

FISA Rule Book

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FISA Rule Book

2005 EDITION

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STATUTES and related Bye-Laws

2005 Edition

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| 2007 Edition (yellow insert pages)

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STATUTES

Declaration of Principles

A. ROWING

Rowing is one of the oldest sports and carries strong traditions. Over the years certain values and characteristics have become connected with rowing, which rowers protect and reinforce. These characteristics and values which should inspire all activities and decisions are the following:

A1. Development of the Individual

Individuals, through rowing, acquire a personal experience of determination, team spirit, respect, commitment, integrity and a sense of fair play. By applying these principles in all circumstances, rowers become independent and responsible individuals, prepared to face the realities of life and willing to share the values gained with others.

A2. International Understanding

International rowing events and meetings are organised in such a way as to be a means for friendly contact between the participants, contributing to a better understanding between people and nations, regardless of race, sex, frontiers or political systems. Rowers form a worldwide “family” based on the ideals of peace, friendship, fairness, understanding and mutual assistance. All rowers are encouraged to foster international understanding through the sport of rowing.

A3. Lifetime Sport for All

Rowing allows for the maintenance of physical fitness from youth through to old age. Rowing is a competitive and recreational activity for all, regardless of age, gender or ability.

A4. Environmental responsibility

Rowing is a sport which requires clean air and clean water; the rowing community plays an important role in the responsible and sustainable management of the natural and physical resources especially those which are necessary for rowing.

B. FISA

FISA is the community of national rowing federations worldwide and the oldest international sports federation. It governs rowing by defending its principles and by acting in accordance with the following:

B1. Integral part of world sport

Founded in 1892, FISA was the first international sport federation to be established and rowing has been on the Olympic Programme since 1896, the first Olympic Games of the modern era. It is an active participant in the world of sport and co-operates with the other international federations and the various world sports organisations. It encourages any steps which serve to propagate sport and contribute to develop it, as well as to promote the Olympic Games and the various other international championships. It seeks the inclusion of rowing in multi-sport international competitions and a presence on important international sports bodies.

B2. Independence

FISA will keep rowing free from political and commercial restraints. Moreover, FISA undertakes, at all levels, to preserve the independence and autonomy of international sport.

B3. Priority to Sport

FISA directs its work in the interest of rowers and rowing. It opposes any attempt to subordinate sport to any other interests.

B4. Fairness and equality of opportunity

FISA always seeks to ensure that its competitions and participants respect the principles of fairness and equality of opportunity. It fights, in particular, against doping and technical manipulation by enforcing strict rules. FISA carries out worldwide anti-doping tests, in and out of competition, and supports all appropriate measures taken in that field at the international level.

B5. Development of rowing in all its forms

FISA promotes and develops the sport. It establishes development programmes, organises training courses, and develops public relations and media opportunities. Thereby, FISA works to attract new rowers and members, improve the level, quality and appeal of its competitions, and ensure a leading position for rowing in world sport, in multi-sport events and, particularly, in the Olympic Games.

B6. Inclusion and Accessibility

FISA is committed to inclusion and accessibility. FISA promotes inclusive practices in the planning and staging of events. FISA encourages accessible design, construction and refurbishment of existing rowing facilities.

B7. Sound environmental practices

FISA is committed to practices that respect and safeguard the environment in which the sport of rowing is conducted. FISA endorses responsible and sustainable environmental practices in the planning and staging of events, the design and construction of new rowing facilities and the refurbishment of existing rowing facilities. FISA promotes awareness and community consultation on rowing related environmental issues.

PART I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1- Foundation, Name and Legal Status

With the object of encouraging the development of the sport of rowing and of strengthening the bonds of friendship that unite those who practise it, the Adriatic, Belgian, French, Italian and Swiss Federations founded the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron (FISA) on 25th June, 1892, in Turin. FISA was the first international sport federation to be established. FISA is a not-for-profit association governed by articles 60 and following of the Swiss civil code. It is endowed with legal personality. Its members, office bearers and employees are not responsible for its debts.

Article 2 - Objects

The objects of FISA shall be:

1. To maintain and promote the ethical principles of FISA as set out in the Declaration of Principles to the Statutes.
2. To promote and develop all forms of rowing, and in particular to encourage competitive rowing, recreational rowing, junior rowing, masters rowing and rowing for people with disabilities.
3. To encourage international understanding and co-operation.
4. To apply the eligibility rules as laid down in the FISA Rules of Racing for all competitions.
5. To encourage the development of rowing, the creation of new clubs and rowing courses and the formation of national federations in countries where rowing is not developed.
6. To establish international championships under the titles of World Rowing Championships and Continental Championships and to take part in the organisation of Olympic regattas.
7. To encourage the organisation of international regattas open to all member federations, and to ensure that international regattas are governed by the Rules of Racing adapted to the development of the sport of rowing.
8. To establish measures of development aid.

Article 3 - Non-Discrimination

FISA shall allow no political, religious, racial or gender discrimination.

Article 4 - Autonomy of national federations

FISA shall have no part in purely national questions. It shall allow its member federations complete autonomy internally.

Article 5 - Headquarters

The location of the FISA headquarters is decided by the Council.

Bye-Law to Article 5 - Headquarters

The headquarters are currently in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article 6 - Emblem

The emblem of FISA is: the five oars, side by side, coloured blue, yellow, black, green and red with or without the letters F-I-S-A. Only the Executive Committee may authorise the use of the FISA emblem.

Article 7 - Languages

The official languages of FISA are French and English. In case of divergence, the English text prevails. The use of other languages may be authorised by the Executive Committee in Congress or by the chair of the meeting on other occasions.

Article 8 - Official Communications

Any communications required under these Statutes or Rules may be made by post, fax or email. All communications to FISA shall be addressed to the Headquarters.

Article 9 - Interpretation

In these Statutes, Rules of Racing and the Bye-Laws, and in all FISA documents, unless the context otherwise requires, all refer-

ences to the masculine shall include the feminine and all references to “rowers” shall include scullers and coxswains.

The Executive Committee shall decide questions of interpretation of the FISA Statutes, Rules and Bye-Laws.

Article 10 - Binding Authority

FISA is bound by the signatures of two members of the Executive Committee, one of whom shall be the President, or, in case of the incapacity of the President, the Vice President.

PART II - MEMBERSHIP

Article 11 - Members

Only a national federation that includes the majority of rowing clubs in its country, which has been recognised as such by the overall governing body of sport or the National Olympic Committee of that country, and whose statutes are not inconsistent with those of FISA, may become a member of FISA. To be accepted as a member of FISA, a national federation must cover the territory of a country that is recognised as such and as an independent and sovereign state by the international community. This requirement does not apply to members who were affiliated before 25 January 1993.

Article 12 - Admission to membership

In order to become a member of FISA, a national rowing federation shall:

1. Make formal application to the Executive Committee at least one month before the date of the next Congress.
2. Submit with its application a copy of its statutes, rules of racing, written evidence that the requirements for affiliation have been complied with, and a detailed report on the activities of the clubs that it represents.
3. Provide details of the membership of its committee and the design and colours of its racing uniform and blades.
4. Give a formal undertaking to observe the Statutes, Rules of

Racing, Regulations and Bye-Laws of FISA.

5. Undertake to accept as binding and final the decisions of the competent authorities within FISA and in this regard to recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne as the only possible external judicial authority.
6. Undertake to impose the obligations in 4 and 5 upon its affiliated clubs and their members in all those areas in which FISA has authority.
7. Pay an entrance fee, the amount of which shall be fixed each year by Congress.
8. Be admitted to membership by a vote of Congress for which a clear majority of the votes of members represented shall be required.

Article 13 - Retaining membership status

In order to retain its membership status, a member federation shall, at all times, fulfil all the conditions necessary for its admission.

Therefore, it shall immediately notify the Executive Committee of FISA of any change made to its statutes, rules of racing, membership of its committee, its address, or the design or colours of its racing uniform and blades.

Article 14 - Resignation

A member federation wishing to withdraw from membership of FISA at the end of the current year shall give notice of resignation by registered post to the Executive Committee not later than 30th September. The Executive Committee shall immediately inform the remaining member federations of any resignations submitted to it.

Article 15 - Subscriptions

Member federations shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which is determined each year in advance by the Congress. The members' only financial responsibility towards FISA shall be to pay this subscription no later than 31st March of each year.

Article 16 - Subscriptions in arrears

Member federations whose subscriptions are in arrears may be suspended by the Executive Committee or expelled by Congress. In any event, they shall forfeit their voting rights.

Article 17 - Expulsion

If a member federation does not continue to fulfil the current conditions of membership of FISA and does not rectify the situation by a date fixed by the Executive Committee, or if there are other justifiable reasons, the Congress may expel that federation.

Article 18 - Recognition of Rowing Confederations

The Council may recognise rowing confederations which consist of a number of FISA members with a common geographical or other basis and may grant to these confederations permission to be represented at Congresses by observers.

PART III - GOVERNANCE**Article 19 – Governance**

FISA shall be governed by:

1. The Congress (Art.20 and following)
2. The Council (Art. 38 and following)
3. The Executive Committee (Art. 47 and following)

PART III A. CONGRESS**Article 20 - Congress**

The Congress shall be the supreme authority of FISA whose activities shall be subject to its control.

Article 21 - Composition and Presidency

The Congress shall consist of delegates of national federations that are currently members of FISA. The President of FISA shall preside or, failing him, the Vice-President. The Council shall also participate in the Congress.

Article 22 - Delegates

Each member federation shall have the right to have a maximum of three delegates accredited. Member federations may at any time change their delegates but they may not be represented by a delegate who already represents another member federation or by a member of the Council. Each delegate shall satisfy the Executive Committee that he is a citizen or bona fide resident of the country or territory of the member federation he represents. He shall be able to provide immediate proof of his authority to represent the member federation. In an exceptional case, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

Article 23 - Observers

Observers may attend part or all of the Congress, Executive Committee, Council and Commission meetings, but may speak only by invitation from the chair of the meeting.

Article 24 - Ordinary Congress

Delegates shall meet annually as an Ordinary Congress, preferably at a time and place at which a World Rowing Championship regatta is to be held.

Article 25 - Extraordinary Congress

Delegates shall meet as an Extraordinary Congress when the annual Ordinary Congress or the Executive Committee shall so decide or when at least one-third of the member federations submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee giving reasons therefor.

Article 26 - Convening notice and Agenda

The Executive Committee shall send a convening notice to member federations at least four months before the date of the Congress.

The convening notice shall call for member federations to submit any specific proposals for inclusion in the agenda, which shall be received by FISA, in English and/or French, at least three months before the date of the Congress. The Executive Committee shall send out the agenda for the Congress at least two months before the date of the Congress. Where possible, the various reports, any observations on the agenda items, the accounts, the financial report, and the proposed budget shall be sent out with the agenda. Subsequent written material may be circulated by the Executive Committee.

Article 27 - Agenda for Ordinary Congress

The agenda for an Ordinary Congress shall include:

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 last Congress
5. President's report and reports from the Executive Committee Members
6. Reports of the Chairs of the specialist Commissions
7. Reports of the Continental Representatives
8. Accounts, financial report and auditors' report
9. Approval of accounts
10. Determination of entrance fee and annual subscription
11. Budget for the following year
12. Reports on future FISA Events and Olympic regattas
13. Place and date of the next Congress
14. Appointment of the federation, if any, to be responsible for inspecting the accounts for the following year
15. Reports on applications for affiliation and voting consequent thereon
16. Reconsideration or Confirmation of decisions (ref. Art. 32)

taken by the Council in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Art. 44 or by the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Art. 50.

17. Proposals from Member Federations
18. Attribution of future FISA Events in accordance with Rule 5.
19. Council and Executive Committee Elections, if any, in accordance with Articles 39 and 48.
20. Any other items proposed by the Council or the Executive Committee.
21. Any other business

Article 28 - Reports

Congress may appoint individuals to report on matters brought before it. It may also require the Executive Committee to submit to it its views on questions to which it may wish to give further consideration.

Article 29 - Specific Proposals from Federations

A member federation may submit in writing to the Executive Committee specific proposals to be included in the Agenda of a Congress, together with the reasoning behind the proposal. A member federation may also submit any specific proposal it proposes should be discussed under an existing agenda item. If these are received at the FISA headquarters at least three months before the date of the next congress they will be included in the Agenda for that Congress. The Executive Committee will decide whether proposals received after that date may be included in the Agenda.

Article 30 - Proposals from the Council or Executive Committee

The Council or the Executive Committee may include on the Agenda any proposal which they consider to be appropriate. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, such proposal shall be included in the Agenda sent to the member federations in accordance with Article 26. They may submit a proposal to the Congress at any time provided it relates to an item on the Agenda.

Article 31 - Alterations to the Statutes and Rules of Racing

The Statutes and Rules of Racing may only be altered every four years in the year following the staging of the Olympic Games (cases of Force Majeure reserved).

Article 32 - Reconsideration and Confirmation of decisions of Council or the Executive Committee

Requests for the reconsideration of decisions taken by the Council in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Art. 44 or by the Executive Committee in accordance with paragraph 3 of Art. 50 shall be submitted to FISA and received at least one month before the date of Congress. Each decision may be submitted only once to the Congress for reconsideration and shall be submitted within one year of the date of taking effect. Any change of a decision by the Council/Executive Committee following a vote for reconsideration by the Congress, will not have retroactive effect unless the Council/Executive Committee so decides.

The Council and/or the Executive Committee may seek confirmation by the next Congress of any of their decisions made within their own competence. If confirmed, this decision may not be submitted to the Congress for reconsideration.

Article 33 - Auditing of accounts

FISA's accounts shall be audited each year by a professional auditor appointed by the Executive Committee, and subsequently may be inspected by a representative of a Member Federation if so desired by the Congress.

Article 34 - Quorum

Subject to the provisions of Article 66, no quorum is required and the decisions of Congress shall be valid, irrespective of the number of member federations represented.

Article 35 - Voting

Unless a secret ballot is demanded by a delegate, voting shall be by

a show of hands. Irrespective of the number of delegates representing it each member federation shall be entitled to one vote. However, a member federation which fulfils the following conditions shall instead be entitled to three votes for a period of four years commencing 1st January of the year following the Olympic Games, if:

- a. it has been a member of FISA for at least three years, and
- b. it has competed at any one or more of the following regattas:
 - (i) World Rowing Championships;
 - (ii) World Rowing Junior Championships;
 - (iii) Olympic Regatta or the Olympic qualifying regattas
 - (iv) Continental Games regatta
 with a total of at least 12 boats during the previous four year Olympic period.

The Council will notify all member federations of the voting entitlements of member federations by 31st December in the year of an Olympic Games.

Article 36 - Majorities

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Article and of Article 66, decisions of Congress shall be taken on the basis of a majority of valid votes cast in each ballot. In the case of elections, if additional ballots are necessary, the candidate obtaining the smallest number of valid votes in each ballot shall be eliminated until one candidate obtains a majority of the valid votes cast.

In similar situations, for example the designation of a member federation for organising a FISA World Championship Regatta, this method of voting shall also apply.

In the case of a tie, a new vote shall be taken. If the candidates are still tied, the Council shall make the decision.

Alterations to the Statutes and Rules of Racing shall be carried only if they obtain two-thirds of the valid votes cast in each ballot.

An abstention is not considered to be a vote.

Article 37 - Date of Taking Effect

Elections and decisions of a Congress shall take effect from the 1st of January following that Congress unless Congress determines otherwise.

PART III B. COUNCIL**Article 38 - The Council**

FISA shall be managed by the Council, consisting of:

1. The President
2. The Vice President
3. The Treasurer
4. The Executive Director
5. The Chairs of the specialist Commissions.
6. The Continental Representatives

Article 39 - Election of Members of the Council

The members of the Council, with the exception of the Executive Director and the Continental Representatives, shall be elected for four years by the Congress. They are eligible for re-election. Members of the Council can no longer hold office after the 31st of December following their 65th birthday. With the exception of the Executive Director, the members of Council are not remunerated by FISA but may receive reimbursement of expenses.

Bye-Law to Article 39 - Election of Members of the Council

The President, Vice President and Treasurer are elected at the Ordinary Congress in the year following each Olympic Games.

1. *The Chairs of the Events, Umpiring, Competitive, Women's, Masters, Media, Marketing and Promotions, and Adaptive Commissions are elected in the second year after each Olympic Games.*

2. *The Chairs of the Materials, Youth, Sports Medicine, Rowing for All and Athletes Commissions are elected in the third year after each Olympic Games.*
3. *The Executive Committee shall give notice of those positions on the Council which are due for election at the time of sending out the Convening Notice for the Congress; that is, at least four months before the Congress*
4. *The notice will call for nominations for the positions to be elected by the Congress. The nomination shall be made by the member federation of the person nominated and shall be received at FISA headquarters no later than three months before the date of the Congress.*
5. *No later than one month after the closing date for nominations FISA shall send to all member federations a list of all nominations received by the closing date*

Article 40 - Appointment of the Executive Director

The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. He shall be supported by administrative staff. He is also the Secretary General.

Article 41 - Appointment of the Continental Representatives

The Council shall appoint a Continental Representative for each of the following continents or sub-continents: Africa, Asia, Oceania, South America and North America (including Central America and the Caribbean). They are appointed in the Olympic year for a four year term and may be reappointed. In making the appointment, the Council may consult the member federations concerned. Continental Representatives should become members or ex-officio members of the Executive Committee of the appropriate rowing Confederations in their continent for the period of their appointment. Continental Representatives shall serve as liaisons between the Council and the member federations in their respective continents. The Executive Committee may entrust Continental Representatives with specific duties. Continental Representatives shall be ex-officio members of the Development Commission.

Article 42 - Honorary Members

The Council may propose that the Congress grant the honorary title of their office to former members of the Council who have rendered distinguished service to the cause of international rowing. They shall act in an honorary capacity.

Article 43 - Decisions of the Council

Decisions of the Council shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast. In the case of a tie, the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote. The Executive Director does not participate in the voting.

Article 44 - Duties of the Council

The duties of the Council shall be:

1. To take such steps as may be necessary to achieve the objects laid down in Article 2 of the Statutes.
2. To ensure the execution of decisions taken by Congress and to establish the duties of the individual members of the Council and the duties of the Commissions.
3. To adopt and amend Bye-laws made under the Statutes and Rules of Racing and to adopt and amend Regulations for FISA Events.
4. To ensure the observance of the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations for FISA Events and any associated Bye-Laws.
5. To ensure the maintenance of proper standards in the organisation of FISA Events, International Regattas, Olympic Regattas and, in general, all events and competitions conducted under the authority of FISA.
6. To select the most suitable candidate(s) for the World Championships and propose it (them) to the Congress for final approval (in accordance with Rule 5).
7. To propose three Commission chairs to Congress to be elected to the Executive Committee in accordance with Art. 48.
8. To appoint Continental Representatives in accordance with Article 41 and members of the various Commissions in accordance with the proposals of the Chairs of the Commissions concerned

and with the approval of the member federation of the person concerned.

Article 45 - Duties of the Council Members

The duties of the Members of the Council shall be set out as Bye-Laws.

Bye-Law to Article 44 - Duties of the Council Members

a. Duties of the President

The President of FISA:

1. *leads and represents FISA;*
2. *chairs the Congresses, Council and Executive Committee meetings, Joint Commissions Meetings, and other meetings, where appropriate, and which are organised within FISA or by FISA. In the absence of the President meetings are chaired by the nominee of the President;*
3. *defines the policies to be followed by FISA in co-operation with the Council and the Congress;*
4. *suggests initiatives to promote FISA's goals, delegates tasks to members of the Executive Committee, the Council, Commissions and working groups, in addition to those outlined in the Statutes and Bye-Laws, and encourages the member federations to be active contributors to the advancement of rowing;*
5. *submits a report to the Ordinary Congress each year; and*
6. *may make necessary decisions in urgent circumstances, if it is not possible to consult the relevant parties within FISA. Such decisions shall be deemed to be decisions of the Council for the purposes of Article 31.*

b. Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President of FISA:

1. *carries out such duties as are delegated by the President;*

2. *is responsible for representing FISA when the President is unable to do so, or when requested by the Executive Committee;*
3. *works on special assignments and working groups when requested to do so by the Executive Committee or the Council. These assignments or working groups may concern the internal affairs of FISA or FISA's relations with other bodies;*
4. *chairs the Development Cross-Commission; and,*
5. *submits a report to the Ordinary Congress each year.*

c. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer of FISA:

1. *is responsible for the financial management of FISA;*
2. *prepares FISA's long-term financial plan having regard to the four year Olympic cycle;*
3. *is responsible for keeping the Executive Committee and Council informed of FISA's financial situation by means of management accounts;*
4. *oversees the management of FISA's assets, the adequacy of insurance, the financial terms of major contracts and staff remuneration in consultation with the President and the Executive Director; and,*
5. *oversees the preparation of the annual budget and the annual accounts, and presents them to the Ordinary Congress, liaises with the Executive Director in order to monitor the progress of income and expenditure during the year, and seeks approval from the Executive Committee for significant deviations from budget.*

d. Duties of the Executive Director

The Executive Director of FISA:

1. *is responsible for the effective management of FISA, within the policies and objectives approved from time to time by the FISA Council;*

2. *is supervised by the President and operates within the limits of authority and budget approved by the Executive Committee and the Council;*
3. *selects and engages the staff of FISA within the manpower plan and budget approved by the Council, and is responsible for the direction and management of the staff;*
4. *prepares the annual Business Plan as well as the Olympic Cycle (four year) Business Plan in consultation with the Executive Committee for approval by the Council; and,*
5. *submits a report to the Ordinary Congress each year.*

e. Duties of the Commission Chairs

The Chairs of the Commissions of FISA:

1. *advise, direct and represent the Council in their technical areas;*
2. *chair commission meetings and allocate duties to the commission members in accordance with the Commission Duty Statement;*
3. *prepare annual budget proposals with the Executive Director for approval by the Executive Committee;*
4. *propose appointments to their commissions for approval by the Council; and,*
5. *report to the Council on technical matters related to their commissions and submit reports on their commissions' activities to the Ordinary Congress each year.*

f. Duties of the Continental Representatives

The Continental Representatives of FISA:

1. *represent FISA within their continents;*
2. *promote rowing and maintain close and regular contact with the member federations and regatta organisers in their continents;*
3. *take any necessary action in cases of non-observance of the Statutes or Rules of Racing in their continents and, in all such*

cases, submit reports to the Executive Committee;

4. *ensure the proper organisation of international regattas held within their continents.*
5. *submit reports to the Ordinary Congress each year. For this purpose they may request reports from the member federations within their continents;*

Article 46 - Council Meetings

The Council shall normally meet at least three times per year as decided by the Executive Committee or when at least seven Council members submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee giving the reasons therefor. It may also meet when so required by the President. The Council may make decisions by correspondence. The Agendas for all meetings are established by the Executive Committee. Reports on Council meetings shall be circulated to all member federations and Council and Commission members within one month of the meeting.

PART III C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 47 - Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, three Commission Chairs and the non-voting Executive Director.

Article 48 - Election of the Members of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is elected at the Ordinary Congress in the year following each Olympic Games. The elections for President, Vice President and Treasurer are direct votes by the Congress. The three Commission Chairs shall be elected individually to the Executive Committee by the Congress based on a proposal from the Council. If one or more proposed Commission Chair does not receive a clear majority of valid votes cast, there will be additional rounds of voting where all Commission Chairs shall be eligible for election.

Article 49 - Decisions of the Executive Committee

Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast. In the case of a tie, the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

Article 50 - Duties of the Executive Committee

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be (inter alia):

1. To be responsible for the directional guidance of FISA's programmes with the relevant Council Members, Commission Members, Working Group Members, Organising Committees and member Federations.
2. To be responsible for the administrative and financial management of FISA. To this end, the Executive Committee may establish administrative offices with remunerated personnel.
3. To make any decisions appropriate to the circumstances in the interests of the sport of rowing.
4. To interpret and rule on appeals by member federations on disputes regarding the provisions of the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations for FISA Events.
5. To impose penalties, at any time, as provided for in Article 63, on member federations, clubs, or individuals who breach the Statutes, Rules, Regulations for FISA Events or Bye-Laws or who refuse to conform to instructions given, or who behave in a negligent or inappropriate manner.
6. To issue convening notices and the relevant Agenda Papers for Congresses and Council meetings, and to keep member federations informed of the affairs of FISA.
7. To ensure FISA is represented by its President or by one of its Council members at important events and meetings of other organisations.

Article 51 - Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee shall normally meet at least three times per year as decided by the President or when at least three Executive Committee members submit a request in writing to the President giving the reasons therefor. The Executive Committee may make

decisions by correspondence. The Agendas for all meetings shall be established in advance by the Chair of the meeting. Minutes of Executive Committee meetings shall be circulated to all Council members within one month of the meeting.

Article 52 - Casual Vacancies

In case of a casual vacancy in the Council or the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee may replace the member concerned until the next Congress.

PART III D. COMMISSIONS

Article 53 - Commissions

The Council may establish Commissions having special duties and, in particular, in the following fields:

- Adaptive Rowing
- Athletes,
- Competitive Rowing,
- Development,
- Events,
- Masters Rowing,
- Materials,
- Media, Marketing and Promotion,
- Rowing for All,
- Sports Medicine,
- Umpiring,
- Women's Rowing,
- Youth Rowing.

The Development and Women's Rowing Commissions are Cross Commissions whose members are drawn from amongst the Council and other Commission members. The Development Commission is

chaired by the Vice President. The Women's Rowing Commission is chaired by an elected Chair who is a member of Council and is not necessarily a member of another Commission.

These Commissions shall consist, in principle, of a minimum of two and a maximum of six members appointed by the Council for a period of four years which may be renewed, in addition to the Chair who shall be a member of the Council. The Council shall determine from time to time the size of each Commission within these limits.

The Council shall seek to achieve a gender balance for Commission membership consistent with that in the sport of rowing. The Commissions shall meet as required when so requisitioned by their Chairs. The Council is also permitted to create Working Groups for specific tasks and to entrust occasional assignments to non-members of the Council. Commission members may no longer serve after 31st December following their 65th birthday.

Bye-Law to Article 53 - Appointments to Commissions

For all commissions, except Cross Commissions, FISA will call for nominations for Commission membership in the year of election of the Commission Chair. Candidates shall be nominated in writing by their member Federations no later than the end of the Congress of that year. Appointments of Commission members are made by the Council on the recommendation of the newly elected Commission Chairs. Member federations nominating candidates are expected to commit themselves to provide financial support for the travel and work of the Commission members, if they are appointed.

Recognised Working Groups:

- 1. Working Group on Rowing and the Environment.*

Article 54 - Duties of the Commissions

The duties, authority and field of activity of each Commission shall be set out in the Bye-Laws.

Bye-Law to Article 54 - Duties of the Commissions

1. Terms of Reference

Each Commission:

- 1.1 meets at least twice a year; one of the meetings is, in principle, held at the major event for that commission for that year e.g. FISA World Championships, FISA World Masters Regatta; and another at the annual Joint Commissions Meeting.*
- 1.2 will liaise with the President, the Council and the FISA secretariat through its Chair.*
- 1.3 will liaise with other commissions generally and at joint commissions meetings.*
- 1.4 will provide an annual report to the Council and any other reports as required.*
- 1.5 is responsible for producing and circulating minutes of Commission meetings to the Council.*

2. Working Groups

- 2.1 Working Groups, appointed for specific tasks, report to the Council.*

3. Specific Duties of the Commissions

Adaptive Rowing Commission

1. Areas of Responsibility

- 1.1 To oversee all areas of adaptive rowing.*
- 1.2 To increase participation in adaptive rowing at all levels of performance.*
- 1.3 To promote and monitor trends in adaptive rowing at national, international and paralympic levels.*
- 1.4 To provide advice on adaptive rowing as required by FISA.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 To develop inclusive policies within FISA.*

- 2.2 *To develop inclusive on-water and indoor rowing competition.*
- 2.3 *To include adaptive rowing in active life programmes.*

Athletes Commission

1. General Areas of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To provide a means of ensuring that the Council of FISA is aware of the opinions of current active rowers concerning major issues affecting the sport.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *To establish a network of representative rowers throughout the world for a wide canvassing of opinion.*
- 2.2 *To assist the Executive Committee in convening and conducting competitors' meetings at World Rowing Championships.*
- 2.3 *To be available to hear the views of rowers on FISA matters and to channel them to FISA Council.*
- 2.4 *To advise the Council on any matters referred to the Commission.*
- 2.5 *To analyse World Rowing Championship and Olympic Organisation and to report its findings to the Council.*
- 2.6 *To make known to the Council the views of competitors on any matter in the field of competitive rowing, including Olympic, sprint, adaptive, ergometer, coastal etc, as it sees fit.*

3. Membership

- 3.1 *Members of this Commission can no longer serve on the commission after 31st December following the eighth anniversary of their last participation as a competitor at a World Rowing Championships or Olympic Games.*
- 3.2 *The Chairman of the Commission must be eligible for membership of the Commission at the time of election to the chair, and may then serve a full four-year term as Chairman*

Competitive Rowing Commission

1. *General Areas of Responsibility*
 - 1.1 *To increase participation in all types of competitive rowing, including Olympic, sprint, ergometer, etc.*
 - 1.2 *To raise standards in competitive rowing.*
2. *Objectives and Activities*
 - 2.1 *COACHING; To undertake the following activities in the coaching field:*
 - 2.1.1 *Coach identification and recruitment*
 - 2.1.2 *Liaison with coaches*
 - 2.1.3 *Coach education*
 - 2.1.4 *Implementation of Coaching Development Programme in conjunction with the Development Commission;*
 - 2.1.5 *Annual FISA Coaches Conference*
 - 2.1.6 *Specific coaching courses and seminars*
 - 2.1.7 *Production of coach education material*
 - 2.1.8 *Implementation of coach communication network*
 - 2.2 *COMPETITION; To undertake the following activities in relation to competition:*
 - 2.2.1 *Regulation of international rowing competition in terms of (i) composition (events, boat-classes, categories), (ii) conditions, (iii) environment, (iv) international regatta programme,*
 - 2.2.2 *Promotion and development of competitions.*
 - 2.2.3 *Analysis and review of competition from the point of view of changes e.g. in competitive standards, social and financial environment, global mobility, participation levels.*
 - 2.2.4 *Development of alternative and of complementary types of competition.*

Development Commission

1. *General Area of Responsibility*
 - 1.1 *To promote the universality of rowing in all its aspects.*
 - 1.2 *To plan and co-ordinate the FISA Development Programme Activities, to be carried out by relevant commissions.*
 - 1.3 *To manage the FISA Development Budget.*
2. *Objectives and Activities*
 - 2.1 *To increase the number of federations affiliated with FISA.*
 - 2.2 *To help raise the standards of rowing amongst member federations, particularly in the developing rowing nations.*
 - 2.3 *To produce a high quality of programme educational material.*
 - 2.4 *To plan and co-ordinate educational courses and seminars world wide.*
 - 2.5 *To plan and co-ordinate the FISA Boat Collection and Building Programmes.*
 - 2.6 *To stimulate a greater number of rowing federations to participate in FISA Championships and the Olympic Games.*

Events Commission

1. *General Area of Responsibility*
 - 1.1 *To set and monitor the standards of international regattas and of all FISA events with regard to the venue, the technical installations and the organisation of the events.*
2. *Objectives and Activities*
 - 2.1 *To advise and assist Organising Committees to improve the standard of facilities and regatta courses for all major competitive events.*
 - 2.2 *To maintain and improve the standard of regatta organisation at all major competitive events in co-operation with the Umpiring Commission.*

- 2.3 *To provide advice and guidance at every stage from initial concept to final commissioning in the development of new courses and new regattas.*
- 2.4 *To monitor and co-ordinate changes to the structure of the FISA international regatta calendar in co-operation with the Competitive Rowing Commission.*
- 2.5 *To prepare and regularly update documents and manuals which specify the FISA requirements for all aspects of: a) the upgrading of existing courses; b) the development of new courses; c) the organisation of championships and major regattas.*
- 2.6 *To visit and inspect regatta courses and regattas.*
- 2.7 *To provide members for the technical group responsible for inspecting candidates for future championships and Olympic Games.*
- 2.8 *To advise and assist Organising Committees in the organisation of international events for sprint rowing, adaptive rowing, ergometer rowing and coastal rowing.*

Masters Rowing Commission

1. *General Area of Responsibility*
 - 1.1 *To promote Masters rowing in all its forms on a national and international basis.*
2. *Objectives and Activities*
 - 2.1 *To organise a world-wide FISA World Masters Regatta annually.*
 - 2.2 *To prepare the annual Masters Regatta Calendar.*
 - 2.3 *To publish written information in consultation with the Media, Marketing and Promotions Commission.*

Materials Commission

1. *General Areas of Responsibility*
 - 1.1 *To define and ensure compliance with rules concerning*

boats and equipment for all types of FISA events, including Olympic, adaptive, ergometer, coastal etc.

- 1.2 *To support development in the field of rowing equipment.*
2. *Objectives and Activities*
 - 2.1 *To check rowing equipment from the point of view of safety of the rowers.*
 - 2.2 *To co-operate in the Development Programme of FISA.*
 - 2.3 *To encourage the production of inexpensive rowing equipment complying with specified standards.*
 - 2.4 *To work in co-operation with the Control Commission at FISA World Championships.*
 - 2.5 *To organise and conduct courses on boat building and repairs.*
 - 2.6 *To meet with manufacturers of rowing equipment.*
 - 2.7 *To produce theoretical material and drawings for rowing material including maintenance manuals.*

Media, Marketing and Promotion Commission

1. *General Areas of responsibility*
 - 1.1 *To advise on the policy and strategic planning of FISA's marketing, media, communications, promotion and television activities;*
 - 1.2 *To monitor progress in these areas and to provide input to and receive feedback from those responsible for the detailed execution;*
 - 1.3 *To provide, where needed, technical support;*
 - 1.4 *To be a resource with ideas for the promotion of: a. existing events; b. new events; c. development initiatives, and;*
 - 1.5 *To provide educational advice in these fields to national federations.*

Rowing for All Commission

1. *General Area of Responsibility*
 - 1.1 *To promote on a national and international basis all the following forms of rowing: a. touring, b. fitness and recreational, c. traditional and fixed seat, d. ergometer rowing.*
2. *Objectives and Activities*
 - 2.1 *Touring: To establish annually one or several FISA Tours for different age groups and to advise the national federations organizing them.*
 - 2.2 *Fitness and Recreational: To establish regattas for fitness and recreational boat classes and to promote this movement in affiliated countries.*
 - 2.3 *Traditional and Fixed Seat: To link organisers of traditional and fixed seat events and to promote traditional and fixed seat rowing organisations on an international basis.*
 - 2.4 *Ergometer Rowing: To promote and facilitate the international development of the rowing ergometer movement.*

Sports Medicine Commission

1. *General Areas of Responsibility*
 - 1.1 *To oversee and advise on all medical aspects related to rowing.*
 - 1.2 *To monitor medical services at regattas.*
 - 1.3 *To investigate and promote the prevention of sports injuries.*
 - 1.4 *To study, monitor and publicise biological aspects of training.*
 - 1.5 *To assist in the basic medical education of coaches.*
 - 1.6 *To regulate and undertake doping control.*
2. *Objectives and Activities*
 - 2.1 *To provide advice and recommendations on request to the Council, Coaches Conference and national federations.*

- 2.2 *To formulate and publish guidelines for medical services.*
- 2.3 *To document literature related to exercise physiology, sports medicine and biomechanics.*
- 2.4 *To formulate and publish anti-doping rules and to assist in putting them into effect.*
- 2.5 *To participate in the FISA Coaches Conference.*
- 2.6 *To provide information by way of published material.*

Umpiring Commission

1. General Areas of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To promote umpiring throughout the world.*
- 1.2 *To standardise umpiring and to maintain and improve the quality of umpiring in general, in particular at FISA World Championships, and at international events (regattas, sprints, adaptive, ergometer, coastal, etc) throughout the world.*
- 1.3 *To monitor the qualifications and quality of international umpires.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *To maintain and develop selection criteria for juries at FISA World Championships.*
- 2.2 *To supervise the work of the juries at FISA World Championships.*
- 2.3 *To give advice to members of the juries at FISA World Championships and at other times when requested.*
- 2.4 *To be represented at all FISA World Championships and FISA events.*
- 2.5 *To conduct umpires' seminars using the most modern educational techniques and methods.*
- 2.6 *To conduct examinations for international umpires licences.*
- 2.7 *To be represented at as many international regattas as*

possible.

2.8 *To take part in jury meetings at international regattas.*

Women's Rowing Commission

1. General Areas of Responsibility

1.1 *To promote participation in women's events.*

1.2 *To oversee all areas of women's activity in rowing.*

1.3 *To identify and promote women in administration, coaching, umpiring and research.*

2. Objectives and Activities

2.1 *To establish better communication with national federations and to meet with teams.*

2.2 *To assist FISA in promotion and public relations.*

2.3 *To co-operate with other international sport federations.*

2.4 *To co-operate in the FISA Development Programme.*

2.5 *To investigate and evaluate regatta results, numbers of participants, weight limits etc.*

2.6 *To establish and maintain contacts with people responsible for women's rowing in each national federation.*

2.7 *To organise seminars.*

2.8 *To report each year to the FISA Congress.*

2.9 *To collect material for publicity and promotion of women's rowing.*

Youth Rowing Commission (Men and Women)

1. General Areas of Responsibility

1.1 *To oversee all areas of youth rowing.*

1.2 *To increase participation in youth rowing at all levels of performance.*

1.3 *To monitor trends in youth rowing at national and interna-*

tional levels.

1.4 To provide advice on youth rowing as required by FISA.

2. Objectives and Activities

2.1 To support the FISA Development Programme.

2.2 To broaden youth participation especially amongst developing rowing nations.

2.3 To represent the interests of junior rowing when decisions about the competition system are to be made.

2.4 To provide themes for the FISA Junior Coaches Conference.

2.5 To maintain and improve contact with coaches and athletes at the Junior World Championships, e.g. by holding meetings.

2.6 To assist and advise during the preparation of the organisation of the World Junior Championships.

2.7 To analyse the organisation, entries and results of the Junior World Championships and to publish the results.

2.8 To assist the Control Commission at the World Junior Championships.

4. Duties of the Working Groups

Working Group on Rowing and the Environment

1. General Area of Responsibility

1.1 Promote environmental responsibility in the planning and staging of events, design and construction of new rowing facilities;

1.2 Raise awareness on environmental issues throughout the rowing community;

1.3 Liaise with external institutions such as public authorities, environmental organisations and other sporting bodies;

- 1.4 *Monitor and evaluate the applications of FISA's environmental policies and guidelines.*
2. *Objectives and Activities*
 - 2.1 *Create and revise policy and assist in its implementation.*
 - 2.2 *Create environmental regulations for FISA operated events and monitor their application.*
 - 2.3 *Make recommendations for planning, siting, design, construction and operation of new facilities.*
 - 2.4 *Suggest guidelines to national federations for environmentally responsible operations of rowing clubs.*
 - 2.5 *Make recommendations for environmental codes of conduct for the rowing community.*
 - 2.6 *Undertake projects and programs which fulfil FISA's environmental policies.*

CHAPTER IV - INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATIONS

Article 55 - Commitment

Any party which deals with FISA, is a member of FISA or shares in its activities including a party which:

- a) participates in an event under the authority of FISA;
- b) acts as an official (trainer, coach, team manager, delegate, representative etc) of a team, a club or a member federation;
- c) officiates as an international umpire or in a similar role;
- d) organises or participates in a competition which is placed under FISA's authority, according to the Statutes and Rules of Racing;
- e) assumes any role within FISA, within its Council, its Executive Committee, one of its commissions or another committee or working group;
- f) recognises and accepts the following subject to paragraph v:
 - i) the FISA Statutes, Rules of Racing, Regulations for FIS Championships and Bye-Laws;

- ii) FISA's authority on all matters concerning international rowing;
- iii) The mandatory nature of the Statutes, the Bye-laws and other rules regulating FISA, in their current version and as amended from time to time;
- iv) FISA's jurisdiction to make any decision or impose any sanction within its field of competence;
- v) The CAS in Lausanne, as the only competent judicial authority external to FISA, to the exclusion of any ordinary court of law, any civil judicial authority of any country and any other arbitration body;
- a. to settle any dispute which directly involves FISA, one of its bodies, one of its Executive Committee members, any person acting on its behalf (Council and Commission members, umpires, etc.), one of its members or an organising committee of a FISA event run under FISA's authority (see Art. 64);
- b. to review any decision alleged to violate fundamental legal principles or FISA statutory clause (see Art. 65)
- c. to rule on any appeals from disciplinary sanctions or penalties of any kind, made by FISA or one of its bodies (see Art. 65);
- vi) the final and without appeal status of the decisions made by the CAS;
- vii) the requirement to abide by the decisions of FISA and CAS without attempting to hinder their application;
- viii) the application of Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure supplemental to FISA and CAS rules and regulations with Lausanne as the only place and seat of the arbitration.

Article 56 - Individual and written confirmation of commitments

Although the commitment set out in Art. 55 is mandatory and automatic, FISA may, in addition, request individual and written confirmation of any commitment from the following individuals or entities, in accordance with the appropriate forms appended to these statutes from:

- a) any FISA member federation or from any national rowing

federation which wishes to become a member;

- b) any athlete, club, official, or international umpire likely to participate in a competition under FISA's authority;
- c) an organising committee of any event under FISA's authority;

These confirmations are valid unless and until they have been formally revoked in writing and this written revocation has reached the FISA headquarters. Such revocation shall not be retroactive.

CHAPTER V – PROVISIONS FOR ETHICAL ISSUES

Article 57 - Commitment to Ethics

Any party which deals with FISA and /or shares in its activities in any capacity, notably those referred to in Art. 55, commits itself by this act to behave in a correct and ethical manner according to all generally recognised ethical principles.

Article 58 - Right of Complaint

Any party claiming to have a valid complaint concerning a party mentioned at Art. 55 and 57 may submit it to the Executive Committee or, in a case involving a possible ethical violation by a member of the Executive Committee, to the IOC Ethics Commission.

Article 59 - Decision-Making Authority

The authority to resolve cases submitted shall be the Executive Committee of FISA, except in cases involving members of the Executive Committee of FISA where the authority shall be the IOC Ethics Commission.

The relevant authority may make any decision it deems appropriate in such a case.

Article 60 - Applicable procedural rules

The Executive Committee and the IOC Ethics Commission shall

respect the principles stipulated in Art. 62.

PART VI - JUDICIAL PROVISIONS

Article 61 - Judicial bodies of FISA

The following bodies of FISA have judicial powers in accordance with FISA Statutes, Bye-Laws and other regulations:

- The Congress
- The Council
- The Executive Committee
- The Board of the Jury
- The Doping Hearing Panel

With the exception of the Doping Hearing Panel, the body concerned may delegate its power to a smaller number of its members to undertake any investigation, hearing or imposition of penalty. In all cases the provisions of Articles 62 and 63 shall be followed.

Article 62 - Procedural rules applicable to the judicial bodies of FISA

The judicial bodies of FISA shall provide fair procedures to all parties involved and shall respect their fundamental rights.

They recognise in particular:

1. that a person who may have a conflict of interest shall not be a member of the decision-making body.
2. the right of the person charged to know what he is charged with and to examine his file.
3. the right to know the penalties which might be imposed.
4. the right to be heard, to present a defence, to produce evidence and to be assisted by counsel.

In addition, the following rules apply:

1. A protest or appeal shall be submitted in writing to the relevant body and shall set out the facts, reasons and evidence on which it is based. It shall be accompanied by a deposit of CHF 100 or equivalent, which amount shall be refunded if the protest or appeal is allowed.
2. A decision is considered as delivered when received by the person concerned or his member federation. A protest or appeal is validly made if it is received before midnight FISA headquarters time, on the last day of the deadline.
3. The lodging of a protest or of an appeal shall not have the effect of suspending the decision at stake or any penalty imposed.

However, the protester or appellant may submit a request for suspension of the decision or penalty and the body hearing the appeal or the protest shall rule on the request.

For all situations not covered by the Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws, the judicial bodies of FISA shall apply Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure.

Article 63 - Penalties and financial compensation

The judicial bodies of FISA have the power to make decisions and impose penalties in their areas of duty set out in the Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws.

They can impose the following penalties:

1. reprimand;
2. Yellow Card (under Rules 77 and 87);
3. exclusion;
4. disqualification;
5. ban from competition;
6. fine;
7. any other appropriate measure.

If appropriate, the judicial body concerned may suspend, in part or in whole, the ban from competition or the payment of the fine. The judicial body concerned may also order payment of money as financial compensation against those (in particular member federa-

tions, clubs, rowers officials) who have behaved in a negligent or inappropriate manner that has caused financial loss or damage to another party.

Article 64 - Ordinary arbitration proceedings

Any party that alleges that a decision made by a FISA judicial body that it has not supported violates fundamental legal principles or FISA statutory clause(s), or that has a dispute with FISA, may submit a claim to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne only, to the exclusion of any court of law of any country or any other arbitration body. The claim shall set out the facts and reasons upon which it is based. It shall be sent to CAS within one month from the day of delivery of the decision or, in the case of dispute, from the day FISA formally refused to accept its views or request. The CAS conducts the arbitration and rules over the dispute in accordance with its own regulations. In addition, the CAS applies Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure. The seat and place of the arbitration is in Lausanne. The decisions made by the CAS are final and may not be appealed.

Article 65 - Appeal arbitration proceedings

Any party penalised by a judicial body of FISA may appeal the decision to CAS in Lausanne only, to the exclusion of any court of law of any country or any other arbitration body. The appeal brief shall set out the facts and reasons on which it is based. It shall be sent to CAS within 21 days following receipt by the party of the decision in question. The CAS conducts the appeal and rules on it in accordance with its own regulations. In addition, the CAS applies Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure. The seat and place of the arbitration is in Lausanne. The decisions made by the CAS are final and may not be appealed.

PART VII - DISSOLUTION

Article 66 - Dissolution

The dissolution of FISA shall be valid only if carried by four-fifths of the valid votes cast at an Extraordinary Congress specially

convened for the purpose. Furthermore, a quorum of two-thirds of the member federations is necessary.

Article 67 - Assets

If the motion for dissolution is carried, the Executive Committee shall be entitled to realise the assets of FISA which shall be divided equally between the member federations constituting FISA at the time the vote is taken.

Article 68 - Exceptions

In no other circumstances shall any member federation have any claim to any share whatsoever in the assets and any federation ceasing to be a member shall forfeit its claim to any assets of FISA.

PART VIII – CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**Article 69 - Concluding Provisions**

These Statutes came into force immediately following the FISA Extraordinary Congress held from 3rd to 5th February 2005 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Denis Oswald
President

Matt Smith
Executive Director