

26 April 2018
Lausanne, Switzerland

To: Affiliated Federations
Council and Commission Members
Organisers of World Championships
National Rowing Magazines
FISA Partners



Circular No. 3 of 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Subjects covered in this Circular include the following:

1. 2018 FISA Annual Ordinary Congress
2. Commission Member Appointments / Re-appointments
3. Key Decisions from the March Executive Committee Meeting
4. 2018 World Rowing Event Programmes
5. Athlete Lane Selection System test at First World Rowing Cup regatta
6. Time Trial test at the Second World Rowing Cup regatta
7. National Federation Meetings/Conferences in 2018
8. Joint Conferences in Berlin, GER this November 2018
9. 2018 World Rowing Youth Coaches Conference
10. 2020 FISA Extraordinary Congress and Joint Conferences
11. 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Qualification Systems
12. 2018 Youth Olympic Games Qualification Status
13. FISA Strategic Events Attribution Process
14. World Rowing Strategic Framework and Strategic Plan

1. 2018 FISA Annual Ordinary Congress

Notice is given that the 2018 Ordinary Congress of FISA will be held from 08:30 to 13:30 hrs on 17 September 2018 at the Plovdiv International Fair. Registration will begin at 07:30 hrs.

Plovdiv International Fair and Congress Centre
37, Tzar Boris III - Obedinitel Blvd.
4003 Plovdiv,
Bulgaria
<http://www.fair.bg/en/>

Please note:

- a) The provisional agenda can be found at this link:
<http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/about-fisa/congress>

Any federation wishing to submit an additional agenda item or a specific proposal for inclusion in the Agenda must do so in written form in English and/or French, along with the reasons for the proposal, to be received at FISA Headquarters in Lausanne no later than 17 June 2018.

- b) The following positions on the Council are due for election at the Congress and nominations are called for those positions:
- i. Chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission
 - ii. Chair of the Events Commission
 - iii. Chair of the Event Promotion Commission
 - iv. Chair of the Masters Rowing Commission
 - v. Chair of the Para Rowing Commission
 - vi. Chair of the Umpiring Commission

Member federations (NFs) interested in nominating a candidate or candidates for these Council positions are asked to contact Lucy Trochet, Governance Manager (lucy.trochet@fisa.org) to receive the candidacy nomination documentation package. For the nomination(s) to be accepted and validated, the documents of this package need to be completed and returned to FISA by 17 June 2018.

We would like to announce that the Chair of the Events Commission Mike Tanner has reached the FISA age limit and will not seek re-election. As well, the Chair of the Masters Rowing Commission Tone Pahle has decided not to seek re-election.

As Mike Tanner is a member of the FISA Executive Committee, his position also on this body will need to be replaced and will be subject to an election. The Council, in accordance with Article 50, will propose a candidate from among the Chairs of the Commissions to replace Mike and complete his term on the Executive Committee until 31 December 2021.

We would also like to announce that FISA Treasurer Mike Williams has decided to end his mandate at the end of 2018 and step down after 25 years in this position. Therefore, an election will be held in Plovdiv to select a replacement for him to complete the term and serve on the Executive Committee until 31 December 2021.

NFs interested in nominating a candidate or candidates for the FISA Treasurer position are asked to contact Lucy Trochet, Governance Manager (lucy.trochet@fisa.org) to receive the candidacy nomination documentation package. For the nomination(s) to be accepted and validated, the documents of this package need to be completed and returned to FISA by 17 June 2018.

NFs are requested to advise FISA of the names of their delegates attending the Congress by using the "Congress Attendance Form". Forms are to be received at FISA headquarters no later than 17 July 2018. Please note that the 2018 attendance form is an electronic form and can be found at this link:

<https://worldrowingforms.wufoo.com/forms/2018-ordinary-congress-attendance-form/>

2. Commission Member Appointments / Re-appointments

NFs are advised that membership mandates of the following Commissions of FISA will expire in 2018 and are open for appointments / re-appointments for the term 2019 to 2022:

- Competitive Rowing
- Events
- Event Promotion
- Masters Rowing
- Para Rowing
- Umpiring

NFs are asked to propose candidates who could positively contribute to these technical commissions. The NF should send a letter of nomination from the NF and a completed Commission Member Nomination Form for each candidate, currently on the commission and new nominations, which must be received by 17 August 2018. NFs nominating candidates are expected to commit themselves to provide financial support for the travel and work of the Commission member.

We would like to be clear that existing commission members are not automatically re-appointed and that, if they would like to be considered, their NF must propose them for a new term. Commission Member Nomination Forms are found at this link: <http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/about-fisa/congress>

In accordance with Bye-Law to Article 55, appointments of Commission members are made by the Council on the recommendation of the newly elected Commission Chair.

3. Key Decisions from the March Executive Committee Meeting

- a. **2022 World Rowing Championships will take place in Racice, Czech Republic.** The Czech Rowing Federation has been able to obtain an important commitment from their government to support the staging of this event and has fully complied with all technical and financial requirements for the event. In accordance with Rule 6, the FISA Council has attributed the hosting of the event so that planning and infrastructure improvements can proceed immediately. Read more at this link: <http://www.worldrowing.com/news/czech-republic-host-2022-world-rowing-championships>

b. Commitment to all disciplines of World Rowing

Indoor Rowing - As previously reported, FISA supports the World Rowing Indoor Championships as a fully recognised official event in the World Rowing Calendar. The first such fully recognised event was successfully staged from 13 to 14 February 2018 in Alexandria, Virginia USA. Read more at this link:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/news/the-first-world-rowing-indoor-championships-announced>

Soon FISA will announce the sites for the 2019 and 2020 events that will be directly attributed by the FISA Council. The goal is to open bidding for the right to stage the event from 2021 onwards and this event has now been included in the Strategic Event Attribution process discussed in point 12 below. More information will follow.

Coastal Rowing – As previously announced, the 2018 World Rowing Coastal Championships will take place in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada from 11 to 14 October 2018. FISA is upgrading its support of Coastal Rowing to recognise its value as an additional rowing discipline that offers a unique attraction for rowers and clubs located near the sea.

Drones for TV – The television production of the 2017 World Rowing Championships demonstrated the great addition of images shot from a camera placed on a flying drone. FISA has recognised that this camera adds new and exciting views of our sport and has decided to provide drones for the host television production of all televised World Rowing events this season where allowed by the local authorities.

Harassment and Abuse policy – FISA, with the leadership of the Athlete's and Sports Medicine Commissions, is preparing a FISA-wide policy document to deal with issues of harassment and abuse, including the safeguarding of athletes, at a FISA-level as well as providing a model for NFs at a national-level. It will be released in the coming months.

4. 2018 World Rowing Event Programmes

FISA recently published the 2018 World Rowing Provisional Event Programmes and, following further consultation with NFs, broadcasters and the respective organising committees, a number of these Programmes have been updated. The heats, repechage and semi-final schedules are all, of course, subject to entries whereas the times of the finals are confirmed for the following events:

1. World Rowing Cup I, Belgrade, Serbia
2. World Rowing Cup II, Linz-Ottensheim, Austria
3. World Rowing Cup III, Lucerne, Switzerland
4. World Rowing Under 23 Championships, Poznan, Poland
5. World Rowing Junior Championships, Racice, Czech Republic
6. World Rowing Championships, Plovdiv, Bulgaria
7. Youth Olympic Games regatta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
8. World Rowing Coastal Championships, Victoria, Canada

The latest versions of the regatta programmes can be found at this link:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/publications/fisa-circulars>

It should be noted that the programmes of World Rowing Cup I and II do not currently allow for doubling up between non-Paralympic boat classes and Paralympic boat classes, however should teams wish to enter crews in two events, we will consider this after the entry deadline and make adjustments to accommodate this doubling up as far as possible.

Finally, as discussed at the Para Rowing Conference in London in December 2017, all of the non-Paralympic boat classes will be offered at the first and second World Rowing Cup regattas. As these are new events and it is not yet clear how many entries we will have for these events, NFs are requested to indicate to FISA by 30 April their intention to participate in these events. This will allow us to plan alternative scenarios in the case of very low entries e.g. to combine race classes, and also to inform other participating NFs should there be no other entries in an event.

5. Athlete Lane Selection System test at First World Rowing Cup regatta

Based on an initiative from the Athlete's Commission, the FISA Executive Committee has agreed to a limited test of an "Athlete Lane Selection System" at the first World Rowing Cup regatta in Belgrade, SRB from 1 to 3 June 2018. This system aims to test an alternative solution to the allocation and reallocation of lanes, a function normally undertaken either through the automatic function of the progression system or by the Fairness Committee placing crews into pre-allocated lanes in a chevron pattern. The system enables competing rowers to choose their racing lane and to be responsible for the choice they have made.

For the purposes of this experiment, the Athlete Lane Selection system will only be applied to the “International Events” in Belgrade for the repechage, semi-finals and final rounds (the lanes for the heats will be allocated by random draw as usual). A document which outlines the procedure for teams can be found at this link: <http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/publications/fisa-circulars>.

A meeting to explain the procedure and answer any questions will be held for the team managers and the athletes competing in the international events in Belgrade on Thursday 31 May immediately after the Team Managers Meeting and Draw, which takes place at 15.00 hrs. The meeting will take place in the Team Managers meeting room.

6. Time Trial test at the Second World Rowing Cup regatta

The Council has decided that a test of time trials is needed for rowers and organisers in preparation for possible contingency scenarios at the Olympic regatta in 2020. The heats for all events at World Rowing Cup II in Linz-Ottensheim will be run as time trials, including the exhibition races for those events with less than 7 entries.

The time trials will be run over the full 2000m course from a fixed start. A detailed description of the procedure and circulation patterns will be published closer to the event. Please refer to “Bye-Law to Rule 70 – Time Trials” for details on time trials.

7. National Federation Meetings/Conferences in 2018

As in the recent past, FISA will stage NF Meetings at events this season and NF Conferences at the end of the season to discuss topical issues as well as start to prepare discussions for the next Extraordinary Congress. The calendar of meetings and conferences is as follows:

NF Meetings 2018:

Friday, 22 June 2018 in Linz-Ottensheim, AUT after racing

Friday, 13 July 2018 in Lucerne, SUI after racing

Saturday, 28 July 2018 in Poznan, POL at the lunch break

Friday, 3 August 2018 in Glasgow, GBR after the European General Assembly

Saturday, 11 August 2018 in Racice, CZE at the lunch break

NF Conferences 2018:

Monday, 17 September 2018 in Plovdiv, POL immediately following the Congress

Friday, 23 November 2018 in Berlin, GER all day

Agendas, times and locations will follow one week prior to these gatherings. All meetings/conferences will be live-streamed on www.WorldRowing.com

8. Joint Conferences in Berlin, GER, November 2018

We are pleased to announce that a programme of meetings touching nearly all key stakeholders in the sport will take place this November in Berlin.

21 to 23 Nov - Sports Science, Medicine and Coaches Conference
22 Nov – European Rowing Extraordinary General Assembly
23 Nov – National Federations' Conference
23 Nov – 2019 World Rowing Events' Organising Committee meetings
23 Nov – World Rowing Awards Dinner
24 to 25 Nov – FISA Joint Commissions' Meeting

The Sports Science, Medicine and Coaches Conference website provides details at: <https://www.rudern.de/wcc2018>

More information on the other events will follow but please mark your calendars.

9. 2018 World Rowing Youth Coaches Conference

The 2018 World Rowing Youth Coaches Conference will take place from 1-4 November at the Olympic Complex "Sydney 2000" in Snagov, Romania. More information will be provided during the international racing season.

10. 2020 FISA Extraordinary Congress and Joint Conferences

The next FISA Extraordinary Congress will now take place in October 2020. This event will be combined with the 2020 World Rowing Coaches Conference, the 2020 World Rowing Awards Dinner and the 2020 FISA Joint Commissions Meeting.

A one-page explanation is available at this link:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/publications/fisa-circulars>

A full bid document will be provided to interested NFs upon request. Bids will be received until 17 August 2018 and the event will be attributed by the FISA Congress on 17 September 2018 in Plovdiv, BUL.

11. 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Qualification Systems

The qualification system for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games has been approved by the IOC Executive Board and is available for reference at this link:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/events/2020-olympic-games-regatta/event-information>

We are now able to confirm that the IOC has agreed to implement FISA's Rule 27 regarding the gender of coxswains, so that for the Olympic Games it will be possible for a man to cox a women's eight and a woman to cox a men's eight. The Qualification System document will soon be updated to reflect this allowance.

The 2020 Paralympic Qualification system is awaiting final approval from the IPC and will soon be available at this link:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/events/2020-paralympic-games-regatta/event-information>

We are pleased to announce that the Final Paralympic Qualification Regatta will take place in Gavirate, Italy from 8-10 May 2020. The location and dates of the continental qualification regattas for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be added to the respective qualification system documents as they are confirmed so please check the website for updates.

12. 2018 Youth Olympic Games Qualification Status

Following the Americas Youth Olympic Qualification Regatta in Chile this past weekend, the qualification process for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games regatta in Buenos Aires, Argentina is nearly complete. Based on the results at the 2017 World Rowing Junior Championships, the Asian, Oceanian and American Continental Qualification regattas, most of the places at the Games have been allocated. The European Youth Olympic Qualification regatta will take place at the 2018 European Rowing Junior Championships in Gravelines, FRA on 26-27 May. The African Youth Olympic Qualification regatta will take place at the African Youth Games in Algiers, ALG on 19-21 July.

The latest 2018 Youth Olympic Games qualification status can be found at this link: <http://www.worldrowing.com/events/2018-youth-olympic-games/event-information>

13. FISA Strategic Events Attribution Process

A reminder that FISA has launched its "Strategic Events Attribution Process" for the period 2021 to 2024.

A large number of regatta venues have benefited from significant investment from local, regional and national governments to bring them to a standard suitable for hosting international competitions. To support a long-term return on investment in these facilities as well as long term support for our sport, the World Rowing Federation, FISA, has adopted a new approach to the manner in which its events are attributed. This approach will allow interested parties to indicate all of the FISA-owned events that they believe would support their long-term events strategy.

Since launching the process in December 2017, a couple of changes have been made to the portfolio of events available for bidding: the 2025 and 2026 World Rowing Championships will now be open for bids and may be attributed at the 2019 FISA Congress should bids be received that meet the technical and financial requirements. The World Rowing Indoor Championships for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 will also be available for bidding.

A detailed description of the events available, the attribution and bidding procedure and the timeline can be found at this link:

<http://www.worldrowing.com/events/events-bidding>

The deadline for initial expressions of interest in hosting events is 31 July 2018, but we encourage any interested bidders to contact us before this date to discuss their strategic event hosting objectives and intentions.

14. World Rowing Strategic Framework and Strategic Plan

The FISA Council and Commissions have all contributed to updating the new World Rowing Strategic Plan to define and prioritise goals and objectives of the organisation going forward. The new plan can be found at this link:

[http://www.worldrowing.com/mm//Document/General/General/13/08/49/2018WR-Strategicframeworkv3\(002\)_English.pdf](http://www.worldrowing.com/mm//Document/General/General/13/08/49/2018WR-Strategicframeworkv3(002)_English.pdf) . Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Christophe Rolland
President



Matt Smith
Executive Director

Attachments