a series of operational successes, but also a meaningful strengthening of Indoor Rowing's identity and future potential.

6. Outlook

The foundations laid in 2025 position Indoor Rowing well for continued growth in 2026 and beyond. Priority areas moving forward include the continued development of the Virtual Series and Versa concepts, the strengthening of partnerships in events, games and technology, the stabilisation of the annual calendar, and the further expansion of the discipline's role within the wider sports and digital ecosystem.

Taken together, the progress achieved in 2025 confirmed that Indoor Rowing is becoming an increasingly important part of World Rowing's broader future-facing strategy.

Sport & Events

2025 In Summary

2025 was a successful and strategically important year for Sport & Events, with World Rowing delivering a strong calendar across Classic, Coastal and Indoor Rowing in close collaboration with Organising Committees and key stakeholders. The year combined solid operational delivery with several important sport-development milestones, including the continued evolution of event formats, the strengthening of Olympic pathway planning, and the introduction of new Programme elements aligned with the next phase of the Olympiad.

Across the full season, World Rowing worked to ensure that events were delivered to a high standard, that the competition calendar continued to evolve in line with strategic priorities, and that the sport remained well positioned for the road to LA28 and beyond. Key highlights are outlined below.

1. Classic Rowing delivery

The Classic Rowing season delivered several important milestones in 2025. The year began with the World Rowing Indoor Championships presented by Concept2, which showcased strong participation and performance while continuing to strengthen the global profile of indoor and connected rowing.

On the water, the World Rowing Cups in Varese and Lucerne provided an important platform for international competition at the start of the new Olympiad. Varese saw the first international debut of the Mixed 8+ at a World Rowing event, with the boat class also retained on the Programme in Lucerne, marking an important step in the ongoing evolution of the sport format.

The World Rowing Under 23 Championships in Poznan were delivered successfully despite challenging conditions caused by unprecedented low water levels in Lake Malta, while the Under 19 Championships in Trakai marked a welcome return to a venue that had not hosted a World Rowing event since

2017 and produced a strong competition environment.

2. Masters rowing

The World Rowing Masters Regatta in Banyoles, Spain, was one of the highlights of the 2025 season. The event welcomed more than 3,700 athletes from 747 clubs, making it the second-largest edition in the regatta's history and underlining the continued strength and growth of the Masters community.

The event also reflected World Rowing's wider efforts to enhance the participant experience and community dimension of Masters rowing. In particular, the introduction of Athlete Connect created new opportunities for Masters rowers to connect and form crews across borders, reinforcing the event's role not only as a competition, but also as a global community platform.

This continued growth in the Masters segment remains strategically important for the wider rowing ecosystem and aligns with World Rowing's efforts to support lifelong participation in the sport.

3. World Championships and Programme development

The 2025 World Rowing Championships in Shanghai represented the culmination of the classic rowing calendar and the first World Championships of the new Olympiad. With 56 nations competing, the event combined a high level of sporting performance with a strong sense of occasion and innovation.

The Championships also saw the inclusion of two new events, the Mixed 2x and the Mixed 8+, reflecting ongoing efforts to evolve the sport Programme and test new formats for the future. Medal performances from more than 25 nations underlined the depth and competitiveness of the international field, while the final-day victory ceremonies on the Bund created a particularly strong showcase moment for the sport.

Taken together, these elements made the Shanghai Championships both an operational success and an important benchmark for future event presentation and Programme development.

4. Coastal rowing and Beach Sprints

The coastal season culminated in the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals in Antalya, Türkiye. Having stepped in at short notice to host the event, Türkiye delivered the Finals to a strong standard within a condensed timeline, demonstrating flexibility, commitment and effective collaboration under pressure.

This event remained important not only as the highlight of the coastal calendar, but also as part of the continued development of Beach Sprints in the lead-up to its Olympic debut. The quality of delivery in Antalya helped support the credibility and momentum of the discipline at an important stage in its progression.

More broadly, 2025 confirmed the continued strengthening of coastal rowing within the World Rowing event portfolio and its increasing strategic relevance within the federation's longer-term sport planning.

5. Olympic pathways and calendar review

An important milestone in 2025 was the confirmation of the LA28 Olympic qualification pathways for both Classic and Coastal Rowing. This provided clarity for athletes, coaches and Member Federations and helped shape the planning framework for the years ahead.

The year also saw continued work on the Strategic Event & Calendar Review project, including the ongoing review of the World Cups and the confirmation of the World Championships Programme under Rule 25. These developments are important in ensuring that World Rowing's event structures remain aligned with athlete needs, competition quality, commercial opportunity and wider strategic objectives.

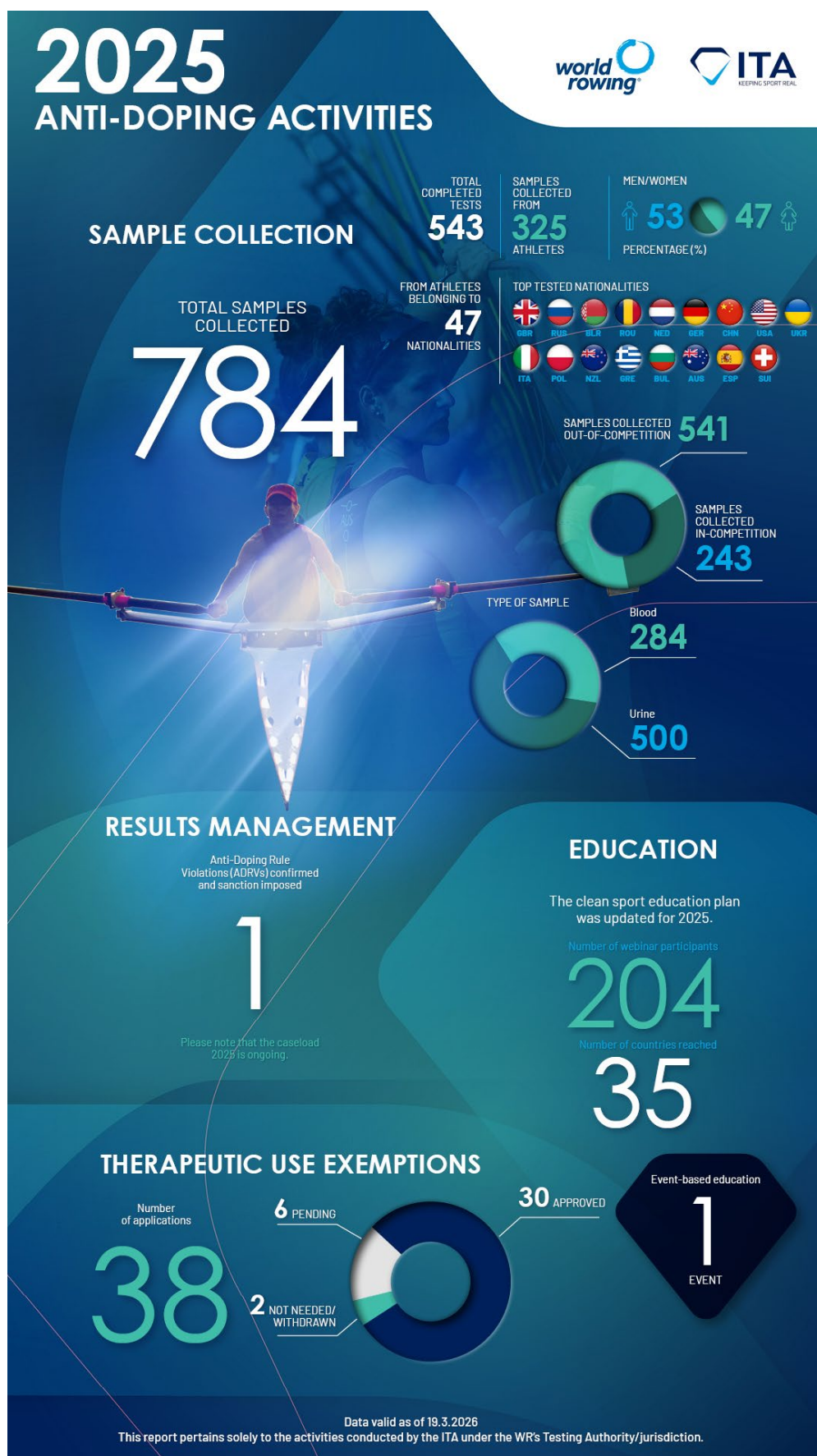
The continued refinement of event formats, qualification systems and Programme structures will remain a key priority as World Rowing moves deeper into the LA28 cycle.

6. Acknowledgements and outlook

The successful delivery of the 2025 season was made possible through the contributions of World Rowing Commissions, Organising Committees, consultants and many other stakeholders across the Rowing community. Their commitment and professionalism were essential in ensuring a strong and diverse calendar across multiple disciplines and event formats.

The achievements of 2025 provide a strong platform for the next phase of work in Sport & Events. As World Rowing continues to refine its event portfolio, strengthen Olympic planning and evolve the competition Programme, the experience gained across this year's calendar will remain an important asset.

REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TESTING AGENCY (ITA) 2025 Annual Review for WORLD ROWING





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ATHLETES COMMISSION

Frida Svensson (SWE)

The purpose of the Athletes Commission is to represent active national team rowers, and to act as a liaison between them and World Rowing.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

Athlete engagement remains at the heart of creating a more inclusive and representative future for World Rowing. Presence at events, direct conversations with athletes, and meaningful opportunities for participation continue to be among the most effective ways of ensuring that athletes' voices contribute to the development of our sport. Throughout 2025, the World Rowing Athletes Commission actively worked to engage a broader athlete community, raise awareness of opportunities for involvement, and encourage athletes to contribute to the ongoing development of World Rowing. Through collaboration with athletes, committees, and stakeholders across the organisation, the Commission continued to strengthen athlete representation and participation in decision-making processes. Speaking directly to the athlete is the strongest way to ensure involvement.

During 2025, the Athletes Commission maintained its active involvement in a variety of working groups and projects aimed at supporting the continued development of Rowing worldwide. The Commission worked to ensure that athlete perspectives were incorporated into discussions and initiatives affecting the future of the sport.

Regular Athletes Commission meetings continued to be held primarily in a virtual format, allowing members from across the globe to collaborate effectively. While digital meetings have enabled continuity, the Commission recognises the importance of holding an in-person meeting in 2026 during the Joint Commissions Meeting. Such a gathering will be essential for strategic planning, relationship building, and evaluating future priorities.

Key Achievements

- Athlete representation and visibility. Maintained a strong presence at major World Rowing events and championships, in combination with other duties such as safeguarding officer, fairness committee etc.
- Increased athlete engagement through direct interaction and communication.
- Continued to advocate for athlete perspectives across all levels of World Rowing governance and decision-making.

Education and Integrity

- Integrity Booth Initiative- The Integrity Booth continued as an important annual initiative in 2025. During the World Rowing Junior Championships in Trakai, World Rowing and the Athletes Commission partnered with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to provide educational opportunities for athletes, coaches, and athlete support personnel. The initiative focused on anti-doping awareness, safeguarding, integrity, and athlete rights and responsibilities. By creating an accessible space for dialogue and learning, the Integrity Booth contributed to strengthening knowledge and promoting a culture of clean, safe, and fair sport. To be developed and integrated at more events for the future.
- Cross-committee collaboration, participated in working groups and inter-committee projects, contributed athlete perspectives to strategic discussions and development initiatives.

Focus for 2026

The year 2026 will mark a significant transition for the Athletes Commission as new elections will be held and a new group of athlete representatives will begin their term as of January 2027. This transition represents both an opportunity and a challenge, as new members bring fresh perspectives while building on the work established in previous cycles.

A review of the current four-year cycle will be conducted to evaluate achievements, identify lessons learned, and inform future priorities. Based on this evaluation, the Commission can develop a fresh strategic framework to guide its work over the next cycle.

In addition, efforts will focus on establishing new collaborations and strengthening mechanisms that ensure athlete involvement remains embedded in the development and governance of World Rowing. An in-person meeting of the Athletes Commission is considered a key priority for 2026, providing an important opportunity to meet with as many athletes as possible at designated events, aligning on strategic objectives, strengthening relationships, and building momentum for the next phase of the athlete representation.

Summary

As we reflect on 2025 and the years leading up to it, World Rowing has made significant progress in strengthening athlete representation and ensuring that athletes have a meaningful place within the governance structure of the organisation.

The inclusion of athlete representatives within executive-level discussions and the principle that athletes themselves elect those who represent their voice are important milestones in the evolution of our sport. These achievements reflect a commitment to good governance, transparency, and athlete-centred decision-making.

This is not only a success for the Athletes Commission; it is a strength of World Rowing as a whole. Ensuring that athlete perspectives are heard, respected, and integrated into decision-making processes enhances the quality of governance and contributes to the sustainable growth and development of Rowing worldwide.

The Athletes Commission looks forward to supporting the next generation of athlete representatives and continuing to champion athlete voices across the global Rowing community.

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.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

Activities in the field of discipline oversight

2025 marked the first year under the restructured Rules of Racing. The changes were tested under full competition conditions, with the most significant developments relating to the role of the Race Committee and the introduction of the Challenge Card.

Ongoing collaboration with equipment manufacturers continues to enhance the performance, durability, and safety of Coastal Rowing equipment. In 2025, an increasing number of boat manufacturers actively engaged in Beach Sprint events as pool-boat suppliers.

Consultation and planning for the LA28 qualification process were carried out in coordination with Council.

A collaborative partnership also led to the development of open-source software for timing and results services, providing Continental Confederations and Member Federations with an accessible tool for use at their events.

Activities in the field of competition

Completion of the attribution process for the 2027 and 2028 WRCC and WRBSF, awarded to Qingdao, China, and Oeiras, Portugal, respectively.

2025 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals also was successfully held in Manavgat, Antalya, TUR

- The 6th edition of the regatta was held on Sorgun Çamiçi Public Beach. The 4-day regatta had 242 crews, from 55 Member Federations competition in 10 events. Women made up 48% of the seats.
- The entry saw a 10% increase in the number of nations attending, while the number of crews was similar to the previous year. There was a noticeable reduction in the entries for U19 men's and women's doubles, with increases in the u19 solo's and Mixed doubles. This shift was brought about by 2025 being part of the participation data collection year for the Youth Olympic Games qualification.
- The Inclusive Mixed Double (INMix2x) was held as a fully open event with six entries.
- The medals in 10 events were spread across 12 nations; GER topped the medal table with five medals and two golds. Chris Bak (USA) won his third men's solo title and Emma Twigg (NZL) her second in the women's solo.

In 2025, the World Rowing Coastal Championships was sadly not held. The European Rowing Board kindly opened the endurance events at their Championships to nations outside of Europe.

Activities in the field of discipline development

Updating the World Rowing education resources—including the Level 1 Coastal Coaching course, the Coastal Race Module, and the Coastal Technical Delegate Course—to reflect the evolution of the discipline and recent rule changes.

The 2025 World Rowing Tour took place in Germany and marked the final edition of the event, bringing to a close a long and significant chapter in World Rowing's history of organising tour Rowing experiences. The time is now right for World Rowing to conclude its direct involvement in delivering and showcasing tours.

Since the first World Rowing Tour was launched, the range and quality of tour offerings—both within Member Federations and globally—have expanded enormously. Today, a diverse mix of commercial providers and Member Federations offer tours that cater to many different types of rowers, young and old, on rivers and at sea, using both innovative and traditional Rowing craft.

World Rowing extends its deepest gratitude to all the Coastal Rowing and Rowing For All Commission members who, over the years, have contributed so much to the design, development, and delivery of the World Rowing Tours.

Focus for 2026

Preparing the discipline for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar and for Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28).

Finalising the LA28 Olympic Pool Boats tender requirements in collaboration with key stakeholders, including equipment manufacturers, the Equipment and Technology Commission, and the Athletes' Commission.

Supporting Continental Confederations and Member Federations in accessing Coastal Rowing education across coaching, event management, and water safety.

Continuing engagement with multi-sport beach games to ensure Coastal Rowing remains part of their event offering.

Working in partnership with the Para Commission to advance the development of Para Coastal Rowing in both formats.

Expanding provision of the international Coastal Rowing calendar, with the aim of creating additional high-quality events that strengthen the participant pathway, increase competitive opportunities, and support the global growth of the discipline beyond existing world and continental championships.

2025 Commission Members

Cam Allen (AUS)
Guin Batten (GBR), Chair
Michel Caplot (FRA)
Chen Chunxin (CHN) Co-opted member
Will Daly (USA)
David Hussey (IRL)
Sahbi Khardani (TUN)
Manuel Pita (POR)
Pasquale Triggiani (ITA)
Katharina von Kodolitsch (GER)

COMPETITIVE ROWING COMMISSION

Henk-Jan Zwolle (NED)

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.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

- 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.
- Support the delivery of L2 coaching courses at continental level.
- Seeding - Conducted seeding according to the Seeding Protocol at the European Championships, World Rowing Cups and the senior World Rowing Championships.
- New in 2025 was the seeding for the U19 and U23 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 2025 – frequent online meetings throughout the year and in person meetings at Rowing events
- Continue to co-ordinate the Coaching Cross Commission meeting.
- Weather buoys were deployed at Varese course during the World Cup. The full capabilities of the buoys were available, not only measuring wind speed, wind direction and wave height, but also forecasting the water conditions based on modelling and weather forecast. In Plovdiv the developed model was used and in other events derivatives of the existing, comparable, models were created and used.
- Evaluating the new progression system and proposed finetuning for the 2026 season.
- A new Olympic Programme for LA28 is proposed and approved by Council. The aim of this Programme is to enlarge the number of entries in all fields. Especially in the eights where ten entries are now possible. The block Programme accommodates for doubling up from the small boats in to the big boats and vice versa.
- Supported the development.

Focus for 2026

- Continue to prepare new Programmes for World Rowing Championships and World Rowing Cups to enable doubling up and optimise for the new progression system.
- Develop the ranking system as a tool to create sportive incentives by connecting World Rowing events running up to the Championships.
 - Working with supplier to have a first version ready by the first World Cup to compare results with seeding panel.
 - Preparing a planning for development, implementation and communication
 - Prepare rule changes to enable the sportive incentive e.g. Qualification for the World Rowing Championships.
- 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 and work closely with the development director to ensure effective pathways to the World Rowing Championships for developing rowing countries.
 - 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.
 - Continue the planning and implementation process for a coaching conference in 2027.
 - Start a coach educational podcast
- 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 for all the World Rowing 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.
- Support the Water Safety Working Group.

Long term alignment with World Rowing

strategic objectives

Staying relevant as a sport is crucial, and this is directly linked to Olympic participation. World Rowing and national teams receive most of their funding through the four-year Olympic cycle. Consequently, teams theoretically only need to perform twice within this timeframe. To create greater value for Rowing – encompassing rowers, teams, national Olympic committees and World Rowing – the Olympic value should be spread across more events and extended over multiple years. The development of the ranking system aims to connect events and serve as a prerequisite for qualifying for World Rowing Championships and the Olympics. Furthermore, redesigning the event calendar and the events themselves are intended to boost participation and foster continuous storytelling, ultimately building Rowing heroes. This approach should draw more media attention, leading to increased sponsorship and general funding.

Summary

The Commission has worked effectively to contribute to World Rowing events through processes such as the Strategic Events and Calendar Review. Commission members have contributed to the development Programme supporting events and coaches. The Commission members have spent quite some time on strategies to lead Rowing into an era with more attractive competition by changing the progression system, promoting doubling up, and creating sporting incentives.

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 Committee and World Rowing Staff for their continued cooperation.

2025 Commission Members

Peter Cookson (CAN)
 Brett Gorman (USA)
 Nebojsa Ilic (SRB)
 Chris Perry (HKG)
 Faycal Soula (TUN)
 Paul Thompson (AUS)
 Mario Woldt (GER)
 Henk-Jan Zwolle (NED), Chair

EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Mathias Binder (SUI)

The purpose of the Equipment and Technology (E&T) Commission is to support development in the field of Rowing equipment, including the review of new technology, designs and material and its potential application to rowing.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

- Activities in establishing standards for the safety of Rowing equipment and enforce this at World Rowing events
 - E&T Commission members participated in the pre-race para equipment checks at the various World Rowing events with para races together with Para and Umpiring Commissions
- Activities in establishing and ensuring compliance with rules concerning boats and equipment used in Rowing events to which the World Rowing Statutes and Rules of Racing apply
 - Lead in discussion around boat surface that came up at WRCH Shanghai & WRU19CH Trakai
 - Performed boat checks at the Coastal Championships and Beach Sprint Finals
 - Commission members participation at World Cups and WR Championship Regattas
 - Commission members joined the Umpiring Seminars to explain the E&T regulations and updates
 - Oversaw the installation of Athlete & Boat weighing scales and checked their daily calibrations
- Activities to encourage the production of inexpensive Rowing equipment complying with specified standards
 - Support WR development team on discussions for local boat manufacturing
- Activities in surveying equipment in use and produce theoretical material and drawings for Rowing equipment
 - Provided scientific background for the discussion around potential boat surface treatment
- Activities in collecting and reviewing scientific information, relating to equipment and technology, available for the sport of Rowing
 - Leading the discussion on new / updated “electronic rule” (R2 Rule 29) with other Commissions, Council and other stakeholders.
- Activities in being the point of contact with World Rowing for the manufacturers of equipment and technology in the sport of Rowing, including innovations
 - Launched E&T section on WR website
 - Participation of E&T Commission members at the regular equipment and supplier meetings and improved communication with boat builders and other equipment suppliers

- Started discussion around sustainability related to Rowing equipment
- Commission is playing a significant role in the LA2028 Pool boat selection committee for appointment of the official boat providers for the Rowing Coastal Beach Sprints at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games

Focus for 2026

- Create paper around boat surface on Rowing boats with reference to World Rowing rule R2 R28; explain physical basics, environmental aspects, lab tests. The aim of the document is to provide factual information and to educate and make people aware on the interpretation of the rule
- Perform scientific tests of various products for boat surface treatment
- Investigate possibilities to test boat surface
- Leading the discussion on new / updated “electronic rule” (R2 Rule 29) with other Commissions, Council and other stakeholders.
- Participate on establishing standard for Indoor Rowing data
- Continue discussions around Sustainability aspects of Rowing equipment i.e Carbon fibre recycling (Sustainability also in context of the Healthy Waters Alliance)
- Active support in the pool boat selection process for the Beach Sprints LA28 (to support the top priority goal in Coastal)
- Add more E&T related content available on the WR website
- Acquire and introduce new boat weighing scales
- Active support on the evaluation of new technologies on Para equipment, Coastal and Flat water boats

Summary

Thanks to regular virtual meetings there is active exchange of information and discussion on ongoing topics within the Commission.

I am also very proud of my commission. All members strongly supported me in my new role as an Executive Committee member. During regattas, they worked independently, took over my shifts, and kept me well informed whenever needed.

The Commission members have worked effectively to support various commissions during World Rowing events. Thanks to the Commission members 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. I also would like to express my thanks to my Commission.

2025 Commission Members

Mathias Binder (SUI), Chair
Adrian Champion (GBR)
Conny Draper (AUS)
Thomas Ebert (DEN)
Arnoud Greidanus (NED)
Simone Martini (ITA)
Michael Martinov (USA)

EVENTS COMMISSION

Eva Szanto (HUN)

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

Key activities and achievements in 2025

World Rowing Cups and World Championship Regattas:

The two World Rowing Cups in 2025 were hosted by Varese (ITA) and Lucerne (SUI). The new concept was to organise the events two weeks apart with the objective of enhancing participation of teams from other continents by reducing the overall stay in Europe. Out of the 39 participating nations, 17 were non-European in Varese, and 18 out of 44 in Lucerne, which is a slight increase compared to the previous year where this ratio was 16/38 on average.

The 2025 World Rowing Under 23 Championships were held in Poznan (POL), a regular venue to World Rowing events, with experienced organisers. This event faced significant challenges due to the extreme low water level in the lake. In consultation with World Rowing and the Technical Delegate, the Organising Committee made several adaptations to the course infrastructure to make it possible to run the regatta properly and without compromising too much. Their extra efforts and flexibility are much appreciated.

The World Rowing Under 19 Championships were organised in Trakai (LTU) with great success. I need to highlight besides the enthusiasm of the young, ambitious Organising Committee and the flawless organisation, the sustainability project "In balance with nature", a new biodiversity-focused pilot project linked to the event as well as the high quality local production of the live streaming.

World Rowing Championships, Shanghai (CHN) was the highlight Classic Rowing event of the season. The venue and the facilities were of good quality and, complemented with temporary infrastructure, it provided excellent conditions for the teams and the operations.

The Shanghai OC introduced some innovations, and the ceremonies had a special attention. The opening ceremony was spectacular. The victory ceremonies on the final day were unique with a special event held in the centre of Shanghai at the end of the day with the iconic skyline as backdrop. It meant additional complexity both to teams and the OC logistics departments.

Among the main challenges the extreme heat should be mentioned. In the venue set up and in operations, the extreme heat guidelines were followed; still it created difficult conditions for the athletes. Some of the usual on water operations had

to be adjusted, e.g. a shorter training loop for para rowers, to protect athletes. Following a challenge with lane reprioritisation, World Rowing reviewed the internal communication process for the 2026 season.

Overall the 2025 World Rowing Championships in Shanghai were a great success and step up in event delivery.

- Continued improvements were implemented in Sport Presentation. The competition schedules allowed for better fan engagement activities, and a new approach to Victory Ceremonies was introduced. Implementation was smooth due to detailed communication to teams and athletes prior to the events. The new Victory Ceremony format required shorter time, however certain aspects of it need to be reviewed.
- Events Commission members were appointed as Technical Delegates across a range of events, including World Rowing Cups, World Championships, European Championships and the FISU University Summer Games in Duisburg. Working closely with World Rowing Event Managers, they supported Organising Committees through site visits, online meetings and documentation, ensuring consistent standards and practical solutions to deliver regattas to the highest standards. Key operational areas such as Results & Timing, Sport Presentation, Broadcast, Water Safety, Sustainability and Safeguarding, together with strong planning, communication and relationships remained central to successful event delivery.
- We continued with the practice of sharing between Events Commission members and the Events Team through internal consultation and collaboration platforms, online calls, sharing documents and a WhatsApp group for quick communication.
- The onboarding process of new Commission members were supported by shadowing opportunities at events.
- Transfer of knowledge across the Commission to Organising Committees of Rowing regattas also included on several occasions observer Programmes when future organisers visit regattas and see the facilities and operations, have opportunities for consultation with TDs, Event Managers, other key people from World Rowing event delivery team and OC. In order to assist in the event delivery and training of the TDs for the future World Rowing Coastal Rowing events, a TD was assisting the Coastal Rowing Commission TD during the WRBSF in Antalya.
- The TD Training Course syllabus has been created.
- The ongoing excellent cooperation with other World Rowing commissions, especially Athletes, Competitive, Coastal, Umpiring, Para Rowing, Youth, Sports Medicine, Equipment & Technology was essential in the preparation and during delivering events.

- The Commission, through the activities of the TDs, continued to assist Organising Committees implement better survey practices and provide improved course survey reports.
- Continued to improve and have more consistency in the area of water safety. Support from World Rowing staff and external experts and the excellent collaboration with the Sports Medicine Commission was key. The online Incident Reporting Form was introduced at World Rowing and European events.
- When requested, the Commission members provided guidance and actively took part in evaluating plans for new courses or major infrastructure upgrades on existing venues.
- The Events Commission continued its contribution to the Strategic Event and Calendar Review (SECR) process, GEDI Cross Commission, Rules Working Group, Water Safety Working Group.
- During the 2025 season we continued our work on updating the World Rowing Manual, keeping a record of items, which need to be clarified or changed. Improved drawings and 3D illustrations were created.
- The Course Survey Working Group was created, strengthened by the expertise of individuals from other Commissions, staff or contractors. The principles of the new document describing the course survey requirements were identified by the end of the year.

Focus for 2026

- Run all 2026 World Rowing events successfully and contribute to the planning and delivery of the new events, such as the World Rowing Shanghai Sprints.
- 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 University 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.
- Continue contributing to finding hosts for Classic Rowing events and look for ways to include Rowing in multisport games. Continue planning and preparations for LA2028.
- Onboarding new Commission members.
- Continued transfer of knowledge across the Commission to Organising Committees of Rowing regattas; ongoing improvement of the TD training syllabus and training material. Organise a TD training workshop.
- Refine processes and implementation of protocols during events, such as extreme heat protocol, schedule changes or contingencies including lane prioritisation following a Fairness Committee decision.
- Finalise the Course Survey process document and start implementing it.
- Continue to update and restructure the World Rowing Manual.
- Continued contribution to the Strategic Event & Calendar Review process with a clear objective of designing attractive, sustainable events for all stakeholders with a special focus on the organising committees.
- 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. Provide shadowing opportunities for Coastal Rowing Commission TDs at Classic Rowing events and continue with an Events Commission TD assisting at the WRBSF.

- Continue to support the GEDI Cross-Commission, Safeguarding and Environmental/Sustainability initiatives by raising awareness with OCs and including specific discussion topics in site visit agendas.
- Ongoing contribution to the Water Safety working group, implementation of guidelines, refining processes, reporting of incidents, setting up extreme weather protocols, in close collaboration with the Sports Medicine Commission.
- Ongoing contribution to the Rules Working Group.

Summary

The Commission's main goals of successfully delivering the 2025 World Rowing events were achieved despite some extraordinary challenge. The 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 a 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 World Rowing departments for their committed support.

2025 Events Commission Members

Victoria Aguirregomezcorra (ARG)

Joost De Geus (NED)

Pascal Jolly (FRA)

Kirsten Meisner (USA)

Victor Wing Ning NG (HKG)

Bill Schenck (CAN)

Jernej Slivnik (SLO)

Eva Szanto (HUN), Chair

Jennifer Thomson (GBR)

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

The purpose of the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Cross Commission (GEDI CrC) is to oversee and drive delivery of the GEDI Policy and Strategy as it applies to the Commissions. The main activities are to 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.

The year 2025 was the fourth year of the 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.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

- Measurable progress in women's representation across key roles within the international Rowing community.
- Recognition of World Rowing as an IOC GEDI best practice IF.
- The launch of the GEDI dashboard, combining survey data and World Rowing events data, to enable continuous monitoring of relevant gender and diversity development.
- Strengthened development pathways for female officials and board members.
- Advancement of women in coaching through targeted Programmes.
- Sustaining women's development projects while keeping the gender mainstream approach, promoting equal athlete/coach/coach educator representation, at development training and education opportunities.
- Recruiting, selecting and supporting talented participants from different Member Federations and continents for the various international female leadership and coaching courses.

- Data collection (World Rowing Member Federations Survey) to monitor GEDI objectives.
- Embedding GEDI considerations across Commissions and events and, if applicable, in new World Rowing rules and regulations.
- Learnings from the presentations of several experts in and out of our cross Commission.
- The World Rowing Academy provides several (self) learning opportunities relevant for GEDI principles. <https://academy.worldrowing.com/education>
- The World Rowing website and the Academy provide information and actualities relevant for GEDI <https://academy.worldrowing.com>
- Continuous rhythm of meetings: prep meeting, management group, cross commission.

Topics that have been presented and discussed in the GEDI Cross Commission meetings in 2025:

1. 'Key achievements on GEDI objectives from the various Commissions'; all GEDI CrC members.
2. 'The Fulham Reach Boat Club', recipients of the 2024 World Rowing Programme of the Year Award and their approach to an inclusive community and coaching environment and its impact; Adam Freeman-Pask.
3. 'The IOC GEDI Survey', achievements, feedback and recommendations; GEDI team.
4. Updates on the activities (IOC, ASOIF, WISH, IWG) and the results and first analysis from the '2024 World Rowing Member Federations Survey' by Ela Zuvanic.
5. 'GEDI in the continental confederation of Africa (FASA)'; Mehdi Garidi.

Future Focus (2026-2027)

While significant progress has been achieved in advancing GEDI objectives at IF level, opportunities remain to further strengthen impact and implementation across the global Rowing community.

1. Strengthen GEDI implementation at Member Federation and Continental level

While representation and leadership visibility at international level are noteworthy, there remains a significant gap in consistent implementation within MFs and between Continental Confederations. Greater support, guidance, and accountability mechanisms are required to assist in embedding GEDI principles into governance, coaching, officiating, and development structures. To create and support relevant sustainable pathways for women and underrepresented groups at grassroots and emerging federation and continental

level in coaching, officiating, administration, and leadership. Good mutual commitment and cooperation with the Continental Confederations and their representatives and the Member Federations is necessary. The GEDI cross commission will therefore focus their 2026 meetings on presentations from and discussions with the continental representatives and on the exchange of good practices between Member Federations at the WhatsNext2Rowing conference at the World Championships in Amsterdam.

2. Sustain and expand inclusive representation beyond gender balance

Although gender representation in the Council, Executive Committee and the World Rowing staff has become quite steady at or above 50%, the percentage female Commission members is decreasing and was in 2025 less than 30%. Other inclusion considerations are not so well represented at all levels. Continued efforts are needed to ensure that World Rowing structures and Programmes reflect broader diversity and inclusion considerations, including geographic representation, cultural diversity, disability inclusion, socio-economic accessibility, and intersectional perspectives across Commissions, events, and development activities. This includes improving access to education, mentorship, and long-term support structures.

3. Sustain and expand the pathways for female coaches, especially at High Performance (HP) level

With the WISH and network Programmes the number of female coaches at our World Championships level has increased (from 13% in 2023 to 26% in 2025). Continued efforts of development pathways for female coaches will be necessary to develop a good 'pipeline' of new talented female coaches and to further develop the pathways for female HP coaches up to the senior WRC and Olympic level, including the new Olympic Beach Sprint event.

4. Embed GEDI more consistently across organisational culture and decision-making

As gender inequality and insufficient inclusion are systemic errors, you will have to address them systematically. Continued work is required to ensure that GEDI considerations are integrated into our discussions, policies, rules and also in our organisational and operational planning and delivery. This aligns with the broader IOC Gender Equality and Inclusion objectives and principles.

Special thanks to the World Rowing GEDI Cross Commission members (see below) and World Rowing staff support: Monika Briedyte, Mauricie Summers, Pat Lambert, Ludovica Caprino, 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 2025.

2025 GEDI cross Commission members

Victoria Aguirregomezcorta (ARG) - Events Commission
 Esther Briz (ESP) - Athletes Commission
 Inga Daukantiene (LTU) - Masters Commission (March 2025)
 Connie Draper (GER) - Equipment and technology Commission
 Gaurav Dutta (IND) - Para rowing Commission
 Mehdi Garidi (ALG) - Youth Commission
 Brett Gorman (USA) - Competitive Commission- (Oct 2025)
 Donia Koubaa (TUN) - Sports medicine Commission-
 Anna Mguni (ZIM), WR development manager and GEDI support staff
 Jerome Mouly (FRA) - Umpiring Commission
 Linda Muri (USA) - Indoor Commission
 Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED), chair GEDI Commission-
 Marcello Varriale (BRA) - Competitive Commission (Aug 2025)
 Herman van Velze (RSA) - Masters Commission (April 2025)
 Katharina von Kodolitsch (GER) - Coastal Commission

INDOOR ROWING COMMISSION

Filip Ljubicic (SRB)

The purpose of the Indoor Rowing Commission is to aide and encourage the growth of Indoor Rowing, Virtual Rowing, E-rowing and Esports to support World Rowing's Strategy and to differentiate Indoor Rowing, as a standalone discipline of Rowing, while honouring its traditions and history

Key activities and achievements in 2025

- New Progression format at the World Indoor Championships
- Continued development and expansion of partnership with Japan Sport Council through co-hosting the Virtual Sports Forum in Tokyo
- Development and creation of Super60 concept and first ever event in Singapore
- Adapting the Versa Challenge to be a standalone event
- Creation and implementation of a brand new multi month Virtual Series
- Planning and development of format for 2026 Virtual Indoor Championships
- Continue partnership and relationship with multiple stakeholders in the Indoor Rowing ecosystem from apps, manufacturers and hardware providers
- Standardised the event and activities calendar for the discipline

Focus for 2026

- Work towards inclusion and delivery of Indoor Rowing at Olympic Esports Games
- Support the delivery of two World Championships, one virtually and one in-person
- Improve and run the 2nd Virtual Series
- Support development of Indoor Rowing membership Programme
- Continue strengthen our partnership with the Japan Sport Council
- Look at improvement for the World Championships - in-person and virtual
- Continue working with manufacturers and app developers to identify opportunities and promotion within the discipline

Summary

In 2025, our inaugural Indoor Rowing World Championships took place across two weekends in a virtual format, bringing together 2,400 competitors from around the globe. I would like to thank the World Rowing staff, Commission members, and service providers whose efforts delivered an exceptional event.

The 2025 Championships marked the first time we introduced a progression system: Qualifiers -> Continental Heats -> Semi-Finals -> Finals. This gave competitors a meaningful journey to the Finals rather than a single-stage competition. The process began with open qualification, where athletes submitted times over 500m or 2,000m. The top performers in each age category then advanced to the Continental Heats, from which the top 50 globally qualified for the Semi-Finals. From there, the top 20 progressed to the Finals.

This new format spanned both weekends — Heats on Saturday, Semi-Finals and Finals on Sunday — and introduced a tactical dimension that is rarely seen in indoor racing. Athletes had to race strategically across multiple rounds, mirroring the kind of decision-making we see on the water. Following the event, we received valuable feedback and suggestions, many of which are already being incorporated into the 2026 edition.

Another first for the Indoor discipline was the launch of the Virtual Series. Running across four months, the Series presented a new challenge each month, with competitors required to complete it before month's end to earn an overall ranking and age-category placing. For a debut edition, we are pleased with both the participation numbers and the completion rate. For 2026, we plan to increase the cadence to two challenges per month and move to more user-friendly software.

Our partnership with the Japan Sport Council (JSC) continues to strengthen. In March, we co-hosted the second Virtual Sports Forum, where we were able to showcase the growth and potential of virtual sports alongside our partner Ergatta. We remain excited about our ongoing collaboration with the JSC and the shared vision of supporting a path "from High Performance to Life Performance."

As part of Singapore's 60th anniversary celebrations and its Urban Sports and Fitness Festival, World Rowing — together with Sport Singapore and the Singapore Rowing Federation — hosted the new World Rowing Super60 event. This activation travelled across 70 locations throughout Singapore, culminating in a Grand Final at the festival. The event demonstrated powerfully that a 60-second race can open our sport to an entire nation. We are grateful to Sport Singapore and the Member Federation for their partnership in delivering the Super60.

In the area of Esports, 2025 saw us formalise our partnership with Ergatta, a New York-based gaming provider for Rowing machines. Together, we have been developing and showcasing the opportunities that gaming brings to Rowing — most notably at the Virtual Sports Forum and at the Super60 during the Versa Challenge. The Versa Challenge in Singapore featured eight male and eight female athletes competing across five challenges, all powered by new digital interfaces. We look forward to continuing this work with our partners as we help shape the future of Rowing Esports.

Unfortunately, we were unable to bring a recommendation to Council for an in-person event in Q1 2026. While the long-term strategy of World Rowing remains to hold in-person World Championships, given the circumstances the Commission recommended a two-championship model for 2026: a Virtual Championships in Q1 and an In-Person Championships in Q4. To support this expanded calendar, the Commission also proposed introducing new distances and formats alongside the traditional 2,000m. The 2026 Virtual Championships will feature 1-minute, 1,000m, and 5,000m events, while the In-Person Championships will be contested over 2,000m and 500m.

As we move into 2026, we are excited by the continued growth of the Indoor Rowing community and by the prospect of Indoor Rowing fulfilling its potential as a truly global sport for all.

2025 Competition Numbers

World Virtual Indoor Championships = 1,600 entries

Virtual Sprint = 5,000 competitors

2025 Commission Members

Georgia Beattie (AUS)

Mark Davies (GBR)

Mohamed Djebbari (ALG)

Felipe Garcia Pertierra (ESP)

Filip Ljubicic (SRB), Chair

Linda Muri (USA)

Erik Murray (NZL)

Batenga Nakisozi (UGA)

Daisuke Yasui (JPN)

MASTERS ROWING COMMISSION

Ronald Chen (USA)

Purpose

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

Key activities and achievements in 2025

- **2025 World Rowing Masters Regatta (WRMR):**
 - **Location:** Banyoles, Spain, September 10–14, 2025.
 - **Participation:** 3,400 rowers from 50 countries participated, making it as usual the largest regatta organised by World Rowing in 2025.
 - **Scale:** Approximately 763 races were held over five days with over 15,200 seat entries.
 - **Demographics:** Participants ranged from youth-adjacent masters to “Octos” (athletes over 80 years old), with the oldest male being 96 and the oldest female 89.
- **Venue Selection (SEAP Process):** The commission has selected the following venues for upcoming regattas:
 - **2026:** Bled, SLO
 - **2027:** Varese, ITA
 - **2028:** Villach, AUT

Bids have been solicited for 2029 and 2030 which will be awarded by the end of 2026. In keeping with our practice, bids from outside of Europe are particularly welcome in this cycle.

- **Racing Classifications and Standards:**
 - The Commission has published time handicaps drawn from the WRMR results data of the past 10 years, and this time handicaps calculator is now publicly available through Regatta Central.
- **Community and Membership:**
 - In 2025 the World Masters portal (masters.worldrowing.com) was fully implemented providing a number of informational and community services for our Master's rowers. As the portal is expanding we hope to provide further applications to serve as a comprehensive information and communication platform for the global community.
 - The required master's license that fully automates the online verification of eligibility data for each competitor was also successfully deployed, bringing regatta operations up to modern standards.
- **Masters Fund for Youth Rowing:**
 - The commission continues to support this fund through a **€1 per seat contribution** from WRMR competitors, assisting the Youth Rowing Commission in developing the next generation of rowers.

2025 Commission Members

Gary Bain (GBR)
 Ronald Chen (USA), Chair
 Inda 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) at both a national and/or international levels.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

Sustained impact from Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

The momentum generated by the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games has carried strongly into the current cycle. With 104 athletes from 29 Member Federations competing across five medal events—including the successful debut of the PR3 Mixed Double Sculls—the Games reinforced the growing depth, competitiveness, and global reach of Para Rowing.

Feedback from athletes, stakeholders, and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) remained highly positive, further strengthening confidence in the sport's trajectory and its contribution to the Paralympic movement.

Embedding the Para equipment check process

The Para equipment check process is now fully embedded as a standard practice across World Rowing events. Continued collaboration between the Equipment & Technology Commission, Umpiring Commission, and Para Rowing Commission has reinforced a proactive and educational approach.

Athletes and coaches increasingly view the process as a performance and safety support tool, resulting in improved compliance, earlier issue resolution, and greater consistency across competitions. The success of this approach continues to set a strong operational benchmark for future cycles.

Expansion of inclusive Coastal competition

Following successful trial years, the Inclusive Mixed 2x event (one able-bodied and one Para athlete) has now been formally integrated into the World Rowing Coastal Beach Sprint Programme.

Participation levels and competitive standards have continued to rise, demonstrating the scalability and appeal of inclusive racing formats. Building on this success, work is underway to further expand inclusive Coastal opportunities, including the development of additional crew boat formats and eligibility to support broader athlete engagement.

Growth of the PR3 mixed double sculls pathway

The introduction of the PR3 Mixed Double Sculls has proven to be a significant catalyst for global participation. Continued inclusion in qualification pathways and international competition has:

- Expanded access for developing nations
- Increased the number of competitive crews across regions
- Strengthened the overall performance standard

This event continues to play an important role in broadening the reach of Para Rowing within the Paralympic pathway.

Strengthened global participation and development alignment

Participation from Member Federations at World Rowing events remains strong, supported by close alignment with the World Rowing Development Team.

A continued focus on continental opportunities and accessible entry points has enabled more Federations to engage meaningfully in Para Rowing. These efforts are contributing to the development of more sustainable national Programmes and a more competitive international field.

Enhanced communication and stakeholder engagement

The Commission has continued to prioritise transparent and consistent communication with the Para Rowing community. Engagement has been strengthened through:

- Webinars and education sessions
- Coaching conferences
- Direct collaboration with athletes, coaches, umpires, and Member Federations

Monthly Commission meetings, supported by World Rowing staff and subject matter experts, have ensured effective coordination, timely decision-making, and alignment across key initiatives.

Focus for 2026

Strengthening integration across all disciplines

Continue to advance the full integration of Para Rowing across Classic, Coastal, and Indoor disciplines. This includes advocating for consistent standards, accessible competition environments, and inclusive event design across all formats of the sport.

Enhancing Paralympic positioning and strategic alignment

Work collaboratively with World Rowing leadership to ensure Para Rowing is clearly positioned within the broader organisational strategy, with a strong and visible connection to the Paralympic Games.

A key priority will be strengthening engagement with the IPC to support long-term Programme stability and growth toward the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games and beyond.

Expanding global participation pathways

Further develop sustainable participation pathways across all regions by:

- Supporting emerging Federations
- Reducing barriers to entry
- Expanding competitive opportunities across U23, Senior, Masters, and continental events

This work will span all Rowing disciplines to ensure consistent and inclusive growth.

Deepening cross-commission collaboration

Strengthen integration within World Rowing by establishing clear Para representation and advocacy across all commissions.

This approach will ensure that Para considerations are proactively embedded in decision-making related to events, safety, coaching, and athlete development.

Summary

The Para Rowing Commission continues to benefit from strong collaboration with the Executive Committee, Council, and World Rowing staff. This collective approach has reinforced a shared commitment to inclusion and has supported meaningful progress across multiple areas of the sport.

Looking ahead, a key priority will be to further strengthen the relationship with the IPC and ensure Para Rowing remains a visible and valued component of the broader Rowing landscape.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Para Rowing Commission. Their expertise, commitment, and collaborative approach continue to drive the advancement of Para Rowing worldwide. It is a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated group in support of the sport's continued growth.

2025 Commission Members

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

SPORTS MEDICINE COMMISSION

Juergen Steinacker (GER)

The purpose of the Sports Medicine Commission (SMC) is to oversee and advise on all medical and anti-doping aspects related to Rowing.

Key Activities and Achievements in 2025

Prof. Juergen Steinacker and Prof Jo Hannafin have both retired from the SMC on Dec 31 2025. We are deeply grateful and indebted to them for their significant contributions and commitment to the SMC and the health and safety of all World Rowing members over the last 25 years.

Activities to oversee and advise on medical, health and safety services at World Rowing Championships and World Rowing Cup regattas using Commission members or World Rowing-certified volunteer medical physicians

World Rowing Event Doctors — Our Commission members continued their service at regattas as the World Rowing Doctor in accordance with the Bye-Law to Rule 38. European members provided oversight at the European Rowing events.

For 2025 the World Rowing physician attended online meetings with the organising committees at 3 months and 6 weeks pre event to help ensure planning was progressing and consistent with World Rowing guidelines.

Event medical requirements including medical supplies, facilities and equipment have been updated to reduce the burden on the OC whilst ensuring continued safety of participants

Representation — The Chair represented World Rowing at the following events:

- IOC Medical Chairpersons meeting
- 5 Council meetings (online and in presence)
- World Rowing and ITA meeting on Anti-Doping
- Sport Accord Meeting, Lausanne

Activities to investigate and promote the prevention of rowing-related injuries and health issues

Prof Fiona Wilson and Dr Larissa Trease are conducting an international delphi study on the management of rib stress injuries in rowing.

SMC have implemented a formal injury and illness recording and surveillance process at all World Rowing regattas to better understand injury and illness burden and patterns at regattas. This has been in place for the last 4 Coastal and Beach Sprint Finals, providing valuable data to improve athlete safety.

- Activities to formulate and publish best practice guidelines for medical and health services and environmental issues

Bye-Law to Rule 13 – men's and women's events:

- The revision of the Bye-Laws proposed to the Congress included:
 - the principle, that the sex assignment at birth determines the primary sex of an athlete and any changes in sex 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 sex is female
 - World Rowing sees no need for a transgender category
 - Only MF's or the World Rowing Executive Committee can challenge an athlete's sex assignment 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
 - The Gender Advisory panel multidisciplinary group that includes specialists in the areas of sex identification, sex-reassignment, hyperandrogenism, transgender and differences of sexual development (DSD) with SMC chair as the convenor.
- The **heat guidelines** were further updated.
- 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 World Rowing water safety panel are SMC Chair, Prof.Hiura and Dr Wilkinson.
- **Water quality review.** According to the WR water quality guideline, organisers have to provide water quality data to WR which are reviewed by SMC (Prof. Steinacker). 28 venues have been monitored in the event attribution process.
- **Injury study on Coastal Rowing** (Dr. Fiona Wilson, Dr. Kate Ackerman)
- **SMC Report on Lightweight Rowing** submitted (Dr. Hiura)
- **Human Research Guideline** was submitted to Council
 - SMC reviews scientific proposals for human studies for WR
 - Recommendations for registrations of studies

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

Activities to provide basic medical and health education to coaches

SMC members continue to provide online live education sessions to the coaches at the L2 Performance Coach programs.

Activities to provide advice and recommendations upon request to the Council, Coaches Conference, and Member Federations

Through the working groups and attendance at IOC, IPC and ASOIF medical meetings the SMC members provide regular updates to Council on issues and developments as they occur. SMC members (Dr Wilkinson and Steinacker) have been attending IOC and ASOIF meetings on the IOC "Protection of the Female Category Policy" development and issues.

Activities to advise World Rowing on guidelines and policies for anti-doping activities and supervise anti-doping controls at World Rowing events

Members of the ADP in 2025: Sports Medicine Commission Chair Dr Jürgen Steinacker, World Rowing Executive Director, Council Member Dr Lenka Dienstbach Wech, Sports Medicine Commission Member Dr Mike Wilkinson.

Management

SMC meetings in 2025: five online meetings

SMC Hybrid meeting 13.03. 2025 in Lausanne, in preparation of the Quadrennial Congress

Published guidelines:

Concussion guideline

Focus for 2026

Dr Mike Wilkinson was elected to succeed Prof Juergen Steinacker as the chair of the SMC from Jan 1 2026. In addition to our core mandate of ensuring the health and safety for participants at World Rowing events we have identified the following priorities for 2026.

- Web development and communications – improvement of the SMC web page to provide an easily accessible source for Rowing related resources, research and guidelines
- SMC Para working group members will work closely with the Para commission to enhance medical screening, classification and promotion of PARA Rowing around the world.
- Education (including Development Coaches) – increased education at the performance coach programs plus collaboration with the development department to refine and update medical and scientific course content.
- Research – Co-ordination and dissemination – we will continue to engage in Rowing related research and summarise the key findings on the web page for rapid reference
- Heat Protocols and protocol enforcement at regattas – the heat protocols will continue to be updated including specific guidelines for youth and para athletes. New guidelines and protocols will include the requirements for

reheat decks" and treatment protocols at high risk events.

- Female Category and SRY testing – SMC members will work with the IOC, ASOIF and World Rowing governance, RWG to develop a plan for implementation, required rule changes and guidance for member federations on the implementation of the new IOC rule for SRY testing.
- Anti Doping – ITA collaboration – in addition to the ADP panel the chair of the SMC and the World Rowing Anti Doping Manager will implement regular meetings with ITA to ensure closer collaboration and communications
- Standardised event Surveillance, Documentation and injury incident reports will be implemented at all World Rowing regattas for longitudinal monitoring and analysis.

2025 Members of the Commission

Dr Aaron Baggish (SUI)
 Prof Dr. Jo Hannafin (USA)
 Prof. Dr. Mikio Hiura (JPN)
 Dr. Donia Koubaa (TUN)
 Dr Marko Kusurin (CRO)
 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)
 Prof Hoon Han Seung (KOR)
 Joanne Harper (GB / USA)
 Dr. Piero Poli (ITA)
 Prof. Dr. Fiona Wilson (IRL)

European Members

Dr. Henning Bay Nielsen (DEN)
 Dr Pierre Goudett (FRA)
 Prof. Dr. Konstantinos Ditsios (GRE)
 Dr Maria Wolff (POL)

Former chair and permanent guest:

Dr. Alain Lacoste; France

Event	Location	Date	World Rowing Doctor
European Rowing Under 19 Championships	Kruszwiza, POL	24-25 May	Dr. Pierre Goudet
European Rowing Championships	Plovdiv, BUL	29 May - 01 June	Dr. Marko Kuserin
World Rowing Cup	Varese, ITA	13-15 June	Prof. Jo Hannafin Dr. Piero Poli
World Rowing Cup	Lucerne, SUI	27-29 June	Prof. Dr. Aaron Baggish
World Rowing Under 23 Championships	Poznan, POL	23 - 27 July	Prof. Dr. Seung Hoon Han
World Rowing Under 19 Championships	Trakai, LTU	06 - 10 August	Dr. Donia Koubaa
European Rowing Under 23 Championships	Racice, CZE	06 - 07 September	Dr. Petra Zupet
World Rowing Championships	Shanghai, CHN	21-28 September	Prof. Mikio Hiura, Prof. Dr. Juergen Steinacker
European Rowing Beach Sprint Finals and Coastal Championships	Antalya, TUR	27 - 28 September	Prof. Henning Bay-Nielsen
World Rowing Coastal Championships & Beach Sprint Finals	Antalya, TUR		Dr. Mike Wilkinson

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UMPIRING COMMISSION

Angela ALONSO (ESP)

The purpose of the Umpiring Commission is to standardise umpiring and to continuously improve the quality of umpiring, in particular at World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas and Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games and relevant qualification regattas, and at international events (regattas, sprints, Para Rowing, Indoor, Coastal, Beach Sprint, etc.) and to promote umpiring throughout the world.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

Last year's report set out four priorities for 2025: widening global access to training and exams; ensuring consistency in rule implementation; advancing sustainability and gender equality; and supporting jury performance and event preparedness. This report reflects on progress in each of those areas, alongside the full range of Commission activities during the year.

Jury selection

The Commission selected juries for all World Rowing events in 2025, including World Rowing Championships and World Rowing Cups. Jury selection was also provided for the FISU Rowing Championships. Selection continued to be guided by the criteria approved by the Executive Committee, with gender balance and geographic diversity as standing considerations in all appointments.

Jury support and event delivery

The Commission was present at all World Rowing events throughout the year. Beyond the formal supervisory role, the Commission's focus was on supporting umpires and event teams directly, through preparatory communication and on-site guidance. Regular Commission meetings throughout the year provided the space for pre-event preparation and post-event follow-up. The quality of jury operations was consistent across a demanding calendar, and no significant issues were reported at any event.

Global access to education and development

One of the 2025 priorities was to widen access to training and examinations across all regions, and this was delivered in full. The Commission organised 13 in-person seminars, 2 online seminars and 6 online clinics, a Programme that balanced geographic reach with accessibility for umpires who face barriers related to travel or resources. New content reflecting recent rule changes was integrated into the World Rowing Academy, contributing to a more structured and scalable education pathway for the umpiring community worldwide. Particular attention was also given to making in-person seminars more practical, moving beyond theory to give umpires hands-on experience and tools they can apply directly in their role.

Examinations and umpire development

Four International Umpire examinations were conducted across Europe, Asia and the Americas. Eleven new umpires qualified, with women well represented among them. At the close of 2025, the global pool of International Umpires stood at 496 (168 women and 328 men). Maintaining and growing this pool, while improving gender balance and universality of representation, remains a central objective for the Commission.

Monitoring and qualification tracking

The Commission monitors the qualifications and status of International Umpires on an ongoing basis. The global pool is tracked annually, with attention to regional distribution, gender balance, and age profile. No formal changes to the monitoring system were introduced in 2025. Strengthening this area, particularly the tools available to assess umpire development over time, is identified as a priority for 2026.

Consistency in rule application

Ensuring consistent implementation of the updated Rules of Racing and the new progression system was a key priority entering 2025. The result was encouraging: no significant issues were identified at any World Rowing event during the year. This reflects the alignment between educational preparation and on-field delivery, an alignment that does not happen automatically, but requires ongoing attention to seminar content, examiner calibration, and pre-event and event communication with juries.

Support to new disciplines

Beach Sprints, Coastal and Indoor Rowing continued to grow in 2025, and the Commission's support grew with them. These disciplines were addressed specifically in seminars, and umpiring presence was maintained at their events. The Commission also worked to define and develop the role of International Umpires in these formats, in cooperation with other Commissions as appropriate. As these disciplines gain in reach and profile, the umpiring standards that underpin them must keep pace.

Development activities

The Commission continued to support the implementation of the Umpiring Development Programme at regional level, with activities across all continents.

In the Americas, the Central America and Caribbean Regional Umpire Project — delivered in collaboration with World Rowing Development — reached five countries and approximately 130 participants. This project has created the first generation of Regional Umpires in the region and will continue in 2026.

In Africa, the Commission was active in several contexts: umpiring training was delivered in Togo in July; a Commission member served as President of Jury at the 16th Tunis Lake International Regatta in October; and the African West Championships in Benin also benefited from Commission support. These activities reflect a sustained effort to develop umpiring capacity across the African continent.

In Asia, the Commission provided direct support to umpire development in China on two occasions during the year, with a particular focus on Beach Sprints, a discipline growing rapidly in the region.

In Europe, Commission members contributed to umpire development across several countries in Central and Northern Europe, supporting examination preparation through clinics and participating in national and regional seminars, sharing updates on rule changes and World Rowing developments.

Contribution to rules and governance

The Commission participated actively in the Rules Working Group throughout 2025, ensuring that rule developments were accurately and promptly reflected in seminar content and educational materials. This work, while less visible than event delivery, is essential to the consistency of umpiring across all competitions. The Commission also contributed to other governance working groups as appropriate and engaged with the European Rowing Umpiring Commission, with preparatory work leading to formal membership changes approved by the ER Board.

Focus for 2026

The Commission's priorities for 2026 are directly aligned with World Rowing's strategic objectives of expanding the reach of the sport, supporting sustainable development, and ensuring modern and effective governance across all disciplines.

Maintaining and developing the global pool of International Umpires, with a focus on gender balance and universality of representation, supporting World Rowing's commitment to sustained development and global reach.

Expanding access to umpiring education, with increased use of the World Rowing Academy and continued delivery of in-person and online seminars across all regions.

Strengthening consistent rule application across all disciplines and event types.

Improving monitoring and feedback mechanisms to better support umpire performance and development over time.

Continuing regional development activities, including the second phase of the Central America and Caribbean project and sustained engagement in Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Supporting the growth of Beach Sprints, Coastal and Indoor Rowing, ensuring that umpiring standards develop in line with these disciplines, and with World Rowing's objective of making these disciplines thrive and grow their global audience.

Members of the Umpiring Commission in 2025

Angela ALONSO FERNANDEZ (ESP), Chair
 Marisol ALVARADO (GUA)
 Kris GRUDT (USA)
 Ines HAMMAMI HAFSA (TUN)
 Morten Juel HANSEN (DEN)
 Nick HUNTER (AUS)
 Jercyl Leilani LERIN (PHI)
 Vladimir MEGLIC (SLO)
 Jerome MOULY (FRA)
 Stefanie PALFNER (GER)
 Anna WIDUN (POL)

YOUTH ROWING COMMISSION

Axel Mueller (GER)

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.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

- The Commission held ten virtual meetings during the year to discuss and exchange relevant information and prepare key points for representing the interests of Youth Rowing in the Council.
- The Commission proposed the introduction of seeding for the U19 and U23 World Rowing Championships, which from our point of view was a positive approach to spread potential fast crews at the heats. The Chair Axel Müller became part of the 2025 Seeding Panel.
- Event support and management – The Chair and Commission members attended the World Rowing U19 Championships in Trakai and U23 Championships in Poznan to assist and advise during the events:
 - A coaches meeting was organised to share statistics and discuss relevant items, as well as receiving feedback from the coaches to provide future recommendations to the Executive Committee and other Commissions at both Championships
 - Barb Grudt participated at the FISU University Games in Duisburg forming part of the Fairness Committee, providing advice and assisting the organising committee.
 - Jennifer Fitzpatrick participated for the first time at the U23 World Championships as Commission member overseeing the event and assisting the Fairness Committee.
 - Mehdi Garidi was part of the Fairness Committee at the U23 World Championships and continued to fulfil his role as Continental Representative for Africa.
 - Zhongming Huang as Safeguarding Officer at the U19 World Rowing Championships in Trakai and was part of the Integrity Booth educator team.
 - U19 development crew supported by the Masters fund: coach Batenga Nakisozi (UGA) and 16 years old single sculler Marcel Otim (UGA)

support.

- Assist and advise at World Rowing Under 23 Championships, Duisburg (GER)
- Assist and advise at World Rowing Under 19 Championships, Plovdiv (BUL)
- Assist and advise at the YOG Dakar 2026, Dakar (Senegal)
- Fairness and Safeguarding assistance at World Rowing events
- Seeking for potential organisers of World Rowing Youth Coaches Conferences
- Monitor statistics and trends in Youth Rowing events, including Coastal Beach Sprints

2025 Commission members

Antonio COLAMONICI (ITA)
 Jamie FERNANDEZ (AUS)
 Jennifer FITZPATRICK (CAN)
 Mehdi GARIDI (ALG)
 Barbara GRUDT (USA)
 Zhongming HUANG (CHN)
 Axel MUELLER (GER), Chair
 Olga TARASOVA (BLR)

Focus for 2026

- Explore a collaboration with the International Schools Sport Federation to include Rowing.
- Masters Fund for Youth Rowing Project: continue to support Coach Batenga Nakisozi (UGA) and single sculler Marcel Otim (UGA) and looking for more candidates to



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Continental Representatives

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Continental Representatives shall be appointed by Council, for each of the following continents: Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and The Americas upon proposal by the Executive Committee. Before making these appointments, Council may consult the Member Federations concerned. The Continental Representatives shall represent World Rowing in their continent. (article 37)

Duties of the Continental Representative (Appendix S7 – Bye-Laws to Article 42 Duties of Council Members)

The Continental Representatives:

- a. Represent World Rowing within their continent;
- b. 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;
- c. Promote and support development initiatives and advise World Rowing on Rowing development within their continent;
- d. Observe the major international regattas held within their continent;
- e. In case of non-observance of the Statutes and Rules of Racing in their continent, submit reports to the Executive Committee;
- f. Submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose, they may request reports from the Member Federations within their continent;
- g. Submit to the Executive Committee reports and minutes of meetings attended within their continent, where those meetings relate to their World Rowing responsibilities

Co-opted Members

Up to three Co-opted members shall be appointed by Council upon proposal by the Executive Committee, in principle, to complement the skill set of Council (article 37)

Duties of the Co-opted Members (Appendix S7 – Bye-Laws to Article 42 – Duties of Council Members)

The Co-opted Members

- a. May be assigned specific duties by the President as required
- b. Submit a report to the Ordinary Congress each year.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFRICA

Mehdi Garidi (ALG)

Key activities and achievements in 2025

For 2025, among many key strategic objectives, our focus was on

- A record number of 7 continental events were successfully organised across all the African continent, with a total of 16 African Member Federations taking part in the different events
 - The East Africa Regional Beach Sprint Rowing championships in Uganda, 6-8 June 2025, 4 NFs participated KEN, MAW, UGA, ZIM
 - The African School Games, Algeria 23-31 July 2025, 5 NFs participated ALG, EGY, TOG, TUN, ZIM
 - The West Africa Regional Rowing championships in Benin, 13-19 September 2025, 5 NFs participated BEN, CIV, NGR, SEN, TOG
 - The 16th Tunis lake International regatta, 05 October 2025
 - The African Beach Sprint championships South Africa, 28-29 October 2025, 12 NFs participated, ALG, ANG, BEN, EGY, LES, LBA, MAR, TUN, RSA, ZAM, ZIM, SRL
 - The African Rowing Championships South Africa, 1-2 November 2025, 9 NFs participated ALG, ANG, BEN, EGY, LBA, MAR, TUN, RSA, ZIM
 - The Youth African Games, Angola, 15-21 December 2025, 7 NFs participated ALG, ANG, KEN, SEN, TUN, ZAM, ZIM
- Assisting African teams, athletes and coaches to participate in the international and continental championships
 - World Rowing U23 Championships Poznan, 5 teams participated ALG, MAR, TUN, SOM, ZIM
 - World Rowing U19 Championships Lithuania, 1 team participated, TUN
 - World Rowing Championships Shanghai 4 teams participated EGY, SUD, TOG, TUN
 - World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals, Turkiye 2 African teams participated MAR, TUN
 - West Africa Regional Rowing Championships in Benin, 5 teams participated BEN, CIV, NGR, SEN, TOG
 - East Africa Regional Rowing Championships in Uganda, 4 teams participated KEN, MAW, UGA, ZIM
 - African Beach Sprint Championships South Africa, 12 NFs participated, ALG, ANG, BEN, EGY, LES, LBA, MAR, TUN, RSA, ZAM, ZIM, SRL
- Several educational courses were delivered to different African MFs in Uganda, Egypt and Togo.
- Participation of a candidate from Uganda in the WISH Programme

- Boat donations were made to Nigeria, and Angola MFs, this will provide more opportunities in the region
- Continued collaboration with FASA to improve governance, significant progress was made toward good governance in FASA
- Improve and strengthen communication with Member Federations, NOCs and ANOCA.

Events

In 2025 I attended the following events:

- World Rowing Quadrennial Congress, Lausanne March 2025, it was an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss with the African Member Federations delegates
- World Rowing U23 Championship in Poznan Poland where I was a member of the Fairness commission
- World Rowing Championships in Shanghai China as Council member, it was also the opportunity to meet with the African teams.
- World Rowing Congress in Shanghai China as a World Rowing Council member.
- The African Rowing Championships held 1-2 November 2025 in Roodplaate Dam South Africa. It was an excellent opportunity to meet the teams, officials, coaches, athletes from all Africa to strengthen the relationship and develop collaboration opportunities
- The East Africa Regional Beach Sprint Championships in Uganda, 06-08 June 2026. development support was provided to 4 teams. This event featured Classic and Beach Sprint Rowing it was the opportunity for the African teams to race in good conditions, both venues were at walking distance from the hotel.

Development

The key development activities delivered in Africa are as follows:

- Uganda, a L1 Coaching Course, was organised from 02-06 June, 12 M, 6 F coaches from Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Egypt, a L1 Coaching Course, was organised from 07-12 July in Egypt 15 M, 1 F Egyptian coach participated in this course
- Togo, L1 Coaching Course, was organised from 12-18 July 12 M, 3 F coaches from Togo participated in this course
- Nigeria – Boat donation was made and finally delivered in May 2025 as part of a DNSS project concluded in 2025
- Angola – Boat donation was made as part of the contribution to the Youth African Games 2025, the boats were delivered in December 2025

Governance

In terms of Governance significant progress were made in 2025

- Improved governance in FASA, commissions have been activated and structured, work still to be done to involve
- FASA Council and Executive meetings were held regularly, agenda and minutes circulated on time
- Ongoing procedures taken to recover FASA accounts in Egypt while the temporary account is open in Lausanne with the support of World Rowing
- Action was taken to collect the annual Membership fees, more Member Federations are cooperating and paying their dues
- A strategic Event Calendar 2025-2028 is being put in place to improve planning, preparation and delivery, taking into consideration all major events, World Rowing, African, Commonwealth, Mediterranean and other Games which allows a better MFs preparation and participation.

Focus for 2026

For 2026 our main objectives are as follows:

- Organise successfully the different Continental events
 - The African Rowing Championships, Tunisia October 2026
 - The African Beach Sprint Championships, Egypt, November 2026
 - The 17th Tunis lake International regatta, October 2026
 - The 2026 East Africa Regional Rowing Championships, (tbc)
 - The 2026 West Africa Regional Rowing Championships, Togo, June 2026
- Assist the African NFs, athletes and coaches to participate in the international and continental championships (via SO)
- Assist and cooperate with the OCs of the future major Games to be held in Africa, namely, the 2027 African Games to be held in Egypt and the African Beach Games to be held in Equatorial Guinea in 2027, 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 World Rowing and FASA Umpiring commission to deliver umpiring education
- Assist on the Review process of the FASA Statutes
- Assist FASA to improve governance practice and procedures on all governance aspect and events management process
- Collaborate with FASA on the activation and delivery of the World Rowing Grant in the framework of the Continental Confederation Collaboration project
- Assist on the Organisation of the FASA Ordinary General Assembly 2026, date and location TBC

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE AMERICAS

Victoria Aguirregomezcorta (ARG)

Key activities and achievements in 2025

Among many key strategic objectives, the focus was on sustained support to continental events, which reflect on

- Beach Sprint Technical Delegate workshop in Costa Rica, successfully bringing 5 continental TDs for Beach Sprint events
- Beach Sprint Coaches and TD education course in Mar del Plata, ARG to inaugurate a development pole
- Collaboration in coastal boats purchase and coastal rowing development pole in ARG
- Strengthened connections with Member Federations and COPARE for improved staging and delivery of events
- Ongoing meetings with COPARE to prepare and plan events and statutes update.

1. Events

In 2025 I attended the following events:

- World Rowing Quadrennial Congress in Lausanne, which also held a Continental Confederations workshop
- Junior PanAm Games qualification regatta followed by South American Championships in Asunción, PAR
- III Copa America in Lima, PER
- Beach Sprints American Championships in Punta Leona, CRC
- Junior PanAm Games in Asunción, PAR
- World Rowing Championships in Shanghai, CHN

2. Development

The key development activities delivered in Americas are as follows:

Costa Rica, Beach Sprint Technical Delegate workshop issuing certificates to candidates from CRC, ECU and PAR

Argentina, Beach Sprint coaches course with technical input to over 20 participants from ARG, PER and URU featuring first Beach Sprint national championships.

Coastal boats donation delivery to Argentina to build local and strengthen continental development of discipline

3. Governance

1. Connection with Continental Rowing Confederation was stronger and communications were more regular, in consideration of the Statutes update pathway
2. Opportunities for discussing strategic goals and calendarization of events emphasized umpiring, U23 development, safeguarding and leadership role model planification.
3. Ongoing leadership of Continental Rowing Confederation collaboration, with support to roll out a solid constitution.

Focus for 2026

1. Continue to encourage updates and inclusion of new policies in all Member Federations
2. Continue to encourage development of training, education and race opportunities for all disciplines, targeting best approach for each national context.
3. Provide support to Development Team for delivery of education Programmes, training camps and mentoring.
4. Safeguarding: continue to raise awareness and provide instruments for inclusion of policies.
5. Support Member Federations in the staging and delivery of Coastal and Beach Sprint events, which includes TDs, Coaches and Umpires education as well.
6. Participate in COPARE meetings to progress upgrading statutes, reporting and transparency, in view of Lima 2027.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ASIA

Fay Ho Kim Fai (HKG)

Introduction

As Senior Vice President of the Asian Rowing Federation (ARF) and World Rowing Continental Representative for Asia, I have continued during the year to work closely with the ARF Executive Committee and World Rowing in support of competition, development, education and governance across the region.

Asia remains a highly diverse Rowing continent, with wide differences in scale, resources, technical level and institutional capacity among Member Federations. This continues to require a balanced approach: supporting stronger Federations in maintaining momentum and standards, while also helping developing Federations build the structures, skills and opportunities needed for long-term progress.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

Progress was made on the main priorities identified for 2025, although a number of areas will require continued attention.

Communication and coordination

Regular communication through emails, virtual meetings, webinars, conference calls and the ARF website helped maintain alignment between World Rowing, ARF and Member Federations. In particular, regular development catch-up meetings involving myself, the World Rowing Development Team and ARF officers in February, May, June and December improved continuity and follow-up on key initiatives.

Coach education

Coach education remained one of the most important practical tools for raising standards across the continent. During the year, World Rowing Level 1 courses were delivered in Singapore in January, Hong Kong in April and May, and Indonesia in November, helping to widen access to technical education across the region.

Events and competition

Work continued on strengthening the regional competition calendar and improving coordination with World Rowing and neighbouring regions. Event bidding procedures were reviewed, but Event Organiser education has not yet been fully rolled out. This remains an important next step, particularly for newer or less experienced hosts.

Regional coordination and Olympic Solidarity

Calendar coordination improved, but remains challenging because of competing domestic priorities, limited hosting capacity in some Federations and late submission of bids. Continued encouragement was also given to Member Federations to make better use of Olympic Solidarity opportunities through closer engagement with their National Olympic Committees.

Para Rowing

In April, discussions took place on the possibility of creating a more regular Para Rowing hub in Asia. Progress in this area remains difficult because of budget limitations and the fact that para sport structures are often managed separately from the Rowing federation. Preparatory work also supported an APC presentation later delivered by the Development Team and very positively received.

Integrity and anti-doping education

The International Testing Agency (ITA) and World Rowing seminar series held in October helped reinforce integrity and anti-doping education across the region and remains an important part of athlete and federation development. Overall, these areas remain strategically important because they affect not only sporting performance, but also access to public support, institutional credibility and long-term sustainability.

Continued investment in education, competition opportunities and better coordination remains essential if Asia is to continue reducing the gap with the more established Rowing regions.

Events

The main events attended during the period were as follows:

- Official visit for the Chinese Olympic Committee, Beijing, China (March)
- 2032 Rockhampton site visit, Brisbane, Australia (August)
- Development Youth Training Camp, Zhoushan, China (6–11 September)
- Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Finals, Zhoushan, China (11–14 September)
- World Rowing Championships and Congress, Shanghai, China (21–29 September)
- Asian Rowing Championships and Congress, Hai Phong, Vietnam (16–19 October)

My role across these events included observation, representation of World Rowing, advisory support and liaison with ARF officers, organisers and host Federations. Event delivery standards continue to improve in the stronger host nations, and the integration of development activity alongside competition has shown clear value, particularly in youth and coastal disciplines. Special note should be made of the outstanding work of the Vietnamese Federation in hosting the Asian Rowing Championships successfully at very short notice.

Development

Development work during the year included youth coastal beach sprint activity, anti-doping education, coaching courses and regular coordination meetings linked to ARF events and World Rowing priorities. In particular, the youth coastal beach sprint activity in China provided a useful example of how development and event activity can be combined effectively to support athlete exposure and growth. The Level 1 coaching courses delivered in Singapore in January and Hong Kong in April and May, together with regular coordination meetings including the ARF and Development online meeting in February, helped strengthen alignment between practical development activity and the wider ARF calendar.

Governance

Governance remained an important area of focus during the year. Through my participation on the ARF Executive Committee, discussion was initiated on closer alignment with accepted international governance standards. The World Rowing-led Continental Confederation Collaboration Project, including the workshop on 16 March 2025, was particularly valuable in clarifying the role of Continental Representatives and in strengthening coordination between World Rowing and the continental bodies.

A gap analysis comparing the current ARF Statutes with ASOIF governance guidelines was also circulated. At the same time, 2026 presents a particularly sensitive context for governance work. It is an Asian Games year and also the year of the quadrennial ARF Congress elections. Those elections may lead to significant changes in ARF elected officers and committee membership and, depending on the Federation of the incoming President, could also result in relocation of the ARF office and secretariat. For that reason, careful judgement will be needed on the timing of governance investments and on whether any significant statute changes should be pursued before the elections or carried forward for consideration by the incoming Executive after the transition.

Focus for 2026

The main priorities for Asia in 2026 are to continue strengthening competition and training opportunities for Member Federations, implement Level 2 Coach Education modules, improve annual calendar coordination, encourage more Asian Federations to host events through targeted Event Organiser education, and continue developing Para Rowing structures and pathways. A further objective will be to use Continental Confederation grants in a way that better connects World Rowing strategic priorities with ARF regional needs. Governance will also remain an important priority, but the timing and sequencing of governance projects will require care. Building on the Continental Confederation Collaboration Project, Asia should continue to improve governance frameworks, reporting and transparency and consider future statute review. Particular care will be needed in view of the possible post-Congress transition in elected officers, committee membership and secretariat arrangements.

Taken together, these priorities are intended to support World Rowing's broader strategic objectives by strengthening standards, improving opportunities, enhancing governance and helping to build a more sustainable and better connected Rowing system across Asia.

Any other business

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Member Federations of Thailand, China and Vietnam for hosting key events during the year. I also thank the ARF President, the Executive Committee, the ARF staff and secretariat and the World Rowing Development Team for their continued support and cooperation.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EUROPE

Dušan Macháček (CZE)

Key activities and achievements in 2025

In 2025, the main European Championships in Classic Rowing and in Coastal / Beach Sprint Rowing were successfully staged in Europe. The exception remains the European Rowing Indoor Championships, for which no organiser was found for either 2025 or 2026. This confirms that Indoor Rowing has considerable potential in Europe, but needs a clearer model in terms of event hosting, financial sustainability and the relationship between the in-person and virtual formats.

The following main European Championships took place in 2025:

- **European Rowing Under 19 Championships**, Kruszwica, POL, **24–25 May 2025**;
- **European Rowing Championships**, Plovdiv, BUL, **29 May–1 June 2025**;
- **European Rowing Under 23 Championships**, Račice, CZE, **6–7 September 2025**;
- **European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships**, Manavgat / Antalya, TUR, **8–12 October 2025**.

In March 2025, the **European Rowing Presidents' Meeting** was held in Ghent. This traditional platform remains important for regular consultation between World Rowing, the European Rowing Board and the Member Federations. It enables open discussion on strategic priorities, the competition calendar, the development of new disciplines, funding, sustainability and cooperation between Federations.

On 16 March 2025, I actively participated in the **Workshop with Continental Confederation Presidents and World Rowing Continental Representatives**. The meeting was important for exchanging experience between continents, aligning expectations between World Rowing and the continental structures, and discussing the future role of Continental Representatives and Confederations.

Good cooperation with the other Continental Representatives continued, particularly on the development of new disciplines, coach and umpire education, sustainable event hosting and support for smaller Member Federations.

I also highly value the cooperation with the World Rowing Development Team. In the European context, it is particularly valuable that long-standing personal relationships with representatives of National Federations and organisers of European Championships can be used effectively. Through direct communication, working groups and digital channels, Federations received information on development support, education modules, applications, questionnaires and other calls for participation.

Work also continued on the European strategic priorities for 2025–2028. These include support for Member Federations, the competition calendar, the development of new disciplines,

sustainability, funding and governance. The priorities also include the intention to create a **European Rowing Digital Community**, which should help share competition and training opportunities, good practice and information on funding.

Strategic goals for Europe

Europe is a strong and well-organised Rowing continent, with a functioning **European Rowing Confederation**, close cooperation with World Rowing and a dense network of regattas at different levels. The main strategic priority is to maintain the strong position of Classic Rowing while also developing Coastal Rowing, Beach Sprint Rowing and Indoor Rowing.

Coastal Rowing and Beach Sprint Rowing are growing rapidly in Europe and are gradually developing into a more independent branch of Rowing, with their own event, coaching, umpiring and technical needs. This development is positive, but it requires a specific development strategy and a realistic model for organising championships.

It is also important to support traditional regional and **sub-continental regattas**, especially Coupe de la Jeunesse, Baltic Cup and Balkan Rowing Championships, which provide young athletes with accessible international racing experience and strengthen cooperation between Federations.

From the perspective of media visibility, it is regrettable that it was not possible to organise the multisport European Championships in 2026 in a format similar to Munich 2022. The individual sports therefore continue in separate formats.

Challenges & priorities

Indoor Rowing remains a significant challenge. Digital training and racing platforms create new opportunities for athletes, clubs, schools and the wider public, but it was still not possible to find an organiser for the European Rowing Indoor Championships in either 2025 or 2026. For 2027, the return of the European Indoor Championships to an in-person format in Dresden is planned.

Another challenge is finding organisers for **Coastal and Beach Sprint** Championships. The rapid development of this discipline increases the demands on organisers, technical delivery, safety, education of umpires and coaches, and the financial sustainability of the event. Finding an organiser for the European Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships in 2026 proved particularly difficult.

In Classic Rowing, the priority is to maintain the attractiveness of the European Championships, support participation by as many Federations as possible, and at the same time protect the importance of traditional regattas and sub-continental competitions. Sustainability of European

events also remains an important priority, especially in the areas of water, travel, transfers, accommodation, waste, clean water management, cooperation with WWF and sharing good practice.

Events

European Rowing Indoor Championships 2025

The European Rowing Indoor Championships did not take place in 2025, as no suitable organiser could be found. The same problem continued for 2026. This situation confirms the need for an open discussion on the future model of ERICH, especially the relationship between the in-person and virtual formats, financial sustainability and the link to the World Rowing Indoor Championships.

European Rowing Under 19 Championships 2025, Kruszwica, POL, 24–25 May 2025

Role: Fairness Commission, ERB

European Rowing Championships 2025, Plovdiv, BUL, 29 May–1 June 2025

Role: Fairness Commission, ERB

European Rowing Under 23 Championships 2025, Račice, CZE, 6–7 September 2025

Role: Fairness Commission, ERB

European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships 2025, Manavgat / Antalya, TUR, 8–12 October 2025.

It is worth mentioning the participation of non-European club crews and the successful introduction of masters categories.

Role: ERB liaison

European Rowing Presidents' Meeting, Ghent, BEL, March 2025, the Presidents' Meeting in Ghent was an important platform for consultation with Member Federations. Discussions focused on the strategic priorities of European Rowing, the competition calendar, development, sustainability, funding and the development of new disciplines.

Workshop with Continental Confederation Presidents and World Rowing Continental Representatives, 16 March 2025

Role: active participation.

Joint Commission Meeting, Lausanne, January 2026

Role: active participation.

Development

Successful cooperation within the World Rowing Development Programme with selected European Federations continued in 2025. The Programme is focused on providing support, training, guidance, resources and tools to Member Federations.

The following **events** were included in **development support and invitations** for European Federations in 2025:

- 2025 ERU19CH, Kruszwica, POL – 16 Federations invited, 2 Federations accepted support;
- 2025 ERCH, Plovdiv, BUL – 8 Federations invited, 3 Federations accepted support;

- 2025 WRU23CH, Poznan, POL – 15 Federations invited, 3 Federations accepted support;
- 2025 WRU19CH, Trakai, LTU – 15 Federations invited, 5 Federations accepted support;
- 2025 ERU23CH, Račice, CZE – 13 Federations invited, 1 federation accepted support;
- 2025 WRCH, Shanghai, CHN – 15 Federations invited, 4 European Federations accepted support;
- 2025 ERCBSCH, Antalya, TUR – 13 Federations invited, 5 Federations accepted support;
- 2025 WRBSF, Antalya, TUR – 7 Federations invited, 4 European Federations accepted support.

These statistics show that development support is important for European Federations, but that the actual participation of invited Federations remains low in some cases. I therefore recommend continuing the discussion on whether the current support model should be more closely linked to specific education modules, training camps, coaching support and longer-term development plans of individual Federations.

In 2025, important **education activities** for European Federations also took place:

- WR Para Rowing Level 1 Coaching Course & WR National Classification Course, Istanbul, TUR, 14–21 February 2025 – 18 participants in total;
- WR Coastal Rowing Level 1 Coaching Course, Limassol, CYP, 10–17 June 2025 – 15 participants in total;
- WR Coastal Race Module, Antalya, TUR, 4–6 October 2025 – participation from HUN, FIN, TUR, SUI, CZE, IRL, DEN, NED, MLT and ITA, 14 participants in total.

These figures confirm strong demand for practical education, particularly in the areas of Para Rowing and Coastal Rowing.

Governance

In 2025, regular **cooperation with Member Federations continued in the areas of governance, transparency and sharing good practice**. The European Rowing Strategic Priorities 2025–2028 emphasise regular communication and consultation with Member Federations.

A positive development is the stabilisation of the situation in the Serbian Rowing Federation and the end of the suspension of its membership in FISA / World Rowing.

In relation to governance, I consider it important that the Continental Representative is informed in a timely manner about sensitive issues concerning Member Federations on his continent.

Focus for 2026

- Maintain interest in Classic Rowing, including through **stable participation in European Championships** and support for traditional international regattas;
- continue developing Coastal Rowing and Beach Sprint Rowing, especially in the areas of coach education, umpires, technical delegates, safety and event-hosting standards;
- actively address the **future of the European Rowing Indoor Championships**, including preparation for ERICH

2027 in Dresden and the introduction of attractive racing formats and categories;

- maintain the tradition of European Rowing Presidents' Meetings as a unique platform for sharing experience between the European Rowing Board and Member Federations;
- support sub-continental and regional regattas, especially Coupe de la Jeunesse, Baltic Cup, Balkan Rowing Championships and others, as an important part of the European development structure;
- continue improving safeguarding and environmental policies in line with World Rowing;
- **cooperate with the World Rowing Development Team** on targeted support for European Federations and on better linking development support with specific education modules;
- continue cooperation with other Continental Representatives on common themes and development Programmes;
- develop cooperation in the field of Erasmus+ and other European grant Programmes;
- support the preparation of the **European Rowing Digital Community** grant project, which should create a common communication and information platform for Federations, clubs and potentially other stakeholders;
- support the establishment and development of the European Rowing Development Office, whose purpose is, among other things, to help Member Federations with applications for European funding, particularly under Erasmus+ Sport.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues from the European Rowing Board, World Rowing Council, World Rowing Development Team and all European Member Federations for their excellent cooperation during 2025. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to former ERB President Annamarie Phelps for her leadership of European Rowing in previous years, and to long-standing ERB member Algirdas Raslanas for his dedicated service to Rowing.

CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OCEANIA

Sarah Cook (AUS)

Key activities and achievements in 2025

The Oceania region continued to focus on strengthening participation, capability and sustainability across Member Federations (MFs), while supporting alignment with the strategic objectives of World Rowing.

Key focus areas for 2025 were:

1. Establishing a permanent Secretariat for Oceania Rowing and strengthening collaboration with the World Rowing Development Continental Team;
2. Supporting efforts to secure the Cook Islands as a new World Rowing Member Federation;
3. Supporting Member Federation restructuring in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga, and greater integration of Rowing into national sporting activities and events;
4. Introducing a regional Indoor Rowing virtual competition;
5. Expanding administration, coaching and technical official development opportunities within Member Federations; and
6. Pursuing the future inclusion of Beach Sprint Rowing within the Pacific Games.

Progress against these priorities during 2025 was mixed.

Work continued towards establishing stronger collaboration structures between ORCON and the World Rowing Development Continental Team, although a permanent Secretariat structure remains an ongoing priority.

No significant progress was made during 2025 in securing the Cook Islands as a new World Rowing Member Federation despite ongoing outreach and engagement attempts with local contacts and the National Olympic Committee.

Support for Member Federation restructuring in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga continued, however these nations remain at an early stage of development and continue to face challenges relating to equipment availability and limited resources. Papua New Guinea participated in the 2025 YAD Camp in Vanuatu with two athletes and a coach.

There remains a strong need to continue proactive outreach across Oceania Member Federations, including regular engagement opportunities and monthly meetings to maintain activity and strengthen long-term integration with ORCON and World Rowing.

The introduction of regional indoor Rowing initiatives remains a significant opportunity for the region, particularly in the lead up to the Tahiti 2027 Pacific Games. Indoor Rowing is viewed as an important mechanism to showcase Rowing and support future inclusion within Pacific Games Programmes. Indoor Rowing equipment donations were made to Vanuatu during 2025, with Fiji identified for equipment support in 2026.

Administration, coaching and technical development continued through regular technical discussions led by World Rowing Development Coaching Expert for Oceania, Laryssa Biesenthal OLY, including engagement through coach communication groups and ongoing knowledge sharing.

The continued pursuit of Beach Sprint Rowing inclusion within future Pacific Games Programmes remains a major regional priority, alongside broader discussions with Commonwealth Games stakeholders.

These priorities strongly align with World Rowing's 15-year strategic objectives, particularly in relation to global expansion, youth participation, gender equity, Coastal Rowing innovation and the development of sustainable governance models within emerging and developing Rowing nations.

Key priorities for 2025 included:

- Continued growth and engagement of the Oceania Rowing Confederation (ORCON) Member Federations;
- Increased focus on education and development opportunities for coaches, technical officials and administrators;
- Support for the continued development of Beach Sprint Rowing across the region in preparation for its Olympic debut at LA28;
- Strengthening pathways for Para Rowing participation and classification compliance;
- Supporting alignment between Member Federations and World Rowing governance and operational requirements; and
- Continuing to build stronger relationships between World Rowing, Member Federations and regional stakeholders.

The Oceania region currently comprises ten Member Federations: American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

These priorities remain strategically important due to the geographic spread of the region, varying levels of organisational capability and the need to support sustainable participation and development opportunities across Oceania.

Events

The primary regional event attended during 2025 was the Oceania Beach Sprint Championships in Sydney.

The event highlighted the continued growth and momentum of Beach Sprint Rowing across the Oceania region ahead of its Olympic debut at LA28. Participation and engagement across Member Federations continued to increase, reinforcing the discipline's suitability and accessibility for many Pacific nations.

A significant development activity during 2025 was the Youth Athlete Development (YAD) Camp held in Vanuatu. The camp provided an important opportunity to strengthen relationships with national sporting leadership in Vanuatu and further establish Rowing as an emerging sport within the country.

The Programme also provided valuable learning opportunities for the Vanuatu Member Federation in hosting and organising Beach Sprint events and included the Oceania Youth Development Beach Sprint Championships and Indoor Regatta for the second consecutive year.

Another important milestone for the region was the allocation of Youth Olympic Games 2026 quotas to Australia, American Samoa and Vanuatu. Given the highly competitive international qualification process, this represented a strong outcome for the Oceania region.

Key challenges across the region continue to include geographic isolation, limited resources, access to equipment, high flight costs between countries and the absence of Rowing within major continental multi-sport competitions. Continued collaboration between World Rowing, ORCON and Member Federations remains important to support sustainable growth, education and event delivery.

Development

Development initiatives across Oceania in 2025 focused on participation growth, governance capability and education opportunities for coaches, technical officials and administrators.

Beach Sprint Rowing remained a major focus area due to its accessibility and suitability for Pacific nations, while work also continued to support Para Rowing participation and compliance with updated classification requirements.

Education and development opportunities remained critical priorities, particularly for smaller Member Federations with limited resources and volunteer capacity.

There remains a strong need to continue building partnerships with organisations including DFAT, ONOC and the Pacific Games Council to strengthen Rowing's presence and long-term sustainability within Oceania, particularly across Indoor Rowing and Beach Sprint Rowing.

The region also continues to identify opportunities to work proactively with National Olympic Committees where there is potential to establish Rowing Federations or integrate Rowing into existing water sport Federations.

Governance

Governance priorities throughout 2025 focused on strengthening communication, transparency and capability across Member Federations.

Support continued for governance and organisational development within Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga, alongside broader discussions relating to leadership succession, education and sustainable administration models.

The region continues to face challenges relating to volunteer capacity, leadership development and administrative resources, particularly within smaller Member Federations. Ongoing support from World Rowing remains important to assist with governance capability and long-term sustainability.

Focus for 2026

The key priorities for Oceania in 2026 will include:

- Continued growth and development of Beach Sprint Rowing across the region;
- Strengthening participation and development pathways for athletes, coaches and officials;
- Increasing support for Para Rowing participation and classification readiness;
- Continuing governance and leadership capability development;
- Supporting sustainable event delivery and regional collaboration; and
- Leveraging the momentum and opportunities associated with LA28 and Brisbane 2032.

A major activity planned for 2026 is the proposed regional training camp, coaches course and Beach Sprint Technical Delegate training Programme to be delivered in Brisbane/ Gold Coast with support from Rowing Australia, National Olympic Committees and DFAT.

This initiative has become a priority regional development activity following the inability to proceed with the planned YAD Programme in American Samoa due to high travel costs and financial limitations across Member Federations.

A key focus will also be the continued delivery of education and development opportunities throughout the region, particularly for smaller Member Federations.

These priorities strongly align with the strategic objectives outlined in World Rowing's long-term plan, particularly in relation to global participation growth, sustainability, universality, innovation and the continued evolution of Rowing disciplines.

The Oceania region remains committed to working collaboratively with World Rowing and all Member Federations to ensure Rowing continues to grow and thrive throughout the region.

Any other business

The Oceania region would like to acknowledge and thank World Rowing, ORCON leadership, Member Federations, volunteers, coaches, technical officials and administrators for their continued commitment and contribution throughout 2025.

The region also recognises the important contribution of World Rowing staff and development experts in supporting growth opportunities throughout Oceania.

With the continued momentum surrounding Beach Sprint Rowing, increasing regional collaboration and the opportunities presented by LA28 and Brisbane 2032, the future for Rowing within Oceania remains positive.

CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

Masakuni Hosobuchi (JPN)

Key activities and achievements in 2025

As a Co-Opted Council Member, my primary mission is to contribute to the collective wisdom and strategic direction of the Council, ensuring that every initiative aligns with World Rowing's long-term vision. In a world still marked by political upheaval and uncertainty, I have become even more acutely aware of the importance of world peace and the role of sport as its ambassador. I firmly believe that advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sport is a direct and powerful path to global peace. By leveraging the influence of Rowing, we can further enhance its societal contribution and global presence, making "World Peace" the compass for all our efforts.

- Collaboration with strategic partners

Throughout 2025, I have further strengthened collaborations with diverse stakeholders, including World Rowing, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and various Member Federations (MFs). In particular, guided by the IOC's "Olympic Agenda 2020+5", I engaged in regular and deep dialogue on how sport can contribute to the creation of a sustainable society. In addition, my participation in TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) in August gave me the opportunity to explore the potential of peacebuilding and youth empowerment through sport in Africa. By serving as a "Bridge" to foster partnerships with international and public institutions beyond the sports world, I have dedicated myself to enhancing the unity of the global Rowing family and our sport's presence in the international arena.

- Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy

A central focus of my activity in 2025 has been the stewardship of the Tokyo 2020 Legacy. This is not merely a historical milestone but a living, evolving "Olympic Legacy" that serves as a vital bridge to Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028. I have worked tirelessly to ensure that the state-of-the-art infrastructure and operational expertise developed in Tokyo remain lasting assets for the global Rowing family. In particular, the revitalisation of the Sea Forest Waterway continues to serve as a hub for international collaboration and a sustainable venue model for future host cities, receiving high praise from the IOC. Integrating the lessons learned from Tokyo into the preparation processes for upcoming Games is essential for ensuring the sustainable evolution of the Olympic Movement.

- Promoting Virtual/Connected Rowing

At the Virtual Sports Forum 2025 (March), I advocated for "physically active" virtual Rowing as a powerful means to democratise the sport and expand access. This aligns perfectly with the IOC's digital strategy and my commitment to fostering innovation that "leaves no one behind." As emphasised during

my keynote speech at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai (May), the use of digital technology dramatically lowers geographical and economic barriers, serving as an "Open Door" to convey the appeal of Rowing to a new generation of athletes. By strengthening synergy with the IOC's virtual initiatives, I have promoted a strategic roadmap that will help transform virtual Rowing from a technical demonstration into a highly attractive and competitive sports category.

- Governance and integrity

I have actively supported organisational reforms within regional and national Federations, focusing on elevating their governance to the global standards of "Diversity, Equity, and Sports Integrity" championed by World Rowing. Strengthening transparent organisational management and safeguarding initiatives reflects my dedication to the Council's broad mission of protecting the physical and mental well-being of all athletes.

Focus for 2026

In 2026, the social environment surrounding sports and the Olympic Movement will continue to evolve at an unprecedented pace. I will continue to serve the Council with full commitment, embodying the philosophy of "Turning Diversity into Strength" and "Connecting Cultures" that I pledged during the ExCom election.

- Promoting Virtual/Connected Rowing

2026 will be a pivotal year for developing virtual Rowing into a new sports category with strong competitive value and entertainment potential. I will lead the coordination of the Virtual Sports Forum Plus in Lausanne (March 2026), further deepening collaboration with the IOC's virtual sports initiatives. Together with global strategic partners, we will build a framework in which people from diverse backgrounds can share the joy of physical activity and the spirit of Rowing, regardless of physical constraints. This will serve as a "Digital Bridge" connecting not only existing fans but also untapped regions and generations.

- Building a "Co-creation Governance" movement with Continental MFs

I will move the relationship with Member Federations (MFs) in the Asian continent from one of "support" to one of "co-creation". While respecting each region's culture and history, we will accelerate a movement to think together about the most effective form of governance. By supporting Asian MFs in their proactive efforts to strengthen transparency and governance, we will enhance the integrity of World Rowing as a whole and ensure that the diverse voices of Asia are reflected in our global strategy.

- Expanding the "Living Legacy" toward 2028

I will promote a clear roadmap connecting the lessons from Tokyo 2020 to the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. In particular, by developing sustainable venue management models and promoting Coastal Rowing globally, we will demonstrate how Rowing can continue to make a positive social impact while remaining in harmony with the environment.

- Maximising Societal Value through the Peace Compass

"World Peace" will remain the guiding compass for all growth strategies. Just as athletes inspire courage and hope to the world through their determination and refusal to give up, the Council must also promote the values of sport and Olympism and help build a society in which people can enjoy peace, well-being, and the joy of living through sport.

Summary

2026 will be a year in which we demonstrate that when we work "TOGETHER," diversity transforms into harmony, creating a powerful force that moves the world forward. We must continue to protect the environment in which athletes can live out the spirit of "Faster, Higher, Stronger, Together" through continuous and unwavering efforts. It is my greatest honour to contribute to the Council's efforts to cultivate a culture of mutual respect and friendship. I remain committed to helping build a richer society through Rowing.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the World Rowing staff, Council, Executive Committee, all Commission members, stakeholders, and Member Federations for their unwavering support.

CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

Lenka Dienstbach-Wech (GER)

Key activities and achievements in 2025

Groups and events attended:

- World Rowing Rule 13 Working Group
- Board member of the German Olympic Academy
- World Rowing Safeguarding Advisory Group
- Member of the IOC Health, Medical and Science Commission
- Thomas Keller Medal Committee
- 04/25: Athletes Rights Webinar
- 03/25: Quadrennial Congress Lausanne
- 05/25: IOC Science Centre meeting
- 06/25: IOC Athletes Forum Lausanne
- 09/25 World Rowing Championships and Congress Shanghai
- 10/25: IOC Medical Chairperson meeting
- 11/25: IOC Fit for Future consultations

At the beginning of the year we were able to hold two webinars for athletes about the athletes rights declaration. We met with the Athletes Rights Steering Group before the IOC Athletes Forum and planned and delivered a workshop for Federations to help with the adoption and Integration of the Athletes Rights. To get more NOCs to adopt the declaration a targeted and tailored approach was initiated which led, among other projects, to the STRONG project with the EOC EU Office which will run from January 2026.

Another strong focus was my work as a member of the IOC medical commission, where I participated in the above-mentioned meetings and was a part of the Fit for Future consultations.

Within my work in World Rowing I was deeply honoured to be elected onto the World Rowing Executive Board. I was invited to follow the meetings before my term began on January 2026 to help me with the onboarding process.

I sincerely hope that I will be able to add to the discussions based on my specific knowledge and experiences within the Olympic Movement.

Focus for 2026

- Start a new round of education training on harassment and abuse in rowing
- Together with the Athletes Commission, review the implementation of Athletes Rights in World Rowing using the implementation guidelines.
- Continue to serve on IOC Medical Commission
- Implement the new policy on the protection of the female category in World Rowing
- Serve on the WADA Executive Committee

I am thrilled to be a part of the World Rowing Council as a Co-opted member and member of the Executive 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.

CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBER

Nobuhisa Ishizuka (USA)

Key activities and achievements in 2025

I was appointed by the Council as a Co-opted Member in 2025 following my appointment during 2024-2025 as a Strategic Projects Advisor. During my first year as a Co-opted Council Member I was pleased to work on key initiatives designed to achieve the goals of World Rowing's strategic plan, an essential guide for securing the future of our sport. I was privileged to contribute to significant progress in several areas during 2025.

Strategic partnerships

Innovation in Classic Rowing and evolution of the Indoor Rowing format are two important pillars of World Rowing's strategy. The new World Rowing Shanghai Sprints event is a legacy of the 2025 World Rowing Championships, an exciting event providing full funding to the top teams and athletes in the world to compete in a new 500-metre side-by-side knockout format. I worked closely with our Executive Director and staff in the negotiations and drafting of the definitive governance, commercial and media rights agreements including the Memorandum of Understanding and Event Hosting and Participation Agreements. For Indoor Rowing, I supported World Rowing's application to the IOC for the inclusion of 'Indoor & Connected Rowing' in the Olympic Esports Games, a critical step in our aspiration to add a third Olympic discipline. This included assisting with the drafting and negotiation of a software customisation and development services agreement with a virtual graphics publisher, an important requirement of the application.

Governance

The Continental Confederations Collaboration Project was launched in 2024 by the Executive Committee with the task of reviewing how World Rowing and the five Continental Confederations can work together to improve governance, development, events and representation while fully respecting their independence and autonomy. Following the delivery in late 2024 of the comprehensive report¹ of the working group, which I co-chair with Pat Lambert, we devoted 2025 to implementing its near-term recommendations. This included defining clear priorities and enhancing the reporting of the Continental Representatives to the Congress to better measure progress towards the stated goals. Working closely with the Continental Representatives, we began the process of enlisting the Presidents of the Continental Confederations in statutory analyses of their charters and identifying areas for upgrades and revisions, seeking greater cohesion of purpose, objectives and practice across all regions while fully respecting their differences. Aligning the Continental Confederations with widely accepted best practices, including clearer statutes, stronger transparency and accountability, and better

management of conflicts of interest has been identified by the working group as a key first step toward the goal of enhanced governance, through which collaboration with World Rowing will be strengthened and greater self-sufficiency achieved.

Financial sustainability

Financial sustainability is an important pillar of World Rowing's vision of achieving greater "Reach, Image and Revenues". Beginning in 2025 I led a working group to examine the feasibility of a potential philanthropy strategy designed to build a permanent capital base that will generate stable, recurring revenues supporting investment in key strategic priorities across all three disciplines. The working group focused on identifying a potential group of geographically diverse, high-value donors. We organised outreach events and developed materials explaining the vision and strategy. The latter half of the year was spent on preliminary conversations with initial contacts to gauge the feasibility of the project.

Focus for 2026

Strategic partnerships

Continue to support as requested commercial and strategic partnerships in line with the strategic plan. Finalise all definitive documentation for the World Rowing Shanghai Sprints and assist with the implementation of the first edition of the event. Continue to support inclusion of Indoor Rowing in the Esports Games. Support the development and implementation of a potential Beach Sprints Series, building on work done in 2024-2025 on a similar proposed, but uncompleted, project.

Governance

Accelerate progress on the Continental Confederations Collaboration Project by employing a CHF 50,000 grant approved by the Executive Committee to fund initiatives meeting specific conditions. The grant application including a full description of the specific proposed uses of the grant and related KPIs, with detailed explanations of how such use will advance the priorities of the Continental Confederation, is to be jointly developed by the Continental Confederation Presidents and the Continental Representatives and will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee. Structure and implement a formal grant process, allocate funding and oversee disbursement and uses of funds. Ensure accountability for detailed work plans with timelines and milestones.

Financial sustainability

Transition the philanthropy project from its preliminary planning phase to an active solicitation phase. Plan and deliver engagement opportunities for potential donors including remote webinars and in-person hospitality at World Rowing events. Obtain initial commitments for contributions to build a permanent endowment fund, initially targeting US \$1 million by the end of the year.

1. As reported to the 2025 World Rowing Congress – see <https://share.google/WdghBKmuVUj0xXCKc>

Agenda Item

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Auditors' report	66
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial result

The overall operational result was **CHF 92'795**, which was an improvement on the forecast. The financial result for 2025 was **CHF 2'025'018** due to the strong performance of our investments during the year.

Expenses

Total expenditures for the year 2025 were **CHF 7'771'909**, which is lower than the budgeted amount of CHF 8,002,044, primarily because of efficient cost-control measures.

Income

The overall income for the year 2025 was **CHF 7'864'704**, which is higher than the previous year, driven by positive commercial outcomes, partnerships, and masters membership Programmes.

Balance sheet

At the end of the 2025 accounting period, total assets and liabilities/funds stood at CHF 20'072'487, with total funds (including permanent reserves, deferred IOC contribution, and general loss) amounting to CHF 19'376'415.

Conclusion

The generally positive outcome at the conclusion of the 2025 accounting period gives us the opportunity to make targeted investments in various key projects in 2026 to grow our three disciplines and generate additional revenue where possible. All relevant initiatives are discussed in other sections of this 2025 Congress report and will be discussed further at the 2026 Congress.



**Fédération internationale
des Sociétés d'Aviron
(World Rowing
Federation)
Lausanne**

**Report of the independent auditor
to the Executive Committee
on the financial statements 2025**



Report of the independent auditor to the Executive Committee of Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron - World Rowing Federation, Lausanne

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron - World Rowing Federation (the Federation), which comprise the balance sheet as of December 31, 2025, and the statement of income and expenses for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements comply with Swiss law.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss Standards on Auditing (SA-CH). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the requirements of the Swiss audit profession, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Executive Committee's responsibilities for the financial statements

The Executive Committee is responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with the provisions of Swiss law, and for such internal control as the Executive Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Committee is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Executive Committee either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA, Avenue de la Rasude 5, 1006 Lausanne
+41 58 792 81 00



Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SA-CH will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SA-CH, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Executive Committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with the Executive Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA

Andrea Costa

Sébastien Tries

Lausanne, May 19, 2026

Enclosure:

- Financial statements (balance sheet, statement of income and expenses and notes)

**Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron, Lausanne
(World Rowing Federation)**

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	2025	2024
	CHF	CHF
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments	18'153'711	19'588'213
Cash and cash equivalents	2'508'931	11'549'121
Marketable securities	15'644'780	8'039'092
Trade receivables	1'637'828	956'179
Other short term receivables	85'509	59'969
Prepaid expenses	95'891	93'835
Total current assets	19'972'939	20'698'196
Non-current assets		
Fixed assets	68'869	69'302
Rent deposit	2'525	2'524
Loan to Rowing Federations	28'154	28'154
Total non-current assets	99'548	99'979
TOTAL ASSETS	20'072'487	20'798'175
LIABILITIES AND FUNDS		
Short-term liabilities		
Accrued expenses and deferred income	442'778	1'172'215
Account payables	253'294	267'820
Total short-term liabilities	696'072	1'440'035
Total liabilities	696'072	1'440'035
Funds		
Permanent Reserves	3'625'485	3'625'485
Reserves for future expenses - IOC Fund	13'694'569	15'794'108
General surplus / loss	2'056'361	-61'452
General surplus brought forward	-61'452	-742'908
Surplus / loss for the year	2'117'813	681'456
Total funds	19'376'415	19'358'141
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS	20'072'487	20'798'175

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron, Lausanne
(World Rowing Federation)

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR 2025 AND 2024

	2025	2024
INCOME	CHF	CHF
Income		
Contribution from reserves - IOC Fund	4'000'000	4'000'000
Governance	295'358	115'959
Communications	7'722	13'062
Corporate Services & Administration	617'063	281'235
Development Programme	209'859	363'083
Commercial & Broadcast	1'542'823	1'002'226
Events Management	1'088'777	1'371'470
Expenses and Income from previous years	103'102	336'651
Total Income	7'864'704	7'483'686
Expenditures		
Governance	628'665	728'537
Communications	386'128	224'027
Corporate Services & Administration	1'451'955	1'191'529
Development Programme	504'894	722'857
Human Resources	2'905'241	2'334'097
Commercial & Broadcast	992'777	1'074'175
Events Management	772'420	1'003'592
Bad debt losses	106'760	167'155
Depreciation fixed assets	23'069	21'800
Total Expenditures	7'771'909	7'467'769
Operational result before financial income/expenses	92'795	15'917
Financial income	2'315'281	799'487
Financial expenses	- 151'995	- 78'908
Exchange result	- 138'268	- 55'040
Surplus / loss for the year	2'117'813	681'456

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron, Lausanne
(World Rowing Federation)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN GENERAL SURPLUS FOR THE YEARS ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	<u>2025</u> CHF	<u>2024</u> CHF
General surplus at the beginning of the year	- 61'452	- 742'908
to add/less :		
Surplus / loss for the year	2'117'813	681'456
less :		
Capital allocated to "reserves for future expenses"	-	-
General surplus/(loss) at the end of the year	2'056'361	- 61'452

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN THE "RESERVES FOR FUTURE EXPENSES" AND
"PERMANENT RESERVES" FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	<u>2025</u> CHF	<u>2024</u> CHF
Total Reserves at the beginning of the year	19'419'593	9'331'223
to add :		
Income allocated to reserves for future expenses	1'900'461	14'088'370
less :		
Use of reserves for futures expenses	- 4'000'000	- 4'000'000
Total Reserves at the end of the year	17'320'054	19'419'593
General surplus/(loss) at the end of the year	2'056'361	- 61'452
Total funds at the end of the year	19'376'415	19'358'141

**Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron, Lausanne
(World Rowing Federation)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2025

Preliminary note on the audit

Although an audit is not required by the Swiss Law, the Executive Committee has decided to have an audit of financial statements carried out.

1. Accounting principles applied in the preparation of the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of commercial accounting as set out in the Swiss Code of Obligations (Art. 957 to 963b CO). Significant accounting policies are described below.

Basis of Accounting

FISA uses the accruals basis of accounting, with the exception of contributions, which are booked on a cash basis. Figures from the previous year have been reclassified for comparison purposes.

Marketable securities

Marketable securities are stated at market value. Fluctuations are recognised in the statement of income and expenses for the year.

Non-current assets

Furniture and equipment is carried at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated on the basis of the following useful lives and in accordance with the following methods:

Fixed assets	Useful life	Method
Furniture and equipment	5 years	20% linear
Inflatable advertising structure	5 years	20% linear
Computer Hardware and website	3 years	33% linear

Taxation

FISA is exempt from Federal, Cantonal and Municipal taxation on its income and net assets.

Salaries and staff related expenses (included under administration)	2025	2024
Salaries and staff related expenses	2'905'241	2'334'097

Olympic TV Rights Allocation

FISA receives an allocation of television rights from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) following the Summer Olympic Games. These funds, which are received every four years, represent core financing of FISA. They are therefore allocated against operating expenditure in instalments over the subsequent four year period with the balance being credited to "Reserves for future expenses". Television rights allocation has been received for the period 2025-2028 for an amount of USD 18'110'169 from the IOC. USD 16'000'000 were collected during 2024 and USD 2'110'169 were received in 2025.

Foreign currencies

Monetary and non-monetary items in foreign currency are translated into Swiss francs at the following exchange rates:

Foreign currency	2025	2024
EUR	0.9305	0.9385
USD	0.7923	0.9063
GBP	1.0657	1.1350

The exchange rates used for balance sheet items are the rates prevailing on December 31. The exchange rates used for transactions conducted during the course of the year and for items in the profit and loss statement are effective rates at the date of transaction.

Significant events after the balance sheet date

There are no significant events after the balance sheet which could impact the book value of the assets or liabilities or which should be disclosed here.

2. Analyses and explanations to the financial statements**2.1 Declaration on the number of full-time equivalents averaged over the year**

The number of full-time equivalents did not exceed 50 on an annual average basis.

2.2 Collateral for third-party liabilities

	2025	2024
Bank rent deposit	2'525	2'524

2.3 Fixed assets

	2025	2024
Furniture and equipment	6'746	3'020
Computer hardware and website	62'123	66'282
	68'869	69'302

BUDGET FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR

2025–2028 Quadrennial Budget

Expenses	2025 actuals (audited)	2026 budget as presented to 2025 Congress	2026 revised budget (2 May 2026)	2027	2028
Governance	628.665	717.000	769.310	499.000	717.000
Communications	386.128	364.800	396.100	352.184	382.966
Corporate Services & Administration	1.451.955	1.401.532	1.611.640	1.365.482	1.199.350
Development Programme	504.894	598.940	558.940	584.216	589.598
Human Resources	2.905.241	2.812.559	3.033.420	2.862.610	2.913.662
Commercial & Broadcast	992.777	1.451.306	1.628.766	1.411.144	1.144.656
Event Management	772.420	1.015.500	1.061.200	1.142.150	1.364.650
Depreciation fixed assets	23.069		25.000		
Bad debt losses	106.760		30.000		
Total Expenses	7.771.908	8.361.637	9.114.377	8.216.786	8.311.882

Incomes	2025 actuals (audited)	2026	2026 revised budget (2 May 2026)	2027	2028
Contribution from reserves	4000000	4000000	4.000.000	4.000.000	4.000.000
Governance	295.358	343.600	436.600	351.200	351.200
Communications	7.722	6.000	8.000	6.000	6.000
Corporate Services & Administration	617.063	993.050	836.000	1.013.050	827.750
Development Programme	209.859	128.500	128.500	128.500	128.500
Commercial & Broadcast	1.542.823	1.224.833	1.590.000	1.283.333	1.248.000
Event Management	1.088.777	1.576.600	1.866.540	1.669.100	1.629.150
Income from previous years	103.102				
Total Incomes	7.864.705	8.272.583	8.865.640	8.451.183	8.190.600

Net operational result	92.797	-89.054	-248.737	234.397	-121.282
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Council and Executive Committee elections in accordance with Articles 35 and 47

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The following positions on the Council are due for election at the Congress:

Chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission

Candidate: Henk-Jan Zwolle (nominated by NED) **76**

Chair of the Events Commission

Candidate: Eva Szanto (nominated by HUN) **79**

Chair of the Masters Rowing Commission

Candidate: Ronald Chen (nominated by USA) **81**

Chair of the Para Rowing Commission

Candidate: Rebecca Thomas Orr (nominated by CAN) **84**

Chair of the Umpiring Commission

Candidate: Angela Alonso (nominated by ESP) **86**



2026 World Rowing Ordinary Congress

Nomination Form for the Council Elections

Our member national federation, (name of federation): NED, would like to make a nomination for:

- ☒ Chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission
☐ Chair of the Events Commission
☐ Chair of the Masters Rowing Commission
☐ Chair of the Para Rowing Commission
☐ Chair of the Umpiring Commission

Information on the candidate:

First and Last name: Henk-Jan Zwolle

Gender: ☒ Male ☐ Female Birth year: 30-11-1964 Nationality: Dutch

Languages: Dutch, English

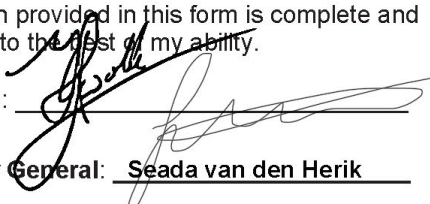
Education History: **Free University of Amsterdam: Human Movement Studies; Exercise Physiology.**
Courses: Motivational interviewing, several computer programming languages

Professional History: **1991-1992 Military service,**
1992-1993 Exercise Physiologist at High Five Health Promotion
1993-1996 Facility manager 'Olympisch steunpunt Flevoland'
1996- 2013 Founder and owner of HJZsport and MyPerfectCoach
2013- Founder and owner of 'The Performance Experts' (WattCycling, Wattbike Benelux, AmstelGym, MyPerfectCoach, StressCoach App)

Sport History: **1976 Started rowing at the age of 12**
1984-1996 World Rowing championships in 1x, 4x, 2x (gold in 1991) 8+ (silver in 1994 and 1995) Olympic Games: 1988 1x 12th, 1992 2x bronze, 1996 8+ gold
1997-2000 Coach W8+ (silver in Sydney)
2001-2002 Team manager Dutch rowing team
2006-2014 President, board member and exec director of the World Rowing U19 2006, U23 2015 and senior 2014 championships in Amsterdam
1993- 2025 coach educator Dutch rowing federation
2008- Member of the World Rowing competitive rowing commission Chair since 2024

Candidates are invited to submit a letter of motivation for inclusion in the Agenda Papers.

I, the above-mentioned candidate, confirm that the information provided in this form is complete and accurate and that, if elected, I will carry out the related duties to the best of my ability.

Place, date: Amsterdam 24 June 2026 Signature of candidate: 

Name and Signature of Federation President or Secretary General: Seada van den Herik

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE CONGRESS AGENDA PAPERS

Please submit this completed Nomination form to World Rowing before **31 May 2026**

World Rowing
Av. De Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland
 Email: info@worldrowing.com

Abcoude 27 May 2026,

To J.C. Roland, President of World Rowing

Letter of motivation for the position of chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission.

Dear President,

In preparation for the commission chair election later this year, I like to express my interest in continuing my role as chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission.

While the essence of rowing has remained largely unchanged, we face the challenge of making the sport more engaging for rowers, spectators, and sponsors alike. To stay relevant, especially in the Olympic arena, we must be proactive in transforming rowing from a training-centric sport to one that captivates spectators.

Main goals for the commission for the coming years:

- The primary function of the commission remains to engage with coaches and team managers, reflecting their perspectives on international rowing.
- Organise coach education through the annual coaches conference.
- Organise the fairness committees for World Rowing events.
- Additionally, increasing female coaches' representation is a key objective for the coming years.
- The Commission continues to review the events to ensure a competitive and attractive programme for both athletes and spectators.

In light of the ongoing strategic events review, we must make bold plans for the next four years and beyond:

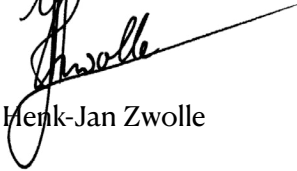
- Connect World Cups to the World Championships and Olympic Games, as well as to international regattas where sub-elite rowers can engage with the top tier.
- Enhance cost-effectiveness for teams, organisers, and World Rowing.

- Make rowing events more appealing to spectators, building on the already adopted progression system to enable and stimulate doubling up.
- Develop a ranking system that accurately reflects the position of every rower worldwide, which can serve as a media index and as a basis for qualification for World Rowing championships.

I am eager to contribute to addressing these challenges in close collaboration with the other World Rowing commissions, staff, and council.

Being goal-oriented, straightforward in the Dutch way with a degree of self-control, friendly and selfless, and knowledgeable about the matters at play in World Rowing. Independent of any team, I am available for a fruitful collaboration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Zwolle', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Henk-Jan Zwolle



2026 World Rowing Ordinary Congress

Nomination Form for the Council Elections

Our member national federation, (name of federation): Hungarian Rowing Association, would like to make a nomination for:

- ☐ Chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission
☒ Chair of the Events Commission
☐ Chair of the Masters Rowing Commission
☐ Chair of the Para Rowing Commission
☐ Chair of the Umpiring Commission

Information on the candidate:

First and Last name: Eva Szanto

Gender: ☐ Male ☒ Female Birth year: 1968 Nationality: Hungarian

Languages: English, Hungarian, Russian

Education History:

1995-1996 University of Physical Education and Sports Science, Coaching Course (Rowing)
 1992-1993 Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest - Interpreting and Translation
 1986-1993 Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest - MA Degree of English and Russian Philology
 Special Certificates:
 2007 AISTS/Olympic Solidarity - International Sport Management Seminar for Women
 2003-2005 University of Lausanne & TSE Consulting - International Sport Management Seminar

Professional History:

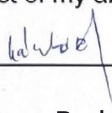
• Advisor - Sports Diplomacy, International Affairs, Bidding and delivery of major events & Supervisor of high performance programmes at Sports Institute of Hungary, 2022-
 • Event organisation and delivery of international sport events: Deputy CEO - 2022 FINA World Championships Budapest; COO - 2019 World Urban Games; CEO of Bp2017 Nonprofit Ltd.; Executive Director - 2017 FINA World Championships, 2015-2021
 • Secretary General, Hungarian Swimming Association, 2015
 • Freelance Consultant, Lecturer at Semmelweis University Sports Faculty, ZSKE University, Corvinus University, 2012
 • Secretary General, Hungarian Sports Confederation; 2003-2006 - Secretary General, Hungarian Rowing Association, 2006-2012
 • Teacher of languages, Trainer, Interpreter, 1993-2003

Sport History:

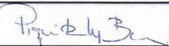
• Member, World Rowing Executive Committee 2020-; Member, World Rowing Council and Chair, Events Commission 2019-
 • Member, FISA Events Commission 2010-; FISU Chair of Technical Committee 2011-2015
 • Member & Secretary of FISA European Rowing Management Board 2008-2018, European Board Member 2018 -
 • Member, Hungarian Olympic Committee 2004-2006, 2012-2015, 2022-2024, Women in Sport Commission 2005-2017
 • Hungarian Rowing Association Board member 2009-2012, 2013-2014, Vice-President 2012-2013, 2020-
 • World Rowing Umpire since 2000; National Umpire
 • Active rower 1982-2000; Member of the Danubius National Rowing Club Board for 20 years

Candidates are invited to submit a letter of motivation for inclusion in the Agenda Papers.

I, the above-mentioned candidate, confirm that the information provided in this form is complete and accurate and that, if elected, I will carry out the related duties to the best of my ability.

Place, date: Budapest, 27 May 2026 Signature of candidate: 

Name and Signature of Federation President or Secretary General: Borbala Pignitzky



TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE CONGRESS AGENDA PAPERS

Please submit this completed Nomination form to World Rowing before **31 May 2026**

World Rowing
Av. De Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland
 Email: info@worldrowing.com

Dear Member Federations,

Dear Delegates,

27 May 2026

Rowing is a unique sport; it is a passion we all share. I am proud to be part of the rowing community. I am honoured to have had the opportunity to help navigating our organisation as member of the Council and to contribute to the creation of unforgettable rowing events in my role as Chair of Events Commission. Thank you all for the trust you have given me. I am ready to continue and complete my final term in that role.

For all my years spent in the Events Commission I have always been seeking ways how to improve existing World Rowing events and create new ones, which are delivered at the highest standards, which are engaging, attractive, providing outstanding racing opportunities for the athletes, which serve as platforms for storytelling, elevating athletes profiles, and global exposure of our sport. I truly believe that all World Rowing events must be a result of “co-creation”, a close collaboration between World Rowing departments, commissions and the organising committees. It is key that besides maintaining consistency in delivery standards across all events, the voice of the organising committees is heard, open space to innovative approaches.

I am committed to knowledge sharing and continuous strive for improvement, whether internally within the organisation or across organising committees. Education, providing and creating training opportunities for potential future technical delegates and regatta organiser worldwide is also an important element on the way to global success of rowing events. My approach is having a strong belief in teamwork, collaboration, the need for open communication, hearing the voice of athletes, coaches, member federations, working with organising committees in true partnership, also being solution oriented, consistent with requirements but flexible if needed. My main goals include the conclusion of the Strategic Event and Calendar review project; improved knowledge transfer; implementing the culture of sharing and empowerment in the work of the Events Commission; ensuring World Rowing always attracts interest in bidding and hosting events.

The world today imposes unprecedented challenges on international sport federations raising questions critical to the future of our sport in every respect. I am fully committed to continue to serve rowing and World Rowing on the journey to find the best responses and solutions to these challenges and help shaping future of our sport. My motivation is as strong as ever thanks to the exceptional environment, wonderful people in Council and the commissions. If elected I will continue leading the Events Commission and contributing to Council discussions decision making with integrity, dedication, passion and humility. My actions will be driven by respect, our shared values, a strong belief in teamwork, following a road to achieve World Rowing strategic objectives.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Hungarian Rowing Association for their trust and nominating me for this role.

With my very best wishes,



Eva Szanto



2026 World Rowing Ordinary Congress

Nomination Form for the Council Elections

Our member national federation, (name of federation): USRowing, would like to make a nomination for:

- ☐ Chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission
☐ Chair of the Events Commission
☒ Chair of the Masters Rowing Commission
☐ Chair of the Para Rowing Commission
☐ Chair of the Umpiring Commission

Information on the candidate:

First and Last name: Ronald Chen

Gender: ☒ Male ☐ Female Birth year: 1958 Nationality: USA

Languages: English

Education History:

Diploma, Phillips Exeter Academy 1976
 Bachelor of Arts (Chemistry and Latin) Dartmouth College USA 1980
 Doctor of Law, Rutgers University USA (1983)

Professional History:

- Law clerk to Hon. Leonard I. Garth, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, 1983-84
- Associate (lawyer), Cravath, Swaine & Moore, New York NY 1984-1987
- law professor, Rutgers Law School, Newark NJ 1987-2006
- The Public Advocate of New Jersey, 2006-2010
- vice-dean and then Dean, Rutgers Law School, 2010-2018
- University Professor and Distinguished Professor of Law, Rutgers University, 2018 to present

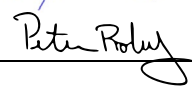
Sport History:

- varsity manager, Phillips Exeter Academy crew, 1973-1976
- varsity manager, Dartmouth College crew, 1976-1980 (Steward's Award for enhancing traditions of Rowing at Dartmouth)
- USRowing licensed umpire, 1980 to present; Judge-Referee Committee 1988-1997, Board Of Directors 1997-2007, Awarded 2023 Jack Kelly Award for superior achievements in and service to rowing, and success in professional career.
- World Rowing (FISA) umpire, 1987 to present (jury member at 1996 Atlanta Olympics, 2018 World Championships, etc.)
- World Rowing Masters Commission, 2003 to present
- World Rowing Council, 2019 to present; World Rowing Executive Committee, 2026 to present.

Candidates are invited to submit a letter of motivation for inclusion in the Agenda Papers.

I, the above-mentioned candidate, confirm that the information provided in this form is complete and accurate and that, if elected, I will carry out the related duties to the best of my ability.

Place, date: May 24, 2026, New Jersey USA Signature of candidate: 

Name and Signature of Federation President or Secretary General: 

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE CONGRESS AGENDA PAPERS

Please submit this completed Nomination form to World Rowing before **31 May 2026**

World Rowing
Av. De Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland
 Email: info@worldrowing.com

Ronald K. Chen
Letter of Candidacy and Motivation for Chair of Masters Rowing Commission

Dear Delegates and Colleagues,

I am writing to formally announce my candidacy for reelection as Chair of the World Rowing Masters Commission. Having served on the Commission since 2003 and as its Chair since 2019, it has been my privilege to help steward the extraordinary evolution of Masters rowing. As I seek what would be my final mandate in this role, I am eager to build upon our shared successes and address the unique challenges of our growing, vibrant global community.

A Proven Track Record of Managing Growth and Innovation

When I joined the Commission nearly a quarter-century ago, the World Rowing Masters Regatta (WRMR) was a substantial but modest event, welcoming roughly 2,800 to 3,000 competitors and 7,000 seat entries. Today, we routinely manage a massive operation of over 15,000 seat entries and up to 4,000 individual athletes.

Adapting to this dramatic growth has required continuous infrastructure innovation. Throughout my tenure, I have played a central role in driving the necessary structural shifts, including:

- **Operational Modernization:** Moving from the era of faxed boat entries and manual passport checks to the full implementation of our online masters license individual verification system.
- **Schedule Expansion:** Gradually expanding the racing schedule from three days to the 4-1/2 day format being utilized this year to accommodate over 700 races while maintaining elite logistical standards.
- **Strategic Venue Identification and Evaluation:** Leading a more complex site evaluation process tailored specifically to the unique needs of Masters rowing. A premier Masters venue demands technical and competitive conditions on par with senior world championships, but it must also possess the infrastructure to accommodate thousands of competitors alongside their traveling companions. The ideal locations are those that allow participants to seamlessly combine highly competitive racing with an enjoyable cultural and recreational experience. Because these priorities differ significantly from those of an Olympic or Senior World Championship venue, we have successfully modernized our scouting and selection processes to identify sites that fulfill this dual mandate.

Strategic Objectives for the Final Mandate

If reelected, my final term will focus on three key strategic priorities to secure the long-term future of Masters rowing:

1. Balancing Massive Scale with Quality and Inclusivity

As we look toward Bled, Slovenia, we are planning for the possibility of up to 20,000 seat entries. While we have likely reached the maximum size of the regatta in its current format—a highly successful format I have no intention of significantly altering—the ongoing challenge is execution. My primary goal is to manage this immense scale so that we preserve the distinct WRMR atmosphere: a friendly, inclusive, and informal celebration of rowing that maximizes participation while strictly upholding the highest expectations for the quality of competition.

2. Expanding Our Global Geographic Footprint

We must continue pushing beyond traditional boundaries to foster true global universality. Our recent milestones prove the depth of talent and appetite for Masters rowing outside of Europe and North America:

- The 2023 Regatta in Tshwane, South Africa: As our first regular World Rowing event on the African continent, this regatta proved that mass participation is not the only metric of success. With a creative Local Organizing Committee, we demonstrated that a sustainable, profoundly impactful, and elite regatta can thrive in developing rowing regions.
- Global Competitive Depth: At last year's regatta in Banyoles, Spain, the club claiming the overall Performance Trophy hailed from Brazil—a powerful testament to the sport's expanding reach.

In my next term, I will prioritize building up infrastructure, capacity, and visibility for Masters communities across Africa, South America, and Asia.

3. Cultivating a Self-Aware, Connected Global Masters Rowing Community

Masters rowers are famously independent and self-reliant, rarely demanding the heavy institutional support required by elite high-performance programs. However, World Rowing can play a vital role in providing the connective tissue that unites them.

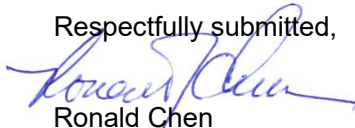
We are actively developing the online Masters Portal to serve as a hub for communication, interaction, and data dissemination. The portal already provides critical tools—such as a time-handicap calculator Based on the empirical data of 10 years of WRMR results to help mid-sized local regattas run meaningful cross-age competitions, as well as sports science, health, and archival individual performance data. My final objective is to enhance this platform based directly on community feedback, creating a self-supportive global network that delivers value to all Masters rowers, whether or not they travel to the annual WRMR.

Conclusion

The development and strengthening of a deeply connected, globally diverse Masters rowing community is the definitive final step I hope to achieve as Chair. I am deeply grateful to my treasured colleagues—past and present—on the Masters Rowing Commission, the member federations, the local organizing committees, and the entire Masters rowing community for their immense cooperation and shared passion over the years.

I offer you my continued industry, experience, energy, and unwavering support for World Rowing's mission. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy, and I welcome the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns you may have during the Congress in Amsterdam.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Chen



2026 World Rowing Ordinary Congress

Nomination Form for the Council Elections

Our member national federation, Rowing Canada Aviron, would like to make a nomination for:

- ☐ Chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission
- ☐ Chair of the Events Commission
- ☐ Chair of the Masters Rowing Commission
- ☒ Chair of the Para Rowing Commission
- ☐ Chair of the Umpiring Commission

Information on the candidate:

First and Last name: Rebecca Thomas Orr

Gender: ☐ Male ☒ Female Birth year: 1970 Nationality: Canadian
Languages: English

Education History:

George Brown College, Sport and Event Marketing Diploma
Wilfrid Laurier University, Honours Bachelor of Business Administration

Professional History:

Gadsby Technologies: Director, Business Development
Canadian Marketing Association: Director, Member Engagement
Postmedia: Media Strategist, Integrated Sales
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation: Integrated Account Lead

Sport History:

World Rowing: Chair, Para Rowing Commission; Classification Advisory Panel; Level 2 International Technical Classifier
Argonaut Rowing Club: coach/coordinator para program; athlete

Candidates are invited to submit a letter of motivation for inclusion in the Agenda Papers.

I, the above-mentioned candidate, confirm that the information provided in this form is complete and accurate and that, if elected, I will carry out the related duties to the best of my ability.

Place, date: Toronto, Canada, May 20, 2026

Signature of candidate:

Name and Signature of Federation President or Secretary General:

Jennifer Fitzpatrick, RCA Interim CEO. May 30, 2026

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Please submit this completed Nomination form to World Rowing before **31 May 2026**

Supporting Statement

Rebecca Thomas Orr nomination for Chair of Para Rowing Commission

Thank you for considering my candidacy for re-election as Chair of the Para Rowing Commission.

It continues to be a privilege to contribute to the global rowing community through World Rowing. My involvement with World Rowing began through classification, when I was awarded International Technical Classifier status in 2008. Through that role, I had the opportunity to work at numerous international regattas, including the London 2012 Paralympic Games. In 2018, I was elected to the Classification Advisory Panel (CAP), where I continue to work alongside experienced international classifiers to provide technical and medical expertise on classification matters.

I was first elected to the Para Rowing Commission in 2015 and appointed Interim Chair in 2021 before being elected Chair in 2022. Serving in this role over the past four years has been both rewarding and educational, providing the opportunity to work closely with dedicated commission members, athletes, Member Federations, classifiers, volunteers, and World Rowing staff from around the world.

Throughout my term as Chair, I have focused on supporting the continued integration, development, and sustainability of para rowing across all disciplines of the sport. One of the strengths of rowing is that para rowing has been fully integrated within World Rowing events and governance structures for many years, helping position rowing as a leader in inclusion within international sport.

Over the past four years, the Para Rowing Commission has continued to advance opportunities for participation and visibility within the sport. This has included supporting the successful introduction of the Inclusion Mixed Double Sculls event within Coastal Beach Sprints, the addition of the PR3 Men's and Women's Single Sculls events at the U23 level, and the development of new adaptive indoor rowing categories designed to further broaden inclusivity within the sport. These initiatives are intended not only to increase participation opportunities, but also to strengthen long-term athlete development pathways globally.

A key focus during my term has also been collaboration and consultation. Through regular engagement with Member Federations, classifiers, athletes, coaches, other World Rowing commissions, and the International Paralympic Committee, I have worked to ensure that para rowing perspectives are represented within broader strategic discussions. I believe continued collaboration across all areas of World Rowing will be essential to ensuring the long-term growth and success of para rowing internationally.

As the sport continues to evolve, I believe there remains significant opportunity to further strengthen global participation, development pathways, and integration across all rowing disciplines. I would welcome the opportunity to continue working collaboratively with the World Rowing community in support of these goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Thomas Orr



2026 World Rowing Ordinary Congress

Nomination Form for the Council Elections

Our member national federation, (name of federation): Spanish Rowing Federation, would like to make a nomination for:

- ☐ Chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission
- ☐ Chair of the Events Commission
- ☐ Chair of the Masters Rowing Commission
- ☐ Chair of the Para Rowing Commission
- ☒ Chair of the Umpiring Commission

Information on the candidate:

First and Last name: **ANGELA ALONSO FERNANDEZ**

Gender: ☐ Male ☒ Female Birth year: 1975 Nationality: Spanish

Languages: Spanish (native), Catalan (native), English (C1 Advanced), French (reading comprehension)

Education History:

- MSc in Business Administration (MBA).
- MSc in International Project Management.
- MSc in Geodesy and Cartographic Engineering.
- BSc in Topographic Engineering.
- Project Management Professional (PMP) 1423565.
- Visiting Lecturer, Project Management & Technology. University of Oviedo.

Professional History:

- Head of Business (COO function) — Seresco S.A., IT & Digital Services | Spain & Latin America | 2020 – Present. Full P&L responsibility for the division, reporting directly to the CEO and contributing to board-level decisions on strategy, investment and market expansion.
- Head of International Operations & Business Development — Seresco S.A. | Spain & Latin America | 2014 – 2020. Led international expansion end to end: market analysis, partner selection, contract negotiation. Markets across Latin America and North Africa.

Sport History:

Rowing has been part of my life since childhood, a family tradition that became a vocation. I discovered early that my strengths were not in competing, but in helping others do so with fairness and precision. My cousin, then part of the Spanish national team, put it bluntly: *"You care about people, you understand their effort — and you're always last in the races. You should be an umpire."* She was right.

In 1998 I became a National Umpire. In 2002, International Umpire. In 2019, I joined the World Rowing Umpiring Commission. Over the years I have served on juries at World Cups, European and World Championships, chaired juries at European Championships and World Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprints Championships, and officiated at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games as Commission Member.

From 2018 to 2020 I served on the board of the Spanish Rowing Federation, and from 2021 to 2024 as its Vice-President, an experience that deepened my understanding of the challenges facing national federations and the umpires who serve them.

In March 2025 I was elected Chair of the World Rowing Umpiring Commission. In 17 months of leadership, the Commission has delivered education programs across all continents, redesigned its seminar model to be more practical and cross-disciplinary, achieved 50% gender balance in its own membership, and broadened its geographic representation. This is the work I am committed to continuing.

Candidates are invited to submit a letter of motivation for inclusion in the Agenda Papers.

I, the above-mentioned candidate, confirm that the information provided in this form is complete and accurate and that, if elected, I will carry out the related duties to the best of my ability.



Place, date: Madrid, 18th May 2026 Signature of candidate:

Name and Signature of Federation President or Secretary General: Ignacio Arroyo Martínez, Secretary General

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Please submit this completed Nomination form to World Rowing before **31 May 2026**

World Rowing
Av. De Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland
Email: info@worldrowing.com

ANGELA ALONSO

Candidate for Re-election as Chair of the Umpiring Commission

Oviedo, May 2026

Dear World Rowing Member Federations,

Rowing found me before I found it, a family tradition that turned into a vocation, and then into 25 years of service to this sport that I love. You trusted me with the Chair of the Umpiring Commission in March 2025, and I am asking for the opportunity to continue.

By the time we meet in Amsterdam, I will have led the Commission for 17 months. This letter is not a set of promises. It is an account of what we have done together and an honest statement of where I intend to take us next.

I took on this role following a predecessor whose dedication over many years left an exceptional foundation. My task has been to build on it, preserving what works while bringing a different perspective: more technology, broader global reach, and a Commission that reflects the full diversity of the sport it serves.

A Record, Not a Promise

In these months the Commission organised 13 in-person seminars, 2 online seminars and 6 online clinics across all regions. Four examinations were held on three continents, resulting in 11 newly qualified umpires. By the end of the year the global pool stood at 496 International Umpires. Growing this pool and broadening its geographic and gender distribution remain active objectives.

Development programmes were delivered across the Americas, Africa and Asia. The Central America and Caribbean project, led by the Commission team in close partnership with World Rowing Development, reached five countries and approximately 130 participants, creating the first generation of Regional Umpires in that area.

One achievement I am particularly proud of is the composition of the Commission itself. Of its ten members, five are women, and the group spans Europe, Oceania, Asia, North America, Central and South America, and Africa. Building a team that genuinely reflects the diversity of our sport was a priority from the start. There is more work to do, and the Commission is well placed to lead it.

I have also changed the way we deliver education. In-person seminars are now more practical and less theoretical, and we expanded online provision to reach umpires regardless of location or resources. We also began bringing direct input from other World Rowing Commissions, including Para Rowing and Equipment and Technology, into our seminars, so umpires are prepared for the full complexity of the sport they officiate. I intend to build further on this approach.

Priorities for the Term Ahead

The agenda for the next mandate is clear and already in motion. We will complete the second phase of the Central America and Caribbean project and sustain our engagement across Africa and Asia. We will strengthen monitoring tools and feedback mechanisms to better

support umpire development over time. We will expand the use of the World Rowing Academy as the backbone of a scalable education pathway. And we will continue to build umpiring capacity in Beach Sprints, Coastal and Indoor Rowing as these disciplines grow.

Technology is also central to what comes next. From training delivery to race monitoring and performance tracking, I believe there is real, practical value to be unlocked and I bring the professional background to pursue it carefully and credibly.

One thing I have tried to bring to this role from the start is availability. Any federation, any umpire, any athlete, or any Commission member can reach me directly and I intend to keep it that way.

I have been part of this sport for 25 years, in many roles and on many waters. I know what fairness feels like from the water's edge, and I know what it takes to build the structures that make it possible. I am grateful for the trust delegates placed in me in 2025, and I look forward to continuing this work together.

Thank you.

With respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Alonso', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Angela Alonso

Building world class boats since 2005



Reports of Continental Rowing Confederations and other Member Groupings

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AFRICAN ROWING FEDERATION (FASA)

Mehdi Garidi (ALG)

Key activities and achievements in 2025

As part of the 2025 achievements, a significant number of activities were organised across the African continent, with a record number of 7 Continental and Regional Championships in both Classic and Beach Sprint across all four African regions. thanks to the continual support of World Rowing Development team and Olympic Solidarity.

This year the highlight of the season was the African Rowing Championships and the African Beach Sprint Championships held in South Africa.

In this third year, we focused on continuing the reconstruction and reorganisation, and enhancing FASA governance standards, review the statutes, structure the commissions, address the financial situation, while offering racing opportunities for all African regions and provide educational opportunities.

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

- The African Beach Sprint championships South Africa, 28-29 October 2025, 12 NFs participated, ALG, ANG, BEN, EGY, LES, LBA, MAR, TUN, RSA, ZAM, ZIM, SRL
- The African Rowing Championships South Africa, 1-2 November 2025, 9 NFs participated ALG, ANG, BEN, EGY, LBA, MAR, TUN, RSA, ZIM
- The Youth African Games, Angola, 15-21 December 2025, 7 NFs participated ALG, ANG, KEN, SEN, TUN, ZAM, ZIM

Assisting African teams, athletes and coaches to participate in the international and continental Championships with the support of World Rowing and Olympic Solidarity

- West Africa Regional Rowing Championships in Benin, 5 teams participated BEN, CIV, NGR, SEN, TOG
- East Africa Regional Rowing Championships in Uganda, 4 teams participated KEN, MAW, UGA, ZIM
- African Beach Sprint Championships South Africa, 12 NFs participated, ALG, ANG, BEN, EGY, LES, LBA, MAR, TUN, RSA, ZAM, ZIM, SRL

Development activities

- Uganda, a L1 Coaching Course, was organised from 02-06 June, 12 M, 6 F coaches from Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Egypt, a L1 Coaching Course, was organised from 07-12 July in Egypt 15 M, 1 F Egyptian coach participated in this course
- Togo, L1 Coaching Course, was organised from 12-18 July 12 M, 3 F coaches from Togo participated in this course
- Nigeria – Boat donation was made and finally delivered in May 2025 as part of a DNSS project concluded in 2025
- Angola – Boat donation was made as part of the contribution to the Youth African Games 2025, the boats were delivered in December 2025

World activities

At world level, African teams athletes and coaches participated in several Development Training camps at the international championships, they were as follows:

- World Rowing U23 Championships Poznan, 5 teams participated ALG, MAR, TUN, SOM, ZIM
- World Rowing U19 Championships Lithuania, 1 team participated, Tunisia
- World Rowing Championships Shanghai, 4 teams participated EGY, SUD, TOG, TUN
- World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals, Turkiye 2 African teams participated MAR, TUN

Continental and regional activities

In 2025 FASA organised a record number of 7 successful continental events across all the African continent, with a total of 16 African Member Federations taking part in the different events.

- The East Africa Regional Beach Sprint Rowing Championships in Uganda, 6-8 June 2025, 4 NFs participated, KEN, MAW, UGA, ZIM
- The 1st African School Games, Algeria 23-31 July 2025, 5 NOC participated ALG, EGY, TOG, TUN, ZIM
- The West Africa Regional Rowing Championships in Benin, 13-19 September 2025, 5 NFs participated BEN, CIV, NGR, SEN, TOG
- The 16th Tunis lake International regatta, 05 October 2025

Focus for 2026

Our main objectives for 2026 are as follows:

- Organise successfully the different Continental events and support the organising committees to deliver successful events
 - The African Rowing Championships, Tunisia October 2026
 - The African Beach Sprint Championships Egypt, November 2026
 - The 17th Tunis lake International regatta, October 2026
 - The 2026 East Africa Regional Rowing championships, (tbc)
 - The 2026 West Africa Regional Rowing championships, Togo, June 2026

- Establish a sustainable Event calendar 2025-2028 to allow MFs to better preparation, delivery and participation in the different FASA events.
- Assist the African NFs, Athletes and coaches to participate in the international and continental championships via Olympic Solidarity
- Work in collaboration with ANOCA on development projects and secure new sources of funding
- 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, especially: The All African Games in Egypt in 2027 and the Beach African Games in Equatorial Guinea in 2027
- Development, training and education (coaches, umpires – face to face / virtually)
- Support 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 World Rowing Umpiring Commission to deliver umpiring education
- Support the new nations on the admission process to World Rowing and FASA membership
- Finalise the review of the FASA Statutes
- Organise successfully the 2026 FASA General Assembly, date and location TBC
- Recover FASA membership fees

Our deepest gratitude to World Rowing, World Rowing Development department, the development experts and coach educators, for their incredible efforts and support for growing the sport of Rowing in Africa.

Also, a huge thank you to the African Member Federations, FASA Council Members, events organising committees and all contributors for their effort and continual support.

AMERICAS ROWING CONFEDERATION (COPARE)

María Arge Díez González

Americas Rowing is an organisation affiliated with World Rowing, founded in 1995 with the purpose of developing, coordinating, and strengthening Rowing throughout the American continent. It currently comprises 31 national Federations organised into three major regions: North America, the South American Rowing Confederation (CSAR), and the Central American and Caribbean Rowing Confederation (CCCR).

The organisation's mission is to promote the sustainable growth of Rowing throughout the region by fostering integration and collaboration among its member countries; encouraging the organisation of international and regional competitions; supporting the technical development of athletes, coaches, and umpires; and promoting educational programmes that contribute to raising the sporting level across the continent.

Americas Rowing also works to promote the core values of sport, such as respect, discipline, inclusion, and excellence, while ensuring equitable participation opportunities for all its members. The organisation seeks to consolidate a strong institutional structure that strengthens national Federations and creates greater opportunities for competitive and educational development. Furthermore, Americas Rowing aims to add value to worldwide and support the implementation of the strategic priorities of World Rowing and Rowing in the Americas, with the goal of making Rowing a successful and sustainable sport and positioning the American continent as a key region within the global Rowing community.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

At the beginning of the year, within the framework of the Quadrennial Congress of World Rowing, a meeting was held with the Presidents of the Continental Confederations to discuss key topics related to the development of Rowing in each region. During this meeting, priorities, opportunities, and challenges were identified, as well as the need to define joint strategies in coordination with World Rowing.

Among the topics discussed were governance, education, and training, all of which are highly relevant to strengthening Rowing within our continent. Without a doubt, it was a very productive meeting that helped clarify several important matters and establish short-, medium-, and long term objectives. Special thanks are extended to Nobuhisa Ishizuka and Pat Lambert for their work, time, and support.

During the Asunción 2025 Junior Pan American Games held in August, an informative meeting was conducted with all participating Federations to discuss relevant matters for 2025, as well as proposals for the 2025–2028 cycle. The occasion also marked the celebration of COPARE's 30th anniversary.

During the Qualification Championship for the Central American and Caribbean Games, held in Petén, Guatemala, the first examination for umpires from the Central American and Caribbean region was conducted. This represented a significant achievement for the Central American and Caribbean Confederation under the leadership of its President, Ángel Luis García Fidalgo, with the important support of international umpires from the region. As a result, a total of nine umpires obtained their regional licenses. Finally, toward the end of the year, the Confederation's social media platforms were reactivated, and its official website was launched. The website will continue to be strengthened and updated throughout the coming year with the objective of improving communication and expanding the visibility of Rowing in the region.

Regional events in 2025

In March 2025, two major international events were held in Asunción, Paraguay: the Qualification Championship for the Asunción 2025 Junior Pan American Games and the 2025 South American Championship. Both events featured strong participation from Federations across the continent in the Senior, U23, U19, and Para Rowing categories. These competitions represented important opportunities for athletes preparing for the Pan American cycle.

In April and May, two major Coastal Rowing competitions took place. The first was the Coastal Championship "150th Anniversary Club de Regatas Lima" – 4th America Cup, held in Lima, Peru, which brought together a significant continental participation while celebrating the anniversary of one of the oldest and most emblematic Rowing clubs in the Americas. Subsequently, the American Beach Sprint Championship was held in Punta Leona, Costa Rica. These events reflect the growth and increasing relevance of Coastal Rowing in the region, driven by the organisation of high-level competitions by the American Federations.

In July, the North American region organised a development camp and the International Challenge Regatta, with the participation of junior athletes from Canada, the United States, Mexico, and New Zealand. This event represented an important development platform for young athletes beginning their international competitive careers representing their countries.

In August, the second edition of the Asunción 2025 Junior Pan American Games was held in Asunción, Paraguay, considered the most important regional event of the year for the U23 category. Eleven qualified countries participated, with Chile leading the Rowing medal table with eight gold medals, followed by Brazil with two gold medals, while Paraguay, Cuba, and Uruguay each won one gold medal. Additionally, the winners of the M1x and W1x events earned direct qualification for the Lima 2027 Pan American Games.

In October, two major events were held in the Central American and Caribbean region, both in Petén, Guatemala. The first was the Qualification Championship for the Central American and Caribbean Games, with participation from all countries in the region and strong performances by Mexico, Venezuela, and Cuba. Subsequently, the XII Central American Games Guatemala 2025 were held, where the host nation delivered an outstanding performance by winning eight gold medals, consolidating itself as a regional leader, followed by El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua with one gold medal each.

The annual competition calendar concluded with the XX Senior Bolivarian Games in Ayacucho, Peru, where events in both Classic Rowing and Coastal Beach Sprint Rowing were contested. The host country, Peru, topped the medal table with seven gold medals, followed by Paraguay with five and Chile with four, closing a year of intense competitive activity and continued growth for Rowing across the Americas.

Acknowledgements and recognition

We extend our gratitude to all the American Federations and their Presidents for their continued support and commitment throughout 2025, and especially to the Federations that hosted Pan American events. Their effort and dedication in organising high-level competitions provided outstanding sporting experiences for our athletes and strengthened the development of Rowing throughout the continent.

We also recognise and thank the umpires across the region, as well as all the volunteers whose support contributed to the success of each event held during the year.

The Pan American Rowing Confederation will continue working to support and promote the development of our sport in all its disciplines and categories, strengthening integration and the continued growth of Rowing throughout the Americas.

COPARE Executive Board

María Arge Díez González, President
 León Alfonso Miranda Reyes, Secretary
 Raúl R. Poletti, Vice President for South America
 Ángel Luis García Fidalgo, Vice President for Central America and the Caribbean
 Vacant, Vice President for North America
 Victoria Aguirregomezcorra, Continental Representative

ASIA ROWING FEDERATION (ARF)

Chen Chunxin (CHN)

1. Overall review

In 2025, the Asian Rowing Federation (ARF), together with all Member Federations, athletes, coaches, officials, and partners, continued to advance the development of Rowing in Asia. The year saw an increase in both the number and quality of events, as well as deeper regional cooperation. Despite unexpected challenges such as last-minute host changes, ARF worked closely with all stakeholders to demonstrate unity, flexibility, and forward-looking responsiveness.

ARF also continued to strengthen partnerships with World Rowing, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), and the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC), bringing more resources and expertise to Rowing in Asia.

2. Regional regattas

In 2025, ARF successfully delivered six core regattas across Asia, covering Indoor, Coastal, youth, and senior rowing, each attracting hundreds of athletes and receiving positive feedback. Notable outcomes included the first-time staging of both the Beach Sprint Championships and Beach Sprint Finals, supporting Olympic preparation for LA 2028; the U19 & U23 Championships, which featured a joint anti-doping education session involving over 325 participants; and the continued role of Indoor Rowing as a low-barrier entry point for emerging Federations.

3. Asian presence on the global stage

In 2025, ARF Member Federations remained active internationally. At the World Rowing Indoor Championships, athletes from nine Member Federations competed; Iran and Kuwait won medals in the Lightweight and PR2 Men's events. At the World Rowing U19 Championships in Poznan, China, Japan, Uzbekistan, and Hong Kong, China took part, with Uzbekistan delivering strong performances in the JM1x and JW2-events. At the 2025 World Rowing Championships, both China and Indonesia achieved excellent results. Asian Member Federations also participated in the World Rowing U23 Championships and the World Rowing Masters Regatta. Moreover, an increasing number of Asian technical officials served at top-level international regattas.

4. Development and Capacity Building

In 2025, ARF continued to invest in athletes, coaches, and officials, systems, and local capacity by partnering with World Rowing to deliver two regional training camps—the World Rowing Youth and Development (YAD) Camp in Zhoushan, China, and a training camp in Hai Phong, Vietnam—bringing together 35 athletes and coaches from nine Member Federations, many from emerging programmes.

ARF placed greater emphasis on supporting Member Federations and local organisers in event delivery, conducting site inspections, providing technical documentation, and holding briefings for Organising Committees prior to each major event.

5. Governance and organisational strengthening

ARF currently comprises 10 specialised Committees, and three new Chairs were welcomed this year. The Executive Committee met multiple times to discuss event hosting, competition regulations, strategic planning, and disciplinary matters, with voting conducted both in-session and on-line, and all decisions were properly recorded and communicated to Member Federations. ARF also maintained regular dialogue with all Member Federations through official circulars, the website, email, and dedicated WhatsApp/WeChat groups, enabling faster issue resolution and better information sharing.

6. 2025 ARF Congress

The 2025 ARF Annual Congress was held on October 18 in Hai Phong, Vietnam, with delegates from 18 Member Federations gathering to review strategic outcomes, confirm committee updates, and align on the path forward into 2026.

7. Looking ahead to 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, ARF will focus on five key priorities: supporting the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya in close coordination with World Rowing, OCA, and the AINAGOC; delivering a full and balanced regatta calendar covering multiple disciplines and age groups; strengthening clean sport efforts through expanded anti-doping education and closer cooperation with national authorities and World Rowing; building leadership capacity across Asia by empowering Member Federations, supporting regional cooperation, and preparing the next generation of technical officials, administrators, and athletes; and ensuring a smooth and transparent election process for the ARF Executive Committee.

8. Conclusion

2025 was a year of both challenges and progress for ARF. The Federation delivered more events than ever before, deepened partnerships, expanded access to training and development, and demonstrated resilience in the face of unforeseen changes. These achievements reflect the trust, collaboration, and dedication of all Member Federations and stakeholders. ARF recognises that continued growth depends not only on what is organised, but also on how the Federation leads through good governance, open communication, and a shared vision. Looking ahead to 2026, ARF is well-positioned to build on recent momentum, further strengthen the Federation, uplift the Rowing community, and ensure that Asia plays an increasingly visible and valuable role in global rowing.

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 (MF), including Israel and Gibraltar and 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 2025

The European Rowing General Assembly 2025 was held alongside an Extraordinary General Assembly, to update and clarify the Constitution, during the European Rowing Championships (ERCH), Plovdiv, Bulgaria (29 May-1 June).

The mandates of Patrick Rombaut (BEL) and Algirdas Raslanas (LTU) ended at the end of 2025. Dušan Macháček (CZE) as World Rowing's Continental Representative for Europe remains an ex-officio member of the European Rowing Board (ERB) according to Article 18.5.3 of the World Rowing Statutes. World Rowing nominated Patrick Rombaut (BEL) and Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED) who were duly ratified by the congress delegates to begin new mandates on 1 January 2025. Annamarie Phelps was re-elected to the Board and as President, having reached the end of her mandate.

The ERCH Programme incorporated and piloted the new progression system for racing and a new Victory Ceremony format, and we greatly appreciated the flexibility of the Organising Committee (OC) and teams in these matters. The event was very positively received by athletes and teams, and the OC took great care in the preparation of the racing and social events in the historic city centre. Plovdiv is well known for producing fast racing and close finishes, and we saw 16 European Rowing Championship, and two new World, Best Times. Although GBR, GER and ROU topped the medal table, gold medals were spread across 8 Federations with 19 taking home medals.

32 Federations participated and although crew and athlete numbers were slightly higher than in 2024, they remained low from a historic context. The ratio of male to female athletes, and crews, entered also showed a slight improvement on the previous year, at around 60/40 with plenty of doubling up in the women's eights. As expected, entries in lightweight events dropped considerably following changes to the Olympic Programme for 2028. Only the LM1x required heats.

13 Federations participated in the Para Rowing Events, the highest number (equal to 2021) since the inclusion of para-events at the ERCH, however with no entries in the PR3 Mix 4+ the numbers of athletes were lower than usual, and the percentage of male/female athletes was the poorest to date with only 25% of crews and 23% of athletes being female.

We returned to the beautiful natural Goplo Lake for the third consecutive year, with the experienced OC at Goplo Rowing Club in Kruszwica, Poland, taking on the European Rowing U19 Championships (ERU19CH) 24-25 May. The number of entries remained around the 128 level similar to the previous three editions of the ERU19CH, but with a slight improvement in gender balance in both athlete numbers and crews making this the most gender equal age group event since 2016.

The 9th European Rowing U23 Championships (ERU23CH) took place in Račice, Czechia, 6-7 September. In the lightweight category only the men's and women's single-sculls events were competed for in Račice, however athlete and crew entries increased slightly from the previous two editions and the new Mixed 8+ event attracted 6 entries to make an exciting finale to the Championships. All races were livestreamed allowing everyone to follow the action. Racing on the final morning was delayed due to heavy fog but thanks to the efficiency and collaboration of all stakeholders races were rescheduled without competitive compromise, and everyone made their transport home. Although the number of female athletes compared to male was low, the ratio of female to male crews was one of the most equal in the event's history at approximately 42/58, due to the small boat entries.

The European Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships (ERCBSC) took place the following month in Manavgat, Antalya, Türkiye, 8-12 October. This four-day regatta, incorporating Beach Sprint and Endurance formats, is now a large event; and a new record of 325 crews and 580 athletes from 31 nations reflected the growing interest in Coastal Rowing and particularly Beach Sprints: now an Olympic discipline for Los Angeles 2028.

In the Club Coastal Endurance clubs from 19 nations entered 161 crews including 6 from the USA. As the World Coastal Championships did not take place in 2025, the ERB agreed to open the European event for any nation. In the event this was only taken up by a small number of USA crews. 13 nations entered Member Federation crews to compete in the European Endurance races with 26 coastal solos (14 male, 12 female) and 14 mixed doubles. Türkiye, boosted by local interest and proximity had by far the largest number of entries but Germany, Italy, France, Great Britain and, of course, Spain continue to have enthusiastic competitors willing to travel in large numbers.

In the 4th edition of the European Beach Sprint Championships

a record number of crews competed in every event, both senior and U19, totalling 131 crews. Excluding the mixed crews this represented a gender balance of 55/45 - Male/Female crews. Türkiye won its first gold medal in Beach Sprints in the U19 Mix 2x, with Great Britain and Italy winning the two solos. In the senior events Great Britain, Austria and Portugal took gold, and 12 Federations shared the medals.

The 2025 European Rowing Presidents' Meeting was hosted by the Belgium Rowing Federation in Ghent, with delegates invited to a Sport Seminar, the Vice President, Patrick Rombaut, President, Annamarie Phelps and Belgium Federation President, Gwenda Stevens, alongside Jean Christophe Rolland, President of World Rowing, contributed to the speeches with Jean-Michel Saive, President of the Belgium National Olympic Committee also attending. The two-day Meeting refreshed the Confederation's strategic priorities; discussed the Continental Confederation Review undertaken by World Rowing; and reviewed possible changes to event categories and disciplines following decisions taken at the IF's Quadrennial Congress.

In addition, the ERB made progress in assessing the possibilities of a new development office to be based in an EU country with several Federations expressing interest. In May the ERB signed a memorandum of understanding with EUSA, the European University Sports Association, committing to cooperate to further University Rowing across Europe through events, projects and partnership. The two organisations will also coordinate umpires and relevant rowing rules, competition data and organisational event standards and calendars.

European Rowing did not hold a stand-alone Indoor Championships event in 2025, but European rankings were established using results at the World Indoor Championships.

Summary

The ERB would like to thank our Member Federations for their open engagement and commitment to European events; our members and Organising Committees who have hosted 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 throughout recent years and Tine Jacobsen who has succeeded her.

I would like to give a special thanks to Algirdas Raslanas; a member of the ERB for 20 years from its foundation, who has served European Rowing without fault, loyally and dependably throughout. He and I stepped down on 31 December 2025. I would like to conclude by thanking each member of the ERB for their immense contribution, their time, energy, and commitment to building a stronger Rowing community. And for their friendship. My personal thanks to Patrick Rombaut for taking on the role of Interim President ahead of the elections in Budapest and best wishes to Jacomine Ravensbergen and Morten Juel who both joined the Board in 2026. Above all congratulations to Asuncion Lorient who was recently elected President of European Rowing.

European Rowing Board 2025

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)

Duncan Free (AUS)

The Oceania Rowing Confederation (ORCON) continued to make positive progress throughout 2025, with increased engagement across Member Federations and the successful delivery of development initiatives aimed at growing Rowing throughout the region. With ten member nations and territories now represented—American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and French Polynesia—the Confederation remains committed to creating sustainable opportunities for athletes, coaches and administrators while strengthening the sport across Oceania.

A key feature of 2025 was the continued growth of Coastal Rowing and Beach Sprint Rowing. These disciplines are particularly well suited to many Pacific nations due to their extensive coastlines, accessibility and lower infrastructure requirements. As a result, Beach Sprint Rowing continues to provide an effective pathway for participation and development across emerging Rowing nations.

Throughout the year, ORCON worked closely with World Rowing, Olympic Solidarity, National Olympic Committees and Member Federations to deliver initiatives that supported participation growth, coach development and increased community engagement. These partnerships continue to play a critical role in strengthening Rowing across the region.

A major milestone during 2025 was the delivery of a Beach Sprint Rowing Development Programme in American Samoa in October. Led by World Rowing Development Coaching Expert for Oceania, Laryssa Biesenthal OLY, in partnership with local coach Paula MacDonald and the American Samoa Rowing Federation, the initiative focused on introducing Beach Sprint Rowing to schools, rebuilding local Rowing capability and establishing sustainable participation pathways.

More than 60 students participated in practical rowing sessions, peak-power ergometer testing and team-based activities, while teachers, parents and community members engaged with the Programme and explored opportunities to support future Rowing activities. The initiative also resulted in the development of a preliminary annual activity calendar incorporating athlete monitoring, local regattas and community engagement opportunities to support future growth.

Building on this momentum, the second World Rowing Oceania Youth Development Training Camp was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in December 2025. The camp welcomed 16 junior athletes (eight women and eight men) from American Samoa, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia and Vanuatu, supported by four coaches. Delivered through a partnership between World Rowing, Olympic Solidarity, ORCON, the Vanuatu Rowing Association and participating National Olympic Committees, the camp provided structured training, coach education and meaningful competition opportunities for developing Rowing nations.

The Programme included the Oceania Youth Development Ergometer Regatta and the Oceania Youth Development Beach Sprint Championships, featuring junior women's, junior men's and mixed-gender events. The camp also provided valuable learning opportunities for local coaches and volunteers, helping build capability within emerging Federations and strengthening future development pathways.

A particularly pleasing outcome was the involvement of Papua New Guinea, a new World Rowing Member Federation, represented by two athletes. Through a collaborative relay team arrangement, the athletes were able to fully participate in competition while demonstrating the values of excellence, respect and friendship that underpin the sport of Rowing.

The event held additional significance as Vanuatu continued its recovery from the devastating earthquake of December 2024. Despite these challenges, the Vanuatu Rowing Association delivered an outstanding event with strong local support and engagement. The camp generated considerable local interest in Rowing and is expected to contribute to increased participation opportunities within the community.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the growing momentum of Rowing throughout Oceania. ORCON is encouraged by the increasing engagement of Member Federations, the growth of Beach Sprint Rowing and the strengthening partnerships that continue to support development across the region.

Looking ahead to 2026, ORCON will continue to expand opportunities for athletes, coaches and administrators. A further Oceania Youth Development Camp is planned to be held on the Gold Coast, Australia, in conjunction with the Australian Beach Sprint Championships. ORCON also looks forward to supporting participation by several member nations at the New Zealand Beach Sprint Championships, providing valuable international racing opportunities and strengthening regional connections. The Confederation remains committed to supporting sustainable growth and increasing participation throughout Oceania through strong partnerships, targeted development initiatives and a shared commitment to excellence, respect and friendship.

ARAB ROWING FEDERATION (FAA)

Khaled Zein Eldin (EGY)

Key activities and achievements in 2025

Continental and regional activities

- The 1st African school games held in Algeria 23-31 July 2025; 3 NOC participated: EGY, TUN, ALG
- African Beach Sprint & Classic Rowing Championships, held in South Africa from 27 Oct to 2 Nov 2025; 5 NF s participated: TUN, MAR, LBA, EGY, SUD
- Youth athlete development camp during the Asian Beach Sprint Final in China from 5 to 14 Sep; 3 NFs participated: IRQ , KSA , KUW
- Asian Beach Sprint Final China 5 - 14 Sep; UAE, KUW, KSA, IRQ participated
- Development training camp and Asian Championships in Vietnam 11-20 Oct: IRQ, KSA, KUW participated

World activities

- World Rowing U23 Poznan, POL; 3 teams participated: ALG, MAR, TUN
- World Rowing U19 Trakai, LTU; 1 team participated: TUN
- World Rowing Championships Shanghai, CHN; 4 teams participated: EGY, SUD, TUN, IRQ
- World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals Turkey 3 teams participated: EGY , TUN , MAR

Challenges for the future

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

The FAA goals are to:

- Working hard to implement the 2026 Agenda and the realisation of World Rowing Strategy
- Further improvement in women's rowing, by increasing the number of female athletes and coaches and their competitive level.
- Trying to help the Arab National Federations to participate in the International Championships as we must provide assistance with lodging and boats.
- Attending the World Rowing Congress to have an effective role in the decisions that are taken.
- Encourage Indoor Rowing and Beach Sprint Rowing in the Arab Countries that don't have a regatta course.

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

BALKAN ROWING ASSOCIATION (BRA)

Dorin ALUPEI (ROU)

The 2025 Balkan Rowing Championships were successfully held in Ioannina, Greece, on a newly established regatta course. With the strong support of the local authorities, in particular the local authorities of Ioannina, the Hellenic Rowing Federation managed to develop and deliver a fully operational regatta venue within a very short timeframe. The course featured eight lanes over the standard 2000-metre distance and hosted more than 350 athletes, officials, and guests from across the Balkan region. All competition facilities, technical infrastructure, and accommodation arrangements were provided at a high organisational standard by the host federation.

The Championships represented an important milestone for regional cooperation and development. The level of competition was balanced and competitive, with medals distributed among several participating nations, demonstrating the continued progress and depth of Rowing performance within the Balkan area.

During the 2025 Ordinary Congress of the Balkan Rowing Association (BRA), the following key decisions were adopted:

- The 2026 Balkan Rowing Championships will be hosted in Plovdiv, one of the most established and internationally recognised Rowing venues in Europe.
- The Bulgarian Rowing Federation will assume the leadership of the Balkan Rowing Association for the upcoming term of one year.
- Mr. Svilen Neikov, President of the Bulgarian Rowing Federation, has been appointed President of the Balkan Rowing Association.

The Balkan Rowing Association remains committed to strengthening regional collaboration, promoting high-performance sport, and contributing to the global development of Rowing in alignment with the objectives of World Rowing.

The Balkan Rowing Association is a European regional association for Rowing in the Balkan Peninsula founded in 1973 in Athens, Greece.

Member Federations:

1. Albania
2. Bulgaria
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Greece
5. North Macedonia
6. Romania
7. Serbia
8. Turkey
9. Croatia

Administration

The BRA governing body is consisting of:

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

Commissions

A Coaches' Commission consists of seven members, one from each country Member Federation. The Coordinator of the Coaches' Commission is appointed by the Congress

The Umpires' Commission consists of no less than 5 members, international umpires, no more than 1 one representative per country. The Coordinator of Umpires' Commission is appointed by the Congress.

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 organisation 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.

COMMONWEALTH ROWING ASSOCIATION (CRA)

Peter Cookson (CAN), Past President

Kate O'Sullivan, (GBR) President

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 organisation with a total of 36 Member Federations: Australia, Bahamas (expelled by World Rowing at the 2025 Ordinary Congress), 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 2025

In November 2025, the second edition of the Commonwealth Rowing Association Beach Sprints was held in Bridgetown, Barbados from November 21 to 23, 2025. The event was highly successful with fourteen Federations across the Commonwealth participating in the event. The event was highlighted by a strong performance from Australia and the first ever international Rowing medals for both Barbados and Uganda. One of the key features of the CRA Beach Sprints is the Team Relay event – an event that brings exciting and challenging racing for all the teams.

Similar to the 2022 CRA Championships, an educational component was held that included technical official training, technical delegate training, coach training and a development training camp prior to the start of the competition.

The Commonwealth Rowing Association would like to express their sincere gratitude to the World Rowing Development Programme and the Barbados Rowing Federation for their efforts in making this event such a success

Commonwealth Rowing Association elections:

The Commonwealth Rowing Association held its Annual General Meeting in Barbados on November 21, 2025. President Peter Cookson (CAN), Secretary General Dorothy Roberts Blackie (SCO) and Executive Member Steve Sriram (IND) had served two terms on the CRA Executive, the maximum limit as per the CRA Statutes and stepped down from the Executive.

An election was held to elect a President, Secretary General and two Executive Members for a four-year term beginning January 2026. Results are as follows:

Kate O'Sullivan, England, President
James Andrews, England, Executive Member
Duncan Free, Australia, Executive Member

Anthony Yarde from Barbados remains on the Executive for another four-year term. No nominations were received for Secretary General; the Executive will co-opt a member to serve until elections can be held at the next AGM.

Key activities and aspirations for 2026

The CRA Executive are committed to working in collaboration with World Rowing and the Association's Membership to unite Commonwealth Rowing through Rowing.

We are committed to building the capability and capacity across all Commonwealth Nations, through lowering barriers to infrastructure, sharing resources and empowering a diverse, new generation of international rowers.

Priority areas for 2026 include:

1. Establish the new Executive
2. Develop a 2026 to 2034 strategy and implementation plan
3. Build on the past work to place Rowing in the best possible position to be included in the 2030 or future Commonwealth Games, Commonwealth Youth Games and other multi-discipline competitions whether for Beach Sprints, Indoor, Classic River and Coastal
4. Review the current Constitution and gain approval at the 2026 AGM
5. Establish a forecast budget required to deliver the strategy and identify sources of funding to support in the implementation

A significant milestone for the Commonwealth Rowing Association in 2026 will be the commemoration of 40 years since Rowing was first included in the main Programme of the Commonwealth Games. Through the leadership and support of Lee Boucher, CEO of Scottish Rowing, a series of activities will be held in conjunction with the Scottish Rowing Championships at Strathclyde Park, Scotland.

A key feature of the celebrations will be a Commonwealth Rowing Association Breakfast hosted at Team Scotland on 31 July, for key leaders and stakeholders. The event will provide an opportunity to reflect on Rowing's contribution to the Commonwealth Games over the past four decades while also exploring the future role of the sport within the Commonwealth Sport movement.

The event is expected to provide an important platform to position Rowing as a progressive and adaptable sport that can contribute meaningfully to the future growth and relevance of the Commonwealth Games.

In addition, the Executive are exploring with Filip Ljubicic, Chair of the Indoor Commission if it will be possible to host a Commonwealth event at the February World Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships.

The Executive are currently planning to hold the AGM during the 2026 World Championships in Amsterdam.

The CRA Executive wish to offer their personal thanks to Peter Cookson for his leadership during his term and for the personal investment he has made to developing the Commonwealth Rowing Community. We would also like to acknowledge the commitment of Dorothy Roberts Blackie during her tenure in her role as the Secretary General.

COUPE DE LA JEUNESSE

Gwenda Stevens (BEL)

The Coupe de la Jeunesse, founded in 1985, is an established European Rowing organisation whose primary objective is the annual organisation of the Coupe de la Jeunesse regatta. The regatta is a multi-lane international competition for junior (U19) rowers, bringing together selected European Rowing Federations. Membership of the Coupe de la Jeunesse is granted by invitation.

The event is designed to promote high-quality sporting competition in a respectful and supportive environment, encouraging fair play and mutual respect among athletes, officials, and teams. The Coupe de la Jeunesse provides an important international development opportunity, and for many young rowers it represents the first step in their international rowing careers.

The regatta Programme consists of two days of racing, with event-specific prizes awarded each day, alongside a team competition contributing to the overall ranking for the annual award of the Coupe de la Jeunesse Trophy.

In recognition of the evolving landscape of rowing disciplines, the Coupe de la Jeunesse Beach Sprint event was introduced two years ago and has since been established as an annual competition for U19 athletes, complementing the traditional regatta format.

Membership

The Coupe de la Jeunesse currently comprises the following national Federations:

Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Germany was elected by the General Assembly to become the 17th Member Federations of the Coupe.

Executive Committee

- **President:** Gary Harris (GBR) until the GA 2025, then Gwenda Stevens (BEL) took over.
- **Secretary General:** Gwenda Stevens (BEL) until the GA 2025, then Richard Dennis took over ad-interim until 2026 and can be prolonged until 2027 after confirmation of the General Assembly in 2026.
- **Technical Advisor:** Judit Mészáros (HUN)
- **Technical Advisor:** Michael Zwahlen (SUI)

At the General Assembly held on Friday, 1 August, Gary Harris formally concluded his twelve-year mandate and handed over the presidency to Gwenda Stevens. In recognition of his outstanding service and long-standing contribution to the organisation, the General Assembly conferred upon Gary Harris the title of Honorary President.

Coupe de la Jeunesse Linz – 1-3 August 2025

The Coupe de la Jeunesse 2025, held in Linz, Austria, attracted a strong field and reaffirmed its position as a key international regatta within the World Rowing youth competition pathway.

The number of competing crews increased progressively over the course of the regatta, with nineteen crews racing on Friday, one hundred and twenty one crews on Saturday, and one hundred and thirty five crews on Sunday. In total, sixteen Member Federations were represented, France, Hungary, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, the Czechia, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Poland, and Norway, reflecting the event's wide European participation.

The regatta welcomed a total of 415 athletes, comprising 227 men and 188 women, competing across the full Programme of events.

The allocation of points towards the overall standings and the Coupe de la Jeunesse Trophy ensured a high level of sporting commitment throughout the competition, contributing to a competitive and well-organised regatta that met World Rowing's standards for international youth events.

'Neil Thomas Trophy' for the winners of the U19 Men's competition = **GBR**

'Michel Bugnano Trophy' for the winners of the U19 Women's competition = **GBR**

Overall winner = GBR

Points Overview

Coupe de la Jeunesse 20205 - Linz
v01 - 2025-08-03

Junior Women	Points Saturday	Points Sunday	Total	Position
GBR	102	102	204	1
ITA	86	82	168	2
NED	56	61	117	3

Junior Men	Points Saturday	Points Sunday	Total	Position
GBR	100	98	198	1
ITA	81	89	170	2
NED	63	64	127	3

Total	Points Saturday	Points Sunday	Total	Position
GBR	202	200	402	1
ITA	167	171	338	2
NED	119	125	244	3

Coupe Beach Sprint 2025 – 31 October-2 November - La Línea de la Concepción, Spain

The Coupe de la Jeunesse Beach Sprint, held last year in Spain, recorded a solid level of participation and confirmed the increasing prominence of this discipline within European youth Rowing.

Five events were organised, generating a total of ninety-six entries across all categories. Participation figures show fifty-six women and fifty-four men, with these numbers reflecting the total number of seats per boat rather than individual crews.

The competition attracted representatives from thirteen nations, Norway, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Germany, Czechia, Denmark, Great Britain, Poland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium, demonstrating the event's broad international reach.

Overall, the strong entry numbers combined with wide geographical representation underline the success of the Coupe de la Jeunesse Beach Sprint and its role in supporting the development and visibility of Beach Sprint Rowing at youth level.

Next Events:

2026

Coupe de la Jeunesse – 24-26 July '26 – Lucerne (SUI)

Coupe Beach Sprint – 2-4 October '26 - Figueira da Foz (POR)

2027

Coupe de la Jeunesse – 6-8 August '27– Hazewinkel (BEL)

SOUTH AMERICAN ROWING CONFEDERATION (CSAR)

Raul Poletti (ARG)

CSAR was founded 28 July 1945 and was recognised by FISA on 11 January 2013. CSAR is also recognised by Organización Deportiva Sudamericana (ODESUR), Organización Deportiva Bolivariana (ODEBO), Asociación de Confederaciones Deportivas Sudamericanas (ACODESU) and Confederación Panamericana de Remo (COPARE).

CSAR Members are: Argentina Rowing Association, Brazilian Rowing Confederation, Federation Rowing Bolivia, Chile Rowing Federation, Rowing and Canoe Federation of Colombia, Rowing Federation of Ecuador, Panama Rowing Federation, Paraguay Rowing Federation, Rowing Federation of Peru, Uruguay Rowing Federation and Rowing Federation of Venezuela.

CSAR was formally recognised by World Rowing as a Member Grouping in 2017.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

I am pleased to address you to report on the significant progress achieved in South American Rowing over the past year.

A major milestone was the successful staging of the Second South American Club Championship for Under-16 athletes, held in Chile. The event attracted an outstanding number of entries and received the full support of the Chilean Rowing Federation. It continues to engage and develop young athletes, many of whom have since been selected to their national U19 teams.

Building on this success, Paraguay will once again host the event this year, further establishing Asunción as a regional hub for Rowing activities.

This momentum inspired the creation of the First South American Club Cup for the U19 and Senior categories, as well as the inauguration of the Head of the Paraguay River. By encouraging clubs to compete with their own crews, these initiatives provide valuable competitive opportunities for athletes who are not part of their national teams.

In March, these athletes competed in the South American Championship, which was held alongside the qualification event for the II Junior Pan American Games in Asunción. This joint organisation once again demonstrated the benefits of combining events to optimise logistics and resources.

Chile emerged as South American Champion, followed by Brazil and Argentina.

The Championships also included Para Rowing events. While we have seen encouraging growth in participation in the Mixed PR3 Double Sculls event, entries in the Women's PR1 Single Sculls have declined. Addressing this imbalance will be a priority in our future development efforts.

At the youth level, South American Rowing once again demonstrated its strength on the continental stage, with Chile, Brazil, and Paraguay clearly leading the medal table at the Pan American Youth competitions.

The Confederation also contributed officiating support to the South American Masters Regatta in Uruguay, representing another important step toward the integration of Masters Rowing into the continent's official Rowing framework.

Despite the success of the Pan American Youth Games, we regret the exclusion of Rowing from both the ODESUR Youth Games and the Bolivarian Youth Games. In response, we will work closely with our National Olympic Committees to advocate for the reinstatement of our sport in these important events.

On the institutional side, the Ordinary Congress unanimously renewed the mandate of the Executive Council through 2029 and approved the creation of a Pan American Referee License. Developed jointly with the Pan American Rowing Confederation, this initiative will allow referees recognised by both organisations to officiate throughout the continent, further strengthening cooperation and standards across the Americas.

Another significant achievement was the successful inclusion of both traditional Rowing and Beach Sprint Rowing within the Programme of the XX Bolivarian Games Lima 2025. This pioneering experience has already secured its continuation at the South American Games Santa Fe 2026 and represents an important step toward the inclusion of Beach Sprint Rowing in the Pan American Games Lima 2027.

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Reports on applications for affiliation and voting consequent thereon

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Requests have been received from:

- Bahamas Rowing Federation
- Gambia Rowing Federation
- Turks & Caicos Rowing Federation

The Council is currently reviewing the application and seeking additional information.

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Reconsideration or confirmation of decisions (ref. Article 28) taken by the Council, in accordance with the provisions of Article 21.4, 41.3.2 and 41.3.3, or by the Executive Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Article 49.3.4

Agenda Item

Specific proposals to an existing agenda item from the Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee

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Other additional agenda items proposed by the Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee

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a. Strategic Events & Calendar Review (SECR) - general update

b. Other Strategic Projects updates

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GLOBAL PARTNERS



PREMIUM SUPPLIERS



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS

