

ATHLETE LANE SELECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: You can still have some pretty unfair conditions in the first round and it will not set you up well for the rest of the regatta... Why not do a time trial for everyone and then seed based on that time trial results?

A.: We are not trying to change the nature of rowing regattas. Side-by-side racing is a core principle of World Rowing Championships and other FISA regattas. The FISA progression system also includes a repechage round, which was created to correct for possible discrepancies in the first round. Time trials are used as a contingency where conditions are clearly unfair and where other contingency arrangements are not able to compensate adequately for the unfairness (see FISA Rule 71).

Q: What happens in the case of a dead heat?

A.: Where there is a dead heat the order of those dead-heat crews selecting lanes will be decided by random draw. This random draw will also apply where there are two crews with the same ranking in the previous round, e.g. two 2nd placed crews from the semi-finals. This is the same as the current approach to allocating lanes between crews having the same rank. The random draw is done by Swiss Timing under the supervision of a member of the international jury.

Q: How do you choose your lane for the first race at a regatta?

A.: There is no lane selection for the first-round heats because there is no basis for ranking or selection order (seeding cannot be used for this purpose under our Rules). Lanes for heats will be allocated by random draw as usual.

Q: Where did FISA trial this system before and what were the results/remarks?

A.: This is the first time for FISA to trial the athlete lane selection. However it has been previously trialled at the Hollandbeker Regatta and there has been positive feedback, leading to FISA introducing this trial.

Q: What is the role of the Fairness Committee when the ALS system is in place?

A: During the Trial, if there are unfair weather conditions, the Fairness Committee will not reallocate lanes and athletes will race in the lanes they have selected. However, the Fairness Committee will have the authority to decide which 6 lanes shall be used (e.g. 1 - 6, or 0 - 5, or 2 - 7) so that the six lanes offering the most similar conditions are used. They will also have the right to recommend a change of timetable e.g. a postponement or delay, if the conditions become unrowable - see Rule 71.

Q: If the Fairness Committee decides to delay racing when crews are already on the water, will there be a new round of ALS?

A: If the Fairness Committee suspends racing because of unrowable conditions or expected unrowable conditions when crews are already on the water, the general principle is that crews would be allowed to select their lanes again to take account of the delayed racing. However, if racing is only suspended for a short time (less than 2 hours), the original selection shall stand.

Q: Can I send my coach to choose my lane?

A: One athlete in the crew is required to make the lane selection. Coaches and Team Managers are not allowed to select lanes on behalf of their crews. It is important that this choice and responsibility is truly in the hands of the athletes.

Q: What if no-one from the crew shows up to make their lane selection, or they arrive late?

A: If a crew is not present at the time they are supposed to make their lane selection, they will be marked as absent and the next crew will make their selection. After all crews present have made their selection, any crew representatives who were not present in time or who were late for the selection process, will then make their selection in priority order. Crews not present by the end of the time for the selection shall take the remaining lane (if only one crew) or a random draw will be made by the designated Jury member.