

**WORLD ROWING STATUTES AND RELATED BYE-LAWS**  
**2021 (following the 2020 Extraordinary Congress)**

**PART I – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1 – Foundation, Name, Legal Status and Emblem**

1. With the objective 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 25 June 1892, in Turin. 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. Para Rowing was integrated into the World Championships in 2002 and has been on the programme of the Paralympic Games since 2008.

2. FISA is a non-governmental, not-for-profit, international organisation constituted pursuant to Art. 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code. It is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and it respects the Olympic Charter.

3. World Rowing is the designation used operationally by FISA. Any reference to or use of the designation “World Rowing” in this Rulebook shall apply equally to FISA, Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron.

4. The emblem of FISA is the five oars, side by side, which are, from left to right coloured blue, yellow, black, green and red with or without the letters F-I-S-A. The World Rowing Executive Committee (“Executive Committee”) may create additional emblems for specific goals, events or activities. Only the Executive Committee may authorise the use of the FISA emblems.

**Article 2 – Declaration of Principles**

1. Principles of Rowing

Rowing as one of the oldest sports has developed and maintained strong positive traditions, values and characteristics which inspire and align its activities and decisions. They include the following:

1.1 Development of the Individual - Individuals, through rowing, acquire experience in self-discipline, determination, commitment, respect, teamwork, integrity and fair play.

1.2 Inclusiveness - Rowing competitions and meetings are organised to provide friendly interaction between the participants and to contribute to a better understanding between people and nations. The rowing community forms a worldwide “family” based on the ideals of peace, friendship, fairness, understanding and solidarity.

1.3 Lifetime Sport for All - Rowing promotes physical fitness, time honoured values and shared experiences from youth to old age. Rowing is a competitive and recreational activity for all.

1.4 Environmental Responsibility - Rowing is a sport which requires, and is harmonious with, clean air and clean water. The rowing community is dedicated to the responsible and

sustainable management of natural and physical resources especially where rowing is practised.

## 2. World Rowing's Governing Principles

World Rowing is the international governing body for rowing and is the world association of member rowing federations ("Member Federations"). World Rowing governs rowing and upholds the following principles:

2.1 Integral Part of World Sport - World Rowing is committed to the goals and values of the Olympic and Paralympic Movements and is an active contributor to the world of sport in cooperation with the other international federations and world sports organisations. World Rowing supports and promotes international competition, the inclusion of rowing in multi-sport international competitions and representation on international sports bodies.

2.2 Independence & Autonomy - World Rowing endeavours to keep rowing free from political and commercial restraints and is committed to preserving the independence and autonomy of sport.

2.3 Priority to Rowers and Rowing - World Rowing is committed to ensuring the well-being, health and interests of rowers and rowing, present and future, is central in all decisions of World Rowing.

2.4 Integrity - World Rowing is committed to the highest ethical standards in all its activities and to ensuring that rowing is a safe, positive, respectful and inclusive environment, free from harassment and abuse. World Rowing is a recognised leader in the fight against doping and is committed to preventing the manipulation of competitions.

2.5 Fairness and Equality of Opportunity - World Rowing is committed to the principles of fairness and equality of opportunity, both in competition and at all levels of the organisation.

2.6 Non-Discrimination - World Rowing is committed to diversity, inclusion, accessibility and non-discrimination. The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in these Statutes shall be secured without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. World Rowing seeks gender equality in all aspects of the sport.

2.7 Sustainable Practices - World Rowing is committed to practices that respect and safeguard the communities and ecosystems in which the sport of rowing is conducted. World Rowing integrates responsible and sustainable practices into its own operations and in the planning and staging of its events. It strives to educate its communities on sustainability principles and to advocate for sound sustainability practices throughout the global rowing community.

### **Article 3 – Objects**

The objects of World Rowing are:

1. To establish and enforce World Rowing's Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;

2. To be the final authority for all international rowing competitions and, within the limits of its authority, at multi-sport competitions;
3. To preserve the integrity of rowing by ensuring fair sporting competitions, a safe environment and the protection of clean athletes;
4. To promote rowing in all its forms and encourage its universal development. To establish development programmes, organise training courses, stage events and develop public relations and media opportunities;
5. To conduct World Rowing Championships, and other world-level rowing competitions, including those staged at Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic, regional, and continental Games and multi-sport competitions. World Rowing may support rowing events at all levels for its recognised organisations.

#### **Article 4 – No Demonstrations or Propaganda**

No demonstrations or political, religious or racial propaganda are permitted in any rowing venue or in connection with any rowing activity.

#### **Article 5 – Headquarters**

The location of the World Rowing headquarters is decided by the World Rowing Council (“Council”).

#### ***Bye-Laws to Article 5 – Headquarters***

*The headquarters are currently in Lausanne, Switzerland.*

#### **Article 6 – Languages**

The official languages of World Rowing 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 7 – Official Communications**

Any communications required under these Statutes or Rules shall be made by post, fax, email or other electronic means. All communications to World Rowing shall be addressed to the headquarters in one of the official languages.

#### **Article 8 – Interpretation**

The Executive Committee shall decide all questions of interpretation of the World Rowing Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations. All references to the masculine in the Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations and in all World Rowing documents, shall include the feminine and all references to “rowers” shall include scullers and coxswains unless the context otherwise requires.

#### **Article 9 – Binding Authority**

World Rowing is bound by the signatures of two members of the Executive Committee, one of whom shall be the President. If the President is not able to sign, the President’s right shall pass first to the Vice President and, second, to the Treasurer.

## **PART II – MEMBERSHIP**

### **Article 10 – Members**

A Member Federation shall be a rowing federation which, in principle, includes the majority of the active rowing clubs in its country and covers the territory of a country that is recognised as such and as an independent state by the international community. This requirement does not apply to members that were affiliated before 25 January 1993.

#### ***Bye-Laws to Article 10 - Challenges to a Member Federation's Eligibility (Appendix S1)***

### **Article 11 – Autonomy of Member Federations**

A Member Federation shall be autonomous; it shall be organised and governed in accordance with its Statutes. When World Rowing determines these principles are being compromised, it may take any appropriate measures. World Rowing shall otherwise respect the autonomy of Member Federations.

#### ***Bye-Laws to Article 11 – Claims of External Interference (Appendix S2)***

### **Article 12 – Rights of Member Federations**

Member Federations have the following rights:

1. To appoint delegates to take part and vote in Congress and other general meetings open to Member Federations;
2. To submit proposals for inclusion in the agenda of Congress;
3. To nominate candidates for election or appointment within World Rowing;
4. To enter athletes for participation in competitions organised under the authority of World Rowing; and
5. To exercise all other rights arising from these Statutes and other World Rowing Regulations.

Member Federations have no responsibility for any financial liabilities of World Rowing.

### **Article 13 – Obligations of Member Federations**

Member Federations have the following obligations:

1. To abide by and comply fully and at all times with:
  - 1.1 All duties and provisions of the World Rowing Statutes, Rules, Bye-Laws and Regulations, including but not limited to:
    - a. The World Anti-Doping Code;
    - b. The World Rowing Safeguarding Policy and any supplementary guidance issued by World Rowing;
    - c. The responsible organisation and management of activities with due regard to safety and safety guidance, policies or similar advice issued by World Rowing or other relevant safety advisory or regulatory bodies.
  - 1.2 All decisions taken by World Rowing.

2. To accept as binding and final the decisions of the competent authorities within World Rowing and to recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne as the only possible external judicial authority;
3. To impose the obligations in paragraphs 1 and 2 upon its affiliated clubs and their members in all those areas in which World Rowing has authority;
4. To be governed by statutes that are consistent with the principles of the Olympic Charter, to be recognised as a member by the National Olympic Committee (NOC), and to have the Member Federation president and executive board elections validated and recognised by their NOC;
5. To notify the World Rowing Executive Committee immediately of any material change made to its statutes, change of president and/or secretary general, its address and contact details, or of any other elements which affect its ability to fulfil its membership obligations, and to confirm that any such change does not negatively affect the Member Federation's compliance with the requirements of World Rowing membership;
6. In the event that a change in the registered design or the colours of its racing uniform or blades is desired, to make a request to the World Rowing Executive Committee at least three months prior to the first proposed use in competition;
7. To manage their affairs in accordance with Art. 11 – Autonomy of Member Federations; and
8. To pay an annual subscription no later than 31 March of each year. The amount of the subscription shall be determined each year in advance by the Congress.

#### ***Bye-Laws to Article 13 - Subscriptions***

1. *Member Federations in their first three years of membership shall pay no subscription.*
2. *The amount of the subscription payable by each Member Federation shall be determined by reference to its level of participation in major events during the previous four-year Olympic period in a formula proposed by the Council for approval at the Congress.*
3. *The Executive Committee may waive past due subscriptions of inactive Member Federations.*

#### **Article 14 – Admission to Membership**

1. To become a member of World Rowing, a rowing federation shall submit a written application to the Executive Committee at least three months before the date of the next Congress. A new member is admitted by a vote of Congress, based on a recommendation from the Council.
2. The application must include the following:
  - 2.1 A written undertaking in respect of all elements listed in Art. 13, paragraphs 1 to 4;
  - 2.2 Provision of:
    - a. A copy of its statutes with a certified translation in one of World Rowing's official languages. A Member Federation's statutes shall not be inconsistent with those of World Rowing;
    - b. Details of the governance structure of the federation and names of the office bearers;

- c. A list of the clubs it represents, including addresses, and a detailed report on the activities of those clubs;
- d. A request for approval of the design and colours of its racing uniform and blades;
- e. Any other information as required by World Rowing.

### **Article 15 – Sanctions, Suspensions and Expulsions**

1. If a Member Federation does not fully comply with its obligations, the Executive Committee may, after having given the Member Federation a warning including a deadline to adjust its status and correct its deficiency, take any of the following measures:

1.1 Impose a financial penalty upon the Member Federation;

1.2 Suspend the Member Federation from membership (totally or partially) for a fixed period or until a specified set of circumstances has changed or ceased to exist;

1.3 Remove or deny accreditation to, or exclude a member's athlete, official or representative from, any activities of World Rowing;

1.4 Impose any other sanction it may deem to be appropriate.

2. The Executive Committee may also take appropriate measures against a Member Federation associated with a national organisation that has been sanctioned by the IOC, IPC, WADA, FISU or similar organisation.

3. If a Member Federation does not fulfil the current conditions of membership of World Rowing 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.

### **Bye-Laws to Article 15 – Debts**

*Member Federations that have subscriptions in arrears or that have unresolved debts to World Rowing or to an organising committee of a World Rowing event may be suspended by the Executive Committee or expelled by Congress. In any event, no member of that federation may stand for elections, their delegates shall forfeit their voting rights, and the Executive Committee may ban or suspend the federation's teams, officials, umpires and Commission members from competitive and other World Rowing events.*

### **Article 16 – Resignation**

A Member Federation wishing to resign from membership of World Rowing shall give notice of resignation by registered post to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall immediately inform the remaining Member Federations.

### **Article 17 – Obligations of Member Federations after Expulsion or Resignation**

A Member Federation having resigned from membership or having been suspended or expelled remains bound by any obligation or liability related to the time it was a member of World Rowing.

### **Article 18 – Continental Rowing Confederations**

1. A Continental Rowing Confederation is an association which, in principle, includes all the Member Federations of that continent. The continents shall be the five continents recognised by the IOC.

2. Continental Rowing Confederations are the unique partners of World Rowing for continental rowing competitions and cooperation on common projects.
3. To be recognised as a Continental Rowing Confederation, an application shall be submitted in accordance with Bye-Laws to Art. 18 (Appendix S3). A Continental Rowing Confederation is recognised as such by a vote of Congress, upon recommendation by the Council.
4. Continental Rowing Confederations shall have the following rights:
  - 4.1 To appoint up to three delegates to attend the World Rowing Congress, in accordance with Art. 22 as appropriate. The delegates can take part in the discussions but have no voting rights;
  - 4.2 To submit proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress in accordance with Art. 28 as appropriate;
  - 4.3 To attend other World Rowing events, including Member Federation conferences, on invitation by the World Rowing President.
5. Continental Rowing Confederations shall have the following obligations:
  - 5.1 To submit an annual report of its activities for inclusion in the Congress agenda papers;
  - 5.2 To comply fully with all duties and provisions of the Statutes, Rules, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations established by World Rowing and decisions taken by World Rowing;
  - 5.3 To provide for the World Rowing Continental Representative to be an ex-officio member of the Confederation's Executive Board.
6. Recognised Continental Rowing Confederations have no responsibility for any financial liabilities of FISA.

### ***Bye-Laws to Article 18 – Recognition of Continental Rowing Confederations (Appendix S3)***

#### **Article 19 – Other Groupings of Member Federations**

1. A Grouping of Member Federations (“Member Grouping”) shall, in principle, include Member Federations that share a common objective, for example, to promote rowing in any of its forms or to stage an event.
2. To be recognised as a Member Grouping, an application shall be submitted in accordance with Bye-Laws to Art. 19 (Appendix S4). The Member Groupings are recognised as such by a vote of the Council.
3. Member Groupings shall have the following rights:
  - 3.1 To appoint one delegate to attend the World Rowing Congress, in accordance with Art. 22 as appropriate. The delegate may take part in discussions at the discretion of the President but has no voting rights;
  - 3.2 To submit proposals to the Council to be considered for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress, in accordance with Art. 28, as appropriate;

3.3 To attend other World Rowing events, including Member Federation conferences, on invitation by the World Rowing President.

4. Member Groupings shall have the following obligations:

4.1 To submit an annual report of its activities for inclusion in the Congress agenda papers;

4.2 To comply fully with all duties and provisions of the Statutes, Rules, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations established by World Rowing and decisions taken by World Rowing.

5. Member Groupings have no responsibility for any financial liabilities of FISA.

***Bye-Laws to Article 19 – Recognition of other Groupings of Member Federations  
(Appendix S4)***

## **PART III – GOVERNANCE**

### **Article 20 - Governance**

World Rowing shall be governed by:

1. the Congress (Art. 21 to Art. 37);
2. the Council (Art. 38 to Art. 47);
3. the Executive Committee (Art. 48 to Art. 53).

## **PART III A. CONGRESS**

### **Article 21 – Congress**

1. The Congress is the supreme authority of World Rowing and is made up of the Member Federations. Its authority is set out by these statutes.
2. Member Federations in good standing may be represented at the Congress by up to three delegates, in accordance with Art. 22.
3. Council members shall participate in the Congress but have no voting rights.
4. The President is chair of the Congress or, if unable, the Vice President or another specific nominee of the President is chair.

### **Article 22 – Eligibility of Congress Delegates**

1. Each Member Federation has the right to accredit a maximum of three delegates, subject to the following:
  - 1.1 For a Member Federation to accredit more than one delegate to the Congress, both genders must be represented in the Member Federation's delegation;
  - 1.2 Any delegate must be a citizen or bona fide resident of the country or territory of the applicable Member Federation. Member Federations may not be represented by a delegate who is the representative of another Member Federation nor by a member of the Council;
  - 1.3 The president of the Member Federation shall communicate the names of its federation's delegates by the registration deadline;
  - 1.4 The delegates must meet the requirements in accordance with this Article;
  - 1.5 A Member Federation's delegate may only be changed with the authorisation of the World Rowing President;
  - 1.6 The Executive Committee has the authority to determine the legitimacy of the proposed delegates and its decision shall be final.

### **Article 23 – Observers at the Congress**

Observers may attend in person part or all of the Congress with authorisation of the President.

## **Article 24 – Ordinary Congress**

Delegates shall meet annually as an Ordinary Congress to discuss items listed under Art. 26, preferably at a time and place at which a World Rowing Championship regatta is held.

## **Article 25 – Convening Notice and Agenda**

1. Convening Notice – The Executive Committee shall send a convening notice to Member Federations at least four months before the date of an Ordinary Congress. The convening notice shall include a draft agenda.
2. Final Agenda – The Executive Committee shall send out the final agenda for the Congress at least two months before the date of the Congress.
3. 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 26 – Agenda for Ordinary Congress**

The agenda for an Ordinary Congress shall include:

1. Mandatory items
  - 1.1 Opening of the session;
  - 1.2 Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority;
  - 1.3 Appointment of scrutineers for the period of Congress;
  - 1.4 Approval of the minutes of the last Congress;
  - 1.5 President's report and reports from the Vice President, Treasurer and Executive Director;
  - 1.6 Reports of the Chairs of the specialist Commissions;
  - 1.7 Reports of the Continental Representatives and Co-opted Members;
  - 1.8 Presentation of the financial statements;
  - 1.9 Auditors report;
  - 1.10 Approval of the financial statements;
  - 1.11 Determination of entrance fee and annual subscription;
  - 1.12 Budget for the following year;
  - 1.13 Appointment of the external auditors
  - 1.14 Reports on future World Rowing events and Olympic and Paralympic regattas;
  - 1.15 Place and date of the next Congress;
  - 1.16 Attribution of future World Rowing Championships in accordance with Rule 5;
  - 1.17 Reports of Continental Rowing Confederations and other Member Groupings;
  - 1.18 Any other business.
2. Additional items, as appropriate
  - 2.1 Reports on applications for affiliation and voting consequent thereon;
  - 2.2 Reconsideration or confirmation of decisions (ref. Art. 30) taken by the Council in accordance with the provisions of Art. 32 and paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of Art. 45 or by the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3.4 of Art. 51;
  - 2.3 Council and Executive Committee elections in accordance with Art. 39 and Art. 49;
  - 2.4 Specific proposals to an existing agenda item from the Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee;

2.5 Other additional agenda items proposed by the Member Federations, the Council or the Executive Committee.

3. A matter which is not listed on the agenda of a Congress may be discussed (but not voted on) if one third of the Member Federations represented at the Congress so request or if the President authorises it.

### **Article 27 – Reports**

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

### **Article 28 – Specific Proposals and Additional Agenda Items from Member Federations**

1. Member Federations may submit a specific proposal to an existing agenda item as well as an additional agenda item, together with the reasoning behind the proposal or additional agenda item.

2. Such submissions shall be made in writing in one of World Rowing's official languages and shall be received by the Executive Committee at least three months before the date of the Congress.

3. If these are received at the World Rowing headquarters by the due date they will be included in the agenda for that Congress. The Executive Committee will decide whether late proposals may be included in the agenda.

### **Article 29 – 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 Art. 25. They may submit a proposal to the Congress at any time provided it relates to an item on the agenda.

### **Article 30 – Reconsideration and Confirmation of Decisions of Council or the Executive Committee**

1. Requests to reconsider decisions of the Council in accordance with Art. 32 or the provisions of paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of Art. 45, or decisions of the Executive Committee in accordance with paragraph 3.4 of Art. 51 shall be submitted to World Rowing and, unless there are exceptional circumstances, received at least three months 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 alteration 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.

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

### **Article 31 – Extraordinary Congress**

1. Delegates shall meet as an Extraordinary Congress, to address one or more specific matters, when the annual Ordinary Congress or the Executive Committee shall so decide or when at least one-fifth of the Member Federations submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee giving reasons therefor.
2. The Executive Committee shall send a convening notice to all Member Federations within 14 days of deciding to hold an Extraordinary Congress or within two months of receiving a request, as mentioned above, to hold an Extraordinary Congress. The Extraordinary Congress shall be convened within two months of the date of the convening notice.

### **Article 32 – Alterations to the Statutes and Rules of Racing – Quadrennial Congress**

1. The Statutes and Rules of Racing may only be altered by a Congress convened for that purpose, every four years in the year following the staging of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Art. 25 shall apply regarding the convening notice and agenda.
2. In the case of Force Majeure, a Congress may make an alteration at any time, and, if circumstances require it, the Council may make an alteration to take effect until the next Congress.

### **Article 33 – Auditing of Accounts**

1. World Rowing's annual financial statements shall be audited each year by a professional external auditor. The auditors' report shall be presented to the Ordinary Congress.
2. The auditors are appointed each year by the Congress, based on a recommendation from the Executive Committee.

### **Article 34 – Quorum at Congress**

Subject to the provisions of Art. 67, no quorum is required and the decisions of Congress shall be valid, irrespective of the number of Member Federations represented.

### **Article 35 – Voting at Congress**

1. Voting at Congress shall be by a show of official voting cards which indicate the number of votes to which each Member Federation is entitled.
2. Voting shall be by secret ballot if the chair so decides, or if requested by a delegate supported by delegates of at least four other Member Federations.
3. Voting may take place by electronic means if the Executive Committee so decides.
4. Each Member Federation shall be entitled to one vote, irrespective of the number of delegates representing it. If a Member Federation fulfils the following conditions, it shall instead be entitled to three votes for a period of four years commencing 1 January of the year following the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games:
  - 4.1 It has been a member of World Rowing for at least three years;
  - 4.2 It has competed at any of the following regattas with a total of at least 12 crews during the previous four-year Olympic period:

- a. World Rowing Championships;
  - b. World Rowing Under 23 Championships;
  - c. World Rowing Junior Championships;
  - d. Olympic or Paralympic qualification regattas;
  - e. Continental Games regattas recognised by World Rowing;
- and for all crews having competed in the above regattas during the previous four-year Olympic and Paralympic period, excluding mixed crews, at least 25% shall have been female crews and at least 25% shall have been male crews.

5. By 31 December in the year of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Council will notify all Member Federations of their voting entitlements.

### **Article 36 – Majorities**

1. Decisions of Congress shall be taken on the basis of an absolute majority (more than 50%) of valid votes cast. For alterations to the Statutes and Rules of Racing (Art. 32), a majority of two-thirds of valid votes is required. The majority required for Dissolution is explained in Art. 67.
2. Abstentions and blank, incomplete or spoiled voting forms will not be considered “valid” votes.
3. In the case of votes with more than two options, such as elections with multiple candidates or the attribution of a World Rowing Championship regatta, as long as the absolute majority is not reached, additional rounds of voting will be required. In this case, the candidate or option obtaining the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated from each round.
4. In the case of a tie, a second round of voting shall be taken. If the vote is still tied after two rounds of voting, the Council shall immediately carry out an internal vote to determine the decision.
5. In the case of an election with one single candidate, the absolute majority must nevertheless be reached.

### **Article 37 – Date of Taking Effect**

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

## **PART III B. COUNCIL**

### **Article 38 – The Council**

1. The Council is responsible for all sport matters of World Rowing in accordance with the Statutes and the Rules, and under the managerial direction of the Executive Committee.
2. The Council consists of:
  - 2.1 the President;
  - 2.2 the Vice President;
  - 2.3 the Treasurer;
  - 2.4 the non-voting Executive Director;
  - 2.5 the Chairs of the specialist Commissions;
  - 2.6 the Continental Representatives; and

2.7 up to two Co-opted Member(s).

3. The President is chair of the Council or, if unable, the Vice President or another specific nominee of the President is chair.

4. Except for the President and the Executive Director, the Council members are not remunerated by World Rowing but may receive reimbursement of expenses.

### **Article 39 – Election of Council Members**

1. The Council members, with the exception of the Executive Director, the Athletes' Commission Chair, the Continental Representatives and the Co-opted Member(s), are elected for four-year terms by the Congress.

2. The elections for President, Vice President and Treasurer take place in the year following the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

3. The elections for the Chairs of the specialist Commissions take place in the second and third years after the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

4. The Athletes' Commission Chair is appointed for a four-year term in accordance with the Athletes' Commission Regulations & Election Procedures as set out in Appendix S5 and in the Bye-Laws to Art. 39.

### ***Bye-Laws to Article 39 – Election of Council Members***

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

*2. The Chairs of the following Commissions are elected in the second year after each Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games:*

*2.1 Athletes';*

*2.2 Events;*

*2.3 Competitive Rowing;*

*2.4 Masters Rowing;*

*2.5 Para Rowing;*

*2.6 Umpiring.*

*3. The Chairs of the following Commissions are elected in the third year after each Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games:*

*3.1 Coastal Rowing;*

*3.2 Equipment and Technology;*

*3.3 Indoor Rowing;*

*3.4 Sports Medicine;*

*3.5 Women's;*

*3.6 Youth Rowing.*

*4. Except for the Chair of the Athletes' Commission, the Executive Committee shall give notice of those Council positions which are due for election at the time it sends the Convening Notice for the Congress.*

*4.1 The notice will call for nominations for the positions to be elected by the Congress.*

*4.2 The nomination must be made by the Member Federation of the candidate and shall include a completed World Rowing Nomination Form.*

*4.3 The nomination must be received at World Rowing headquarters no later than three months before the date of the Congress.*

*4.4. No later than one month after the closing date for nominations, World Rowing shall send to all Member Federations a list of all valid nominations received by the closing date.*

*5. The appointment of the Chair of the Athletes' Commission shall be held in accordance with the Athletes' Commission Regulations & Election Procedures as set out in Appendix S5.*

#### **Article 40 – Appointment of the Executive Director**

The Executive Director is appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Director, who will also act as Secretary General, shall be supported by administrative staff.

#### **Article 41 – Appointment of the Continental Representatives and Co-opted Members**

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

2. World Rowing may appoint up to two Co-opted Members to complement the skill set of the Council. The Co-opted Members shall be appointed by the Council, upon proposal by the Executive Committee.

3. These Council members shall be appointed in the year of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games and in the second year after the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, for a two-year term, and may be reappointed.

#### **Article 42 – Eligibility of Council Members**

1. Candidates for the position of President, Vice President and Treasurer must have participated a minimum of four times in total in any of the following events:

1.1 a World Rowing Congress (as a delegate or Council Member);

1.2 as a rower in the following events:

a. World Rowing Championships,

b. Olympic Games rowing regatta,

c. Paralympic Games rowing regatta.

2. Candidates for all Council positions must present skills and experience that are relevant to the Council position and the related duties as described in the Articles and Bye-Laws.

3. Council members, other than the Executive Director, are eligible for re-election or re-appointment, up to a maximum of 12 years in the same position. The 12-year period will commence from the Council member's next election date after the 2017 Extraordinary Congress in Tokyo, Japan.

4. Council members may hold office until 31 December of the year in which they reach the age of 70.

## **Article 43 – Honorary Members**

1. Upon the proposal of Council, Congress may confer the title “Honorary Council Member” or another appropriate Honorary title on a retired Council member who has rendered distinguished service to international rowing.
2. Honorary Council Members shall not, however, be entitled to participate in the work of Council or have voting rights.

## **Article 44 – Decisions of the Council**

Decisions of the Council are taken by a majority of the votes cast. In the case of a tie, the President, or in the absence of the President, the chair of the meeting, shall have a casting vote. Voting shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested or may take place by correspondence. Determination of a majority shall be in accordance with Art. 36.

## **Article 45 – Duties of the Council**

The authorities and responsibilities of the Council are:

1. Strategic Direction
  - 1.1 To establish a strategic plan and take such steps as may be necessary to achieve the Objects laid down in Art. 3 of the Statutes;
  - 1.2 To ensure the execution of decisions taken by Congress;
  - 1.3 To assign duties to the Commissions.
2. Events
  - 2.1 To ensure the maintenance of proper standards in the organisation of all World Rowing events, all events conducted under the authority of World Rowing in general, and, in particular, Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic regattas;
  - 2.2 In accordance with Rule 5, to select the most suitable bids from candidate Member Federations for the organisation of World Championships and propose it (them) to Congress for approval and attribution;
  - 2.3 To attribute events based on the most suitable bids for World Rowing Cups, Coastal and Indoor Championships, and Masters Regattas.
3. Governance
  - 3.1 To ensure the observance of the Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;
  - 3.2 To adopt and amend Bye-Laws made under the Statutes and Rules of Racing;
  - 3.3 To adopt and amend Event Regulations.
4. Membership
  - 4.1 In accordance with Art. 49, to propose three Council members to Congress to be elected to the Executive Committee;
  - 4.2 In accordance with Art. 41, to appoint Continental Representatives and Co-opted Members;
  - 4.3 In accordance with Art. 54, to appoint Commission members.
5. Internal Audit Committee - The Council may appoint an Internal Audit Committee to provide an independent review of governance, processes and risk management. Membership and duties of the Internal Audit Committee shall be set out as Bye-Laws.

## ***Bye-Laws to Articles 45 – Internal Audit Committee (Appendix S6)***

### **Article 46 – Duties of the Council Members**

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

## ***Bye-Laws to Article 46 – Duties of the Council Members (Appendix S7)***

### **Article 47 – Council Meetings**

1. 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.
2. The agendas for all meetings are established by the Executive Committee.
3. 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 48 – Executive Committee**

1. The Executive Committee has oversight responsibility for the management, administration, finances and governance of World Rowing, and, when necessary, has the authority to make urgent decisions, including regarding sport related matters in accordance with the Statutes and Rules. It guides the activities of the Council, Commissions and Working Groups.
2. The Executive Committee consists of:
  - 2.1 the President;
  - 2.2 the Vice President;
  - 2.3 the Treasurer;
  - 2.4 the non-voting Executive Director;
  - 2.5 the three Council members (elected according to Art. 49); and
  - 2.6 the Athletes' Commission Chair.
3. The President is chair of the Executive Committee or, if unable, the Vice President or another specific nominee of the President is chair.

### **Article 49 – Election of the three Council Members to the Executive Committee**

1. At the Ordinary Congress in the year following each Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, three Council members shall be elected individually to the Executive Committee based on a proposal from the Council.
2. The following Council Members are eligible for this election:
  - 2.1 Chairs of the specialist Commissions
  - 2.2 Continental Representatives
  - 2.3 Co-opted Members

3. Candidates for these three positions on the Executive Committee shall have been in a Council role since 1 January of the year of this election.

4. If one or more of the proposed candidates does not receive a majority according to Art. 36, there will be additional rounds of voting where all interested and eligible Council members shall be eligible to stand for election to the unfilled position(s).

### **Article 50 – Decisions of the Executive Committee**

Decisions of the Executive Committee are taken by a majority of the valid votes cast. In the case of a tie, the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote. Voting shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested or may take place by correspondence. Determination of a majority shall be in accordance with Art. 36.

### **Article 51 – Duties of the Executive Committee**

The authorities and responsibilities of the Executive Committee are (inter alia):

#### **1. Management**

1.1 To oversee the overall directional guidance of World Rowing's activities with the relevant Council members, Commission members, Working Group members, organising committees and Member Federations;

1.2 To manage World Rowing administratively and financially. To this end, the Executive Committee may establish administrative offices with remunerated personnel;

#### **2. Governance**

2.1 To decide all questions of interpretation of the Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;

2.2 In the case of a breach of the Statutes, Rules, Bye-Laws or Event Regulations, or in the case of negligent or inappropriate behaviour, to decide sanctions, at any time, as provided for in Art. 64, on Member Federations, clubs or individuals;

#### **3. General**

3.1 To convene Congresses and Council meetings, prepare the agendas and supporting documentation;

3.2 To keep Member Federations informed of World Rowing's activities;

3.3 To perform all other duties of the Executive Committee as established in World Rowing's Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;

3.4 To make any decisions appropriate to the circumstances in the interests of the sport of rowing;

3.5 To assume all responsibilities which are not expressly attributed to another entity within World Rowing.

4. Finance Committee - The Executive Committee may establish a Finance Committee to oversee the financial management of World Rowing on behalf of the Executive Committee. Membership and duties of the Finance Committee shall be set out as Bye-Laws.

### ***Bye-Laws to Article 51 – Finance Committee (Appendix S8)***

## **Article 52 – 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 53 – 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 54 – Commissions**

1. The Council may establish specialist Commissions to advise on and undertake sport related activities as required and on terms defined by the Council.
2. Subject to paragraph 6 below and except for the Athletes' Commission, the Commissions shall consist, in principle, of four to eight members in addition to the Chair. The Chair shall be a member of the Council. The Council shall determine from time to time the size of each Commission.
3. Except for the elected members of the Athletes' Commission, the Commission members are appointed by the Council for a term of four years which may be renewed.
4. The Council shall seek to appoint the most qualified people to each Commission having regard also to the desirability of achieving gender and geographical representation.
5. Commission members may serve on the Commission until 31 December of the year in which they reach the age of 70.
6. Cross Commission members are drawn from Council and/or other relevant Commissions. Cross Commissions are chaired by an elected Chair who shall be a member of Council and shall not necessarily be a member of another Commission.
7. The Council may also create Working Groups for specific tasks and may entrust assignments to non-members of the Council.

### ***Bye-Laws to Article 54 – Commissions***

#### ***1. World Rowing Commissions***

*The Council has established the following specialist Commissions:*

*1.1 Discipline Commissions - experts on the competition and training aspects of the disciplines of the sport:*

- a. Competitive Rowing*
- b. Coastal Rowing*

*c. Indoor Rowing*

*1.2. Technical Commissions - experts on the specific subjects or categories of competition that take part in the disciplines of the sport listed above:*

- a. Athletes'*
- b. Coaching Development Cross Commission (the chair shall be the Chair of the Competitive Rowing Commission)*
- c. Equipment and Technology*
- d. Events*
- e. Masters Rowing*
- f. Para Rowing*
- g. Sports Medicine*
- h. Umpiring*
- i. Women's Cross Commission*
- j. Youth Rowing*

*2. Appointments to Commissions (except Athletes' Commission)*

*2.1 For all Commissions, except Cross Commissions, the Executive Committee will call for nominations for Commission membership in the year of election of the Commission Chair. Candidates, including current Commission members seeking reappointment, must be nominated in writing by their Member Federations no later than the end of the Congress of that year.*

*2.2 Appointments of Commission members are made by the Council on the recommendation of the newly elected Commission Chair.*

*3. Athletes' Commission – Appointments & Elections*

*The Athletes' Commission shall consist of elected and appointed members. Elections and appointments of the members of the Athletes' Commission and the election and appointment of the Athletes' Commission Chair shall take place in the same year, in accordance with the Athletes' Commission Regulations & Election Procedures (see Appendix S5).*

*4. Member Federations nominating candidates are required to commit to provide financial support for the travel and work of the Commission members, if they are appointed.*

*5. Exceptionally, a current Commission member may be nominated for reappointment by the Executive Committee.*

*6. In case of a casual vacancy in a Commission, the Executive Committee may replace the member concerned. Any member thus appointed shall serve out the term of office of the replaced member.*

**Article 55 – Duties of the Commissions and Working Groups**

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

***Bye-Laws to Article 55 – Duties of the Commissions and Working Groups (Appendix S9)***

## **PART IV – INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATIONS**

### **Article 56 – Commitment**

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

1. Participates in an event under the authority of World Rowing;
2. Acts as an official (trainer, coach, team manager, delegate, representative or other related party) of a team, a club, a Member Federation, Continental Rowing Confederation or other Member Grouping;
3. Officiates as an international umpire or in a similar role;
4. Organises or participates in a competition which is placed under World Rowing's authority, according to the Statutes and Rules of Racing;
5. Assumes any role within World Rowing, within its Council, its Executive Committee, one of its Commissions or another Committee or Working Group;

recognises and accepts the following, subject to paragraph v:

- i. The World Rowing Statutes, Rules of Racing, Bye-Laws and Event Regulations;
- ii. World Rowing's authority on all matters concerning international rowing;
- iii. The mandatory nature of the Statutes, the Bye-Laws and other Rules regulating World Rowing, in their current version and as amended from time to time;
- iv. World Rowing's jurisdiction to make any decision or impose any sanction within its field of competence;
- v. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as the only competent judicial authority external to World Rowing, to the exclusion of any ordinary court of law, any civil judicial authority of any country and any other arbitration body:
  - a. Subject to Art. 60, to settle any dispute which directly involves World Rowing, one of its bodies, one of its Executive Committee members, any person acting on its behalf (Council and Commission members, umpires, and any others), one of its members or an organising committee of a World Rowing event run under World Rowing's authority (see Art. 65);
  - b. To review any decision alleged to violate any relevant law, any fundamental legal principles or World Rowing statutory clause (see Art. 65);
  - c. To rule on any appeals from disciplinary sanctions or penalties of any kind, made by World Rowing or one of its bodies (see Art. 66).
- vi. The final and without appeal status of the decisions made by the CAS;
- vii. The requirement to abide by the decisions of World Rowing and CAS without attempting to hinder their application;

viii. The application of Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure supplemental to World Rowing and CAS rules and regulations with Lausanne as the only place and seat of the arbitration.

### **Article 57 – Individual and Written Confirmation of Commitments**

1. Although the commitment set out in Art. 56 is mandatory and automatic, World Rowing 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:

- 1.1 Any Member Federation or any rowing federation which wishes to become a member;
- 1.2 Any rower, club, official or international umpire likely to participate in an event or activity under World Rowing's authority;
- 1.3 An organising committee or its members of any event under World Rowing's authority.

2. These confirmations are valid unless and until they have been formally revoked in writing and this written revocation has reached the World Rowing headquarters. Such revocation shall not be retroactive and therefore does not affect acts committed or liabilities incurred before the written revocation is communicated. Such revocation shall only be valid if the individual or entity has ceased all activities or relationships to which the commitment refers.

### ***Bye-Laws to Article 57 – Commitment Forms (Appendix S10)***

*If a rower is not able to provide consent for the commitment form by reason of age, physical impairment or mental impairment then a parent or guardian must provide consent by signing the commitment form on behalf of the rower.*

## **PART V – INTEGRITY OF THE SPORT**

### **Article 58 – Ethical Principles and Integrity**

1. Any party which deals with World Rowing and/or shares in its activities, notably those referred to in Art. 56, commits to act in a manner prescribed in the relevant Bye-Laws (Bye-Laws to Art. 58 – World Rowing Code of Ethics, Appendix S11) and according to all generally recognised ethical principles including the principles of the IOC's Code of Ethics.

2. Taking into consideration the overall interests of World Rowing and its members, only individuals of high moral character and integrity may be nominated by Member Federations for elected or appointed positions. The Executive Committee has the sole discretion to make the final determination.

#### ***Bye-Laws to Article 58 – World Rowing Code of Ethics (Appendix S11)***

### **Article 59 – Integrity in Competition**

Any party which deals with World Rowing and/or shares in its activities, notably those referred to in Art.56, shall be bound by, and be required to comply with the Bye-Laws relating to Manipulation of Competition and Betting by virtue of such participation or assistance (Appendix S12).

#### ***Bye-Laws to Article 59 – Manipulation of Competition and Betting (Appendix S12)***

### **Article 60 – Right of Complaint**

1. Any party claiming to have a valid complaint in relation to Art. 58 and Art. 59 concerning a party mentioned in Art. 56 may submit it to the World Rowing President or, in a case involving a member of the Executive Committee, to the IOC Ethics Commission.

2. The Executive Committee has the authority to make decisions on all cases except cases involving members of the Executive Committee, in which case the IOC Ethics Commission has the authority to decide.

3. The relevant authority may make any decision it deems appropriate and the decision may be published.

### **Article 61 – Applicable Procedural Rules**

The Executive Committee and the IOC Ethics Commission shall respect the principles stipulated in Art. 63.

## **PART VI – JUDICIAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 62 – Judicial Bodies of World Rowing**

1. The following bodies of World Rowing have judicial powers in accordance with the Statutes and related Bye-Laws:

- 1.1 the Congress;
- 1.2 the Council;
- 1.3 the Executive Committee; and
- 1.4 the Ethics Panel (Bye-Laws to Art. 58).

2. With the exception of the Ethics 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 Art. 63 and Art. 64 shall be followed.

### **Article 63 – Procedural Rules Applicable to the Judicial Bodies of World Rowing**

1. The judicial bodies of World Rowing shall provide due process to all parties involved and shall respect their fundamental rights. They recognise in particular:

- 1.1 That a person who may have a conflict of interest shall not be a member of the decision-making body;
- 1.2 The right of the person charged to know the charge and to examine their file;
- 1.3 The right to know the penalties which might be imposed;
- 1.4 The right to be heard, to present a defence, to produce evidence and to be assisted by counsel;
- 1.5 The right to receive a written decision from World Rowing with reasons for that decision.

2. The procedural rules applicable to objections, protests and appeals relating to rowing competitions are covered in the Rules of Racing and related Bye-Laws.

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

### **Article 64 – Sanctions and Financial Compensation**

1. The judicial bodies of World Rowing have the power to make decisions and impose sanctions in their areas of responsibility set out in the Statutes and Bye-Laws. They can impose sanctions including but not limited to the following:

- 1.1 Reprimand, which may be a public reprimand;
- 1.2 Ban from competition;
- 1.3 Fine;
- 1.4 Expulsion (according to Art. 15);
- 1.5 Any other appropriate measure.

2. If appropriate, the judicial body concerned may take the following actions:

2.1 Suspend for a definite period, in part or in whole, either the ban from competition or the payment of the fine on such conditions as it considers appropriate; and, or,

2.2 Order payment of money as financial compensation or fine against those (in particular Member Federations, clubs, rowers, or officials) who have been found to have acted in a

negligent or inappropriate manner including where such conduct has caused financial loss or damage to another party or breached these Statutes and Bye-Laws; and, or,

2.3 Direct that all or part of a fine imposed by the judicial body be paid to the aggrieved or injured party not as compensation for loss but to reflect the judicial body's disapproval of the offending party's conduct.

#### **Article 65 – Ordinary Arbitration Proceedings**

Any party who alleges that a decision made by a World Rowing judicial body violates fundamental legal principles or World Rowing statutory clause(s), or who has a dispute with World Rowing, 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 World Rowing 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 Ordinary Arbitration Division are final and may not be appealed.

#### **Article 66 – Appeal Arbitration Proceedings**

Any party penalised by a judicial body of World Rowing 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 Appeals Arbitration Division are final and may not be appealed.

## **PART VII – DISSOLUTION**

### **Article 67 – Dissolution**

The dissolution of World Rowing 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 68 – Assets**

If the motion for dissolution is carried, the Executive Committee shall be entitled to realise the assets of World Rowing which shall be divided equally between the Member Federations constituting World Rowing at the time the vote is taken.

### **Article 69 – 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 World Rowing.

## **PART VIII – CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**

### **Article 70 – Concluding Provisions**

These Statutes were approved effective immediately by the FISA Extraordinary Congress, 17-18 October 2020, organised from Lausanne, Switzerland as a video conference meeting.

Jean-Christophe Rolland

President

Matt Smith

Executive Director